

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Abortion rights activists
counter Operation Rescue

— PAGES 6-7

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Mandela: 'No force can prevent democratic elections'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Millions of Black workers and students in South Africa carried out a successful one-day strike June 16 to commemorate the anniversary of the 1976 student uprising against white minority rule. Businesses in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, and other major cities were shut down.

A statement released by African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela described this year's anniversary activities, which included political rallies and religious services throughout the country, as "the last commemoration under apartheid rule."

See Mandela U.S. tour
schedule — Page 16

On June 16, 1976, thousands of school children in the Black township of Soweto took to the streets to protest a government order making Afrikaans the language for instruction in Black schools. Demonstrations quickly spread through the country and were met by fierce police repression. More than 600 people were killed and thousands arrested.

"This year June 16 takes place against strides to rid our society of the scourge of racism," Mandela said. "We owe it to those who died in this struggle to acknowledge that children are a nation's most valuable asset and ed-

Continued on Page 16

Int'l socialist conference to be held August 5-8 in Oberlin, Ohio

BY MAGGIE PUCCI

Preparations are under way for an international socialist conference of fighting workers and youth to be held August 5-8 in Oberlin, Ohio.

The conference will kick off a monthslong discussion period leading up to a convention of the Socialist Workers Party in December.

Among the participants in the Ohio conference will be workers and youth who have joined the picket lines of striking U.S. coal miners and German metalworkers. Others have been involved in actions to defend abortion rights, protest racist attacks, defend the Cuban revolution, and advance the struggle for a democratic, nonracial South Africa.

The gathering will take place in a world marked by the economic and social crisis of the capitalist system. Under the impact of this crisis, conflicts between Washington, Bonn, Tokyo, and other imperialist powers are intensifying, leading to wars such as the "humanitarian" interventions in Yugoslavia and Somalia.

Working people are resisting the offensive against their standard of living and democratic rights. From the picket lines of U.S. miners to Germany and Cuba, working-class struggles are bringing fighters and revolutionaries together.

The conference will include presenta-

Continued on Page 8

Solidarity with 14,000 striking miners grows

BY MARY ZINS

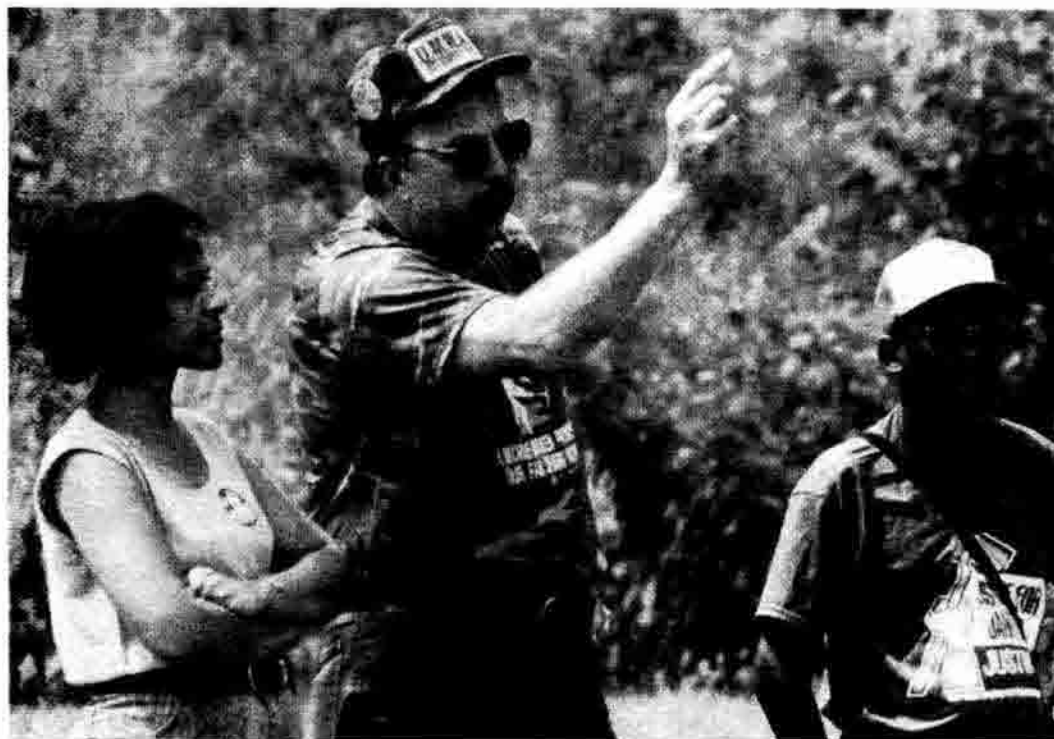
MARISSA, Illinois — "If we don't fight now we won't have a chance next time," said United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) striker Pat Leet. "The more you give these companies, the more they want. Nothing is ever enough for these big corporations," she added. Leet is a member of UMWA Local 1793 and has 16 years seniority at the preparation plant at Peabody's Camp 1 mine near Waverly, Kentucky. She was laid off for five of those years.

On June 16 the UMWA strike for a contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) expanded to include nearly 1,000 UMWA members at Peabody Holding Co.'s Camp 1, Camp 9, Camp 11, Camp Terminal, and shop facilities in western Kentucky. That same day UMWA locals at Consol Energy, Inc.'s Shoemaker and Osage 3 mines in northern West Virginia walked out. There are now over 14,000 miners on strike in six states.

Solidarity with the miners' strike is growing.

S. Africans tour picket lines

Two South African union leaders toured picket lines in western Pennsylvania June 19. Theo Steele, second vice-president, and Edgar Blaaw, regional director, of the Western Cape South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union, addressed UMWA Local 488 members on strike at Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Co.'s Lucerne No. 6 mine near Indiana, Pennsylvania. They explained the fight for workers' rights in South Africa and the role of unions in helping forge a new nonracial, nonsexist, democratic republic. UMWA District 2 president Nick Molnar chaired the meeting. The strikers thanked the South African unionists with a standing ovation.



Nick Molnar (center), UMWA District 2 president, discusses miners' strike at Jacksonville, Pennsylvania, with Theo Steele (left), second vice-president, and Edgar Blaaw, regional director, of the Western Cape of South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union. The South African union leaders came to show their support to the striking miners.

The 15th National Conference of Women Miners June 25-27 will promote solidarity with the coal strike. UMWA president Richard Trumka is scheduled as the featured speaker.

Cosby Totten is director of the Coal Employment Project, which sponsors the annual conference. She is a laid off member of UMWA Local 6025 from southwestern Virginia. Totten helped organize family auxiliary support work during the Pittston coal strike in 1989 in Virginia.

"It's not just solidarity with our strike, or solidarity with unions. We want to address solidarity with working people all over the

world," Totten said. Four members of the family auxiliary from the recently organized Marrowbone mine in southern West Virginia are planning to attend the conference. International guests include a family auxiliary member from the United Mine Workers of Australia, three members of Women Against Pit Closures from Britain, a member of the Canadian Labor Council, and a community organizer from Mexico.

Since the conference is taking place in Gallup, New Mexico, she said "We'll be learning about the history and struggles of our Navajo brothers and sisters. That alone

Continued on Page 15

Somalia bombing: true face of U.S. 'humanitarian' invasion

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Six months after U.S. troops invaded Somalia in what Washington proclaimed was a humanitarian mission to feed hungry Somalis, the U.S. military unleashed a massive bombing attack on sections of the capital city of Mogadishu. The mid-June attack was combined with stepped-up repressive measures by UN forces on the ground, including opening fire on unarmed Somalis protesting this assault on their country.

Employing AC-130 gunships and Cobra attack helicopters, the bombardment began in the early morning hours of June 12, with further air strikes continuing over the course of the next six days.

Washington claims it mobilized this massive firepower in retaliation for a June 5 clash between Somalis and UN troops that killed 23 Pakistani members of the UN force and wounded 59 others. Fifteen Somalis died as well. U.S. and UN officials blamed that fighting on Somali military commander Mohammed Farah Aidid, whose forces claim control over half of Mogadishu and

Continued on Page 16



Two thousand Somalis rallied in Mogadishu June 19 against the U.S. bombing

How miners won strike during World War II — page 13



Vance-Owen Bosnia plan dead

After months of negotiations over the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the U.S. government and its rivals in Europe acknowledged that the Vance-Owen plan, which proposed dividing Bosnia into 10 semiautonomous provinces, was dead. Fighting continues to rage between the Bosnian government army and right-wing Serbian and Croatian forces throughout Bosnia. The Clinton administration, as well as French and British officials, expressed cautious support for a plan proposed June 16 by the presidents of Croatia and Serbia. Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia called for carving up Bosnia into three separate "ethnically based" areas — for Serbs, Croats, and Muslims — while preserving its nominal existence as one republic. The proposal would register the territorial gains made by the forces in Bosnia that are backed by the Serbian and Croatian governments.

Meanwhile Washington offered to airlift UN soldiers to Bosnia. U.S. officials, however, said the planes would only go to staging areas removed from the fighting, not to the so-called safe havens. They also announced that 300 U.S. troops will be sent to neighboring Macedonia.

Bonn breaks ranks with EC

Tensions among imperialist governments in Europe escalated another notch as the European Community (EC) executive commission accused the German government of breaking ranks from other community members by refusing to enforce trade restrictions on U.S. companies. EC officials threatened to take legal action against Bonn. In a series of agreements EC member governments gave preference to European companies for bids on government and telecommunications equipment contracts. Washington retaliated by limiting their access to U.S. contracts. In early June the EC responded by shutting U.S. companies out of \$15 million of contracts. Washington and Bonn decided to lift the sanctions against each other after Germany announced it would not give other European bidders an edge.

Japanese government falls

The Japanese government lost a vote of confidence in parliament June 18. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa then dissolved



Associated Press/Andrei Zamakhin

More than 50,000 coal miners and their supporters demonstrated June 14 in downtown Donetsk, Ukraine. An estimated half million workers shut down mines and factories in 10 days of strikes to protest rising prices and coal taxes. Their demands included the resignation of President Leonid Kravchuk and new parliamentary elections. The strike ended when the government implemented subsidies to the coal sector and promised a September 26 referendum of confidence in both the president and parliament.

parliament and called elections for July 18. The fall of Miyazawa's government took place as the Japanese economy is barely coming up from the bottom of a severe recession. Corporate profits and land prices continue to fall, while the yen's rise against the dollar hurts exports.

Miyazawa's regime has been plagued by the airing of illegal payoff schemes and other scandals involving government officials. Corruption scandals, endemic to all capitalist governments, have become public in Japan as divisions within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have grown over how to carry out attacks against the standard of living and rights of working people. The Liberal Democrats, who have governed for 38 years suffered a split when 39 of the party's legislators supported the no-confidence vote that toppled Miyazawa.

Many of these legislators are expected to form a new party.

Crisis continues in Cambodia

After being reaffirmed as head of state with increased powers by the National Assembly, former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced the formation of a new transitional government, the second in two weeks. He also appealed to the Khmer Rouge, responsible for the death of 1 million Cambodians when they ruled from 1975-1979, to "unite" with the rest of the nation. Leaders of the royalists, known by their French acronym Funcinpec, and the ruling Cambodian Peoples Party agreed to cochair a new government after UN-sponsored elections named Funcinpec the winner. The same agreement had been rejected a week earlier by Sihanouk's son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of Funcinpec. The new government is also supported by Prince Norodom Chakrapong, another of Prince Norodom's sons. On June 12, Chakrapong declared himself leader of an "autonomous zone" in seven of Cambodia's eastern provinces. Hundreds of people in Svay Rieng province joined protests to demand the withdrawal of UN "peacekeeping" troops.

By June 15, the secessionist movement had collapsed and Chakrapong and his supporters fled across the border to Vietnam, only to return days later offering support to the new government.

Court rules against farm workers

An Arizona jury ordered the United Farm Workers union to pay almost \$3 million to

produce grower Bruce Church, Inc. The company had charged that the farm workers' campaign to boycott grapes and lettuce illegally threatened grocery chains that sold the grower's lettuce. The farm workers' boycott included pickets educating shoppers of the hazardous conditions growers impose on farm workers, including the use of pesticides that have caused miscarriages, handicapped children, illness, and early death. The suit claimed the stores were told they would be linked to child abuse, pesticide contamination, and sexual harassment. The union — which has assets totaling only \$2 million — is expected to appeal the verdict.

Adult illiteracy up in Nicaragua

The Ministry of Education reported that illiteracy among Nicaraguans over 15 years old has risen to around 30 percent. In 1980, the first year of the revolution, National Literacy Campaign and Adult Education Program volunteers brought the illiteracy rate down to 12 percent. The U.S.-backed contra war in the mid-1980s made progress on this front difficult and illiteracy rose to 20 percent. After the current government, led by Violeta Chamorro dismantled the literacy program in 1990 — claiming a lack of resources — the rate climbed much higher. The ministry announced plans to launch a volunteer program to teach 25,000 adults to read and write, out of 1.2 million who are illiterate.

Death penalty approved in Peru

On June 10, the constitutional commission of the Peruvian Congress approved the establishment of the death penalty for those found guilty of terrorism and of treason.

In an interview with the French daily *Le Monde*, Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori said that had the death penalty been legal at the time of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzmán's conviction, he would have gladly applied it. Fujimori has been campaigning in favor of the death penalty under the guise of combating the guerrilla group. Instituting the death penalty will be put to a vote in an August referendum.

Nigeria regime annuls election

On June 18, the Nigerian human rights group Campaign for Democracy released what it says are the results of the country's first presidential elections in almost 10 years. The military government, however, annulled the elections in a decree issued June 23. Nigeria's electoral commission had suspended the vote count a few days earlier pending a court ruling on charges that the balloting was rigged. This was a signal that Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, who seized power in a 1985 coup, is not ready to step down.

Wealthy capitalist Moshod Abiola, the Social Democratic Party candidate, reportedly won 58 percent of the vote, while banker Bashir Tafa of the National Republican Convention received 42 percent. The military government created and named both parties, wrote their platforms, and appointed their senior party officials.

— PAT SMITH

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Venezuela is shaken by social crisis

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

When the Venezuelan Senate impeached President Carlos Andrés Pérez May 21 and authorized his prosecution on charges of corruption, thousands of jubilant people celebrated in the capital's streets and chanted antigovernment slogans, ignoring a ban on public demonstrations. Reacting to the brief appointment of Senate head Octavio Lepage as acting president, protesters denounced the government as rife with corruption.

"Lepage is just another thief," exclaimed Rafael Hernán Rodríguez, an unemployed actor. "We need to make them all pay for what they have robbed from us," he said, referring to the legislators.

Pérez and two former ministers are accused of embezzling \$17 million in government funds. Sen. Ramón Velásquez was named interim president June 5. Meanwhile, Pérez will be tried by the Supreme Court.

Venezuela has been rocked by street demonstrations, strikes, and two military coup attempts during the four years of the Pérez administration. This instability has alarmed the wealthy rulers of the United States and other imperialist countries, who for years had touted Venezuela as a model of capitalist prosperity and democracy.

Trying to reassure businessmen nervous about the unrest, the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, Michael Skol, insisted that "the pace of Venezuela's economic growth over the last two years has been such that even a downturn does not represent a big deal." The country's overall growth rate was 9 percent last year, the highest in Latin

America.

Venezuela, with the biggest oil reserves outside the Persian Gulf, enjoyed an oil boom through the 1970s and early 1980s. Working people won a number of social benefits during that period. These programs were largely financed by state revenues from the oil industry, which Pérez nationalized during his 1974-79 presidential term.

But oil prices crashed in the late 1980s as the international economic depression hit Venezuela and the rest of the Third World. Eighty percent of the country's budget comes from oil exports.

'Free-market' austerity

When Pérez was elected to his second term in December 1988, the social democratic president quickly adopted a "free-market" austerity plan demanded by imperialist bankers, who wanted payment on Venezuela's foreign debt—now \$34 billion in a country with a population of 20 million.

The government slashed social services and eliminated subsidies for food, electricity, water, and public transportation. Gasoline prices suddenly jumped by as much as 80 percent. Utilities have deteriorated so much that some working-class neighborhoods in Caracas, the capital, have gone without water and sewage service for months at a time.

The regime privatized state companies, eliminating tens of thousands of jobs. Unemployment now stands at 30 percent.

By 1991 the real minimum wage had been reduced to less than half its 1987



Venezuelans celebrating ouster of President Pérez. Some carried signs for Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez, who was arrested for leading an abortive coup in February 1992. He gained popular support for denouncing corruption by the "political elite."

value. At least half the country's population lives below the poverty line. Today only 57 percent of Venezuelans can afford more than one meal a day.

Pérez's 1989 austerity plan ignited a tinderbox. In February of that year Caracas and eight other cities exploded in spontaneous protests. Tens of thousands took to the streets, sacked supermarkets, and de-

nounced the government. The regime responded with one of the bloodiest massacres in the country's history. Army and police forces killed anywhere from 400 to several thousand people. Working people never forgave Pérez.

Since then protests by workers, students, and farmers have not let up. It was reported in May 1992 that almost 1,400 antigovernment demonstrations had taken place in the previous eight months. This year, in May alone, teachers, city employees, bus drivers, and court workers went on strike. Students have held protests every Thursday at major universities.

In the face of this unrest, sections of the military launched an abortive coup Feb. 4, 1992, that made a hero out of Lieut. Col. Hugo Chávez Frías, one of its leaders. For weeks after, slum residents rallied in support of the arrested military officers, chanting "Viva Chávez!" Last November army officers attempted a second coup, which the government suppressed at a cost of 230 lives.

Much of the widespread popular support for Chávez is based on his denunciations of corruption by the "political elite." The colonel is the leader of a group of lower-echelon army officers called the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement. In a number of media interviews from prison, he has called for a vague "civilian-military transition government" to end the "degraded and degrading politics of the political parties" and to "reestablish civic morality."

Capitalist parties in crisis

The crisis has badly discredited both major capitalist parties—Pérez's ruling Democratic Action and the opposition Social Christian Party, known as COPEI. Both have been wracked by splits and defections. The smaller Movement Toward Socialism and Causa Radical, which claim to speak for working people, have both gained some electoral support by jumping on the anticorruption bandwagon.

In a recent poll of voters' preference among all these parties, the biggest number of those surveyed, 34 percent, replied, "None of the above." Another poll indicated that the most popular politician among Venezuelans was Peruvian strongman Alberto Fujimori, who in the name of fighting corruption dissolved Peru's congress last year and clamped down on democratic rights.

Similar social unrest and political polarization, caused by the same economic crisis, have shaken other Latin American governments from Brazil to Guatemala in recent months.

There is no sign the removal of Pérez will bring stability to Venezuela. Just five days after his impeachment, 20,000 university students, professors, and campus workers marched on Congress to demand an increase in the education budget to keep schools from closing July 1 for lack of funds.

The police responded by teargassing the demonstrators in downtown Caracas.

U.S. high court backs forced return of Haitians

BY HILDA CUZCO

On June 21 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Clinton administration's policy of stopping in international waters Haitians fleeing military repression and forcibly returning them to Haiti without even permitting an asylum hearing.

"This is a crime," said Max Pierre, an electronics engineer from Haiti who now lives in Miami. "How can you send people back to a place where whole families are being killed and there is no justice?"

Former U.S. president George Bush put the forced repatriation order into effect in May 1992. Bill Clinton, during his election campaign last year, denounced the interdictions as cruel and illegal. But he kept the policy in place when he became president, arguing in its defense before the Supreme Court in March.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted June 16 to impose a worldwide oil and arms embargo on Haiti. The sanctions, which also include freezing Haitian assets abroad, are to take effect June 23. The embargo aims to pressure the military regime in Haiti to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Aristide was overthrown by a military coup in September 1991.

No enforcement measures were specified and U.S. officials said no naval blockade is planned. The 34-member Organization of American States imposed a continental-wide trade embargo on Haiti shortly after Aristide was ousted. Haiti's military rulers were able to obtain ample supplies of oil from European countries, though.

Hundreds of Haitians and their supporters rallied at the United Nations in New York June 22 to denounce Haiti's military rulers and demand the immediate return of Aristide and strict enforcement of the UN embargo. Further demonstrations are planned in the coming days.

In a last minute effort to avert the oil embargo, Haiti's military-controlled parliament announced June 15 that it would consider recognizing the legitimacy of Aristide. But the legislature imposed conditions for his return that Aristide's followers immediately rejected. These included that the president accept all of the parliament's actions taken in his absence—in-



Militant/Hilda Cuzco
Haitians and other supporters of Aristide protested outside the United Nations in New York June 22.

cluding the appointment of coup leader Gen. Raoul Cédras to a three-year term as military chief. The military regime also demanded that Aristide grant a blanket amnesty to those who participated in the coup.

The embargo decision comes as Haiti's military rulers face their biggest political crisis since assuming governmental powers in the coup. Haitian prime minister Marc Bazin, who was installed by the military a year ago, was forced to resign June 8, after losing the support of army leaders.

Protests on rise in Haiti

Protests and political meetings within Haiti have also increased despite the constant threat of military repression. Several thousand people in the western port of St. Marc—located 60 miles north of the capital city, Port-au-Prince—marched over the June 12-13

weekend to protest the 1991 coup. Unlike many previous actions, the march, organized by Protestant churches, was not attacked by the army.

In mid-May, students from a number of schools gathered in Cap-Haïtien for the annual Flag Day celebration. *Haiti Info* reported, "The crowd soon began chanting 'Aristide or Death' and a military vehicle full of soldiers arrived to stop the demonstration. Soldiers beat many and arrested seven. Nevertheless, about 200 left the stadium and marched in the streets for about 20 minutes, despite heavy rains, chanting 'Without Aristide there is no peace.'"

The week before in Gonaïves students demonstrated for several days in a row. Youth from two high schools handed out pro-Aristide pamphlets and chanted antigovernment slogans in the streets. Fearing the demonstration would spread, officials at other schools sent students home. The following day two other demonstrations took place in local neighborhoods and schools.

In early May, representatives from six different sections of the Organization for the Development of Peasants of St. Louis du Nord met after 20 months of inactivity.

Meanwhile, Haitian refugees who had been forcibly detained at the U.S. Naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for months began arriving in Miami June 14. They had fled military repression in Haiti and were ruled eligible to apply for asylum, but were denied entry into the United States after testing positive for the HIV virus that causes AIDS. A federal judge in New York issued a ruling June 8 ordering the immediate release of the 158 Haitians held at Guantánamo and the closing of what has been described as an "HIV prison camp."

"I'm going to find a job, to try to make a life for my son and my wife," stated Bob Brutus, 32, who spent 20 months in the Guantánamo camp.

Some 40,000 people fled Haiti by boat after the September 1991 coup. A large majority were picked up by U.S. Coast Guard ships on the high seas and forcibly returned to Haiti. About 10,000 have been permitted to enter the United States to pursue claims for political asylum.

Cuba conference debates Guevara's ideas

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

MATANZAS, Cuba — Can the ideas of Che Guevara move the Cuban revolution forward?

That was the central theme discussed at an international conference here June 9-11 entitled, "Che's Thought: Challenges through the '90s."

Some 50 university professors, writers, and others gathered for the event, sponsored by the University of Matanzas social sciences department. Participants from Italy and the United States attended as well as Cubans. Few students participated as they were studying for final exams.

Conference participants listened to about two dozen presentations, each of which was followed by a discussion period. Topics included, "The Historic Transcendence of Ernesto Guevara's Revolutionary Personality"; "Che: Ethical Dimensions of His Revolutionary Project"; and "Economic Efficiency vs. Social Development in the Construction of Socialism." A number of participants remarked that the discussion was more lively than other conferences in the past.

The conference took place against the backdrop of the worst economic crisis in Cuba since the triumph of the 1959 revolution.

With the rapid collapse of the regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in 1989-90, Cuba's vital supply line of oil, food, raw materials, and spare parts disappeared almost overnight. Previously, 85 percent of Cuba's foreign trade had been with these countries.

Many basic food items are unavailable today, and many factories have to a large extent been paralyzed by lack of fuel and raw materials. Production has dropped drastically in all areas.

Signs of the crisis were apparent at the university during the conference.

Planned blackouts to save energy are common. But one evening during the conference an unexpected blackout hit the campus, plunging it into total darkness. "Oh no, how am I going to study?" one young man exclaimed.

A professor said she has been unable to replace the eyeglasses she broke four months ago. She said she can only read for short periods of time without getting splitting headaches.

Conference reflects broader discussion

The conference reflected a broader discussion unfolding in Cuba today on the place of Guevara's ideas in the transition

from capitalism to socialism.

Guevara, who was a central leader of the Cuban revolution, was murdered in Bolivia in 1967. He repeatedly explained that the socialist revolution is the first time in history that the political consciousness and participation of the toiling masses is a precondition for the economic organization of society.

Unlike capitalism, where the blind laws of the market rule, socialism requires working people to consciously organize the productive forces to meet the needs of society. Che explained that the transition to socialism is a political question of how to organize production to advance human solidarity and leads away from the dog-eat-dog competition and me-first mentality fostered by capitalism.

This course was forcefully advocated by Guevara in the early years of the revolution. But by the mid-1970s, a system that was the complete opposite began to gain weight. Instead of organizing production to foster the development of solidarity and social consciousness, Cuba began to look more and more to systems of economic management and planning copied from the bureaucratized workers' states in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

While Che continued to be held up as a hero of the revolution, his ideas were studied less and less.

Soviet Union 'not led by communists'

Several conference participants explained how the collapse of the Stalinist regimes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe means there is more room to study, think about, and discuss the implications of Che's ideas.

Reynaldo Guerra, a philosophy professor at the University of Matanzas, like many other young Cuban educators, studied in the Soviet Union. Years ago, Guerra recalled, when a friend had advised him to bring several books of Che's writings with him when he left for the Soviet Union, he had argued with them. "I had so much luggage already," he said, "and besides, I was sure I could find Che's writings in the Soviet Union." He was surprised when he arrived and found that the Cuban revolutionary's works were not available there.

As a central part of his Soviet education, Guerra was taught that working people could only be motivated by material needs and incentives, which Che explained leads away from socialism.

Guerra now believes that while his experience in the Soviet Union was valuable, his studies there were "a waste of time." Like a number of other Cubans at the conference, Guerra said he feels "freed" to think about the world, unconstrained by what he learned in the Soviet Union. "I am a man in transition," he said.

Aurelio Alonso, a researcher at the Center for Studies of the Americas, commented during his presentation at the conference on the changing attitudes in Cuba today.

"We have all been victims of the 'Marxism-Leninism' of the USSR," he said.

One conference participant, University of Havana professor Jorge Aldereguía, lamented the fall of the Soviet and Eastern European systems as the "biggest defeat in the history of the world revolutionary movement."

Alonso, however, presented a different view. "The Soviet Union was not led by communists," he said. "The Soviets were not the vanguard, leading toward socialism; rather, they were leading backwards, away from socialism."

In the mid-1980s, the Cuban Communist Party adopted a change in direction known as the "rectification process" which explicitly rejected the Soviet economic policies and models, which had demobilized and depoliticized Cuban working people.

Revolutionary victories by working people in Grenada, Nicaragua, and Iran in 1979 were an inspiration to the Cubans, and helped pave the way back to a working-class course.

Rectification meant mobilizing working people to rely on their own strength to resolve the economic and political challenges facing the revolution. It began to combat the growing privileges and corruption of a burgeoning layer of administrators and technocrats.

In 1987, as part of the fight to reestablish a working-class course, Cuban president Fidel Castro specifically called for Che's writings to be studied anew.

Che understood that volunteer labor was essential to creating human solidarity and was the basis for communist consciousness.

Volunteer work brigades, in fact, were one of the most important components in developing communist consciousness among Cuban revolutionaries in the early years of the revolution. Men and women left their regular jobs for extended periods of time to meet the most urgent needs in construction and agriculture. However, the brigades began to wither away by the mid-1970s, and were not launched again until rectification.

Today, volunteer brigades are central to Cuba's fight for food self-sufficiency and to combat the constant shortage of basic food items. The importance of this volunteer labor was clear to conference participants.

At the University of Matanzas, for example, many students and professors participate in short-term agricultural brigades. For 15 days every couple of months, volunteers pick fruit and harvest potatoes, or ready the soil for planting. The food they produce provides a large percentage of the university's supply.

Posters put up around campus by the Federation of University Students keep track of participation in the brigades and urge students to "give it a try."

Elena Díaz, a University of Havana social scientist, spoke at the conference about a new form of organizing labor in Cuba through contingents, which were introduced as part of the rectification process. Díaz led a study of the Blas Roca construction contingent for several years.

A new way to organize labor

Formed in 1987, the Blas Roca contingent is made up of several thousand workers who build bridges, dams, airports, hotels, and highways.

All production workers are paid the same hourly wage at straight-time rates. The bonus system based on individual productivity was abolished. The workers collectively decide how to carry out projects, and base their workdays on how long a particular project takes, rather than fixed hours.

Labor discipline is decided by the workers, who maintain a strict check on all costs. There are a minimum of administrators.

The contingent is famous throughout Cuba for its efficiency and quality of work. The Juan Roberto Milián construction materials factory, which adopted the contingent's form of organization, found it dramatically reduced waste and high absenteeism, and increased productivity and quality.

Díaz said that her study showed that being part of the contingent raised the social consciousness of the workers who felt responsible to society instead of just to themselves.

The contingent "is a model which can be extended to other areas of the country's economy," Díaz concluded.

"We must advance with the contingents," said Fernando Martínez Heredia, a researcher at the Center for Studies of the Americas. "Only by unleashing working people's creative forces through human solidarity can we build socialism."

The growth of the tourist industry and the challenge this poses to the Cuban revolution was also discussed at the conference. The Cuban government decided that accelerating the development of that industry was one of the few ways to obtain badly needed hard currency.

As part of the conference, participants went on a one-day trip to Varadero Beach. Only 30 minutes from the university, Varadero's hotels and beaches are Cuba's best known tourist attractions. Several of the hotels are owned and/or managed by foreign companies.

Social contradictions of tourism

While no one at the conference questioned tourism as one of the few ways to obtain cash, many pointed to the social divisions and contradictions that the industry has intensified.

Prostitution, virtually eliminated during the early years of the revolution, is once again on the rise around the tourist hotels.

Tipping, once prohibited, has become a common practice. The government recently decided that workers may keep their dollar tips and exchange them, in special stores, for food and goods that other Cubans

Continued on next page

Worst rainstorm in decades hits eastern and central Cuba



Juventud Rebelde

Flooding in eastern Cuba following May 30-June 3 rainstorms

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

HAVANA, Cuba — Devastating rain storms hit Cuba's eastern and central provinces between May 30 and June 3, killing 14 people and inflicting major damage on the country's sugar and food crops.

The torrential rains added to the destruction from a winter storm that swept the island in mid-March. At that time, 100-mile-per-hour winds and heavy rains destroyed a substantial part of the winter harvest, disrupted the critical timetable for sugar processing by knocking out electrical power and damaging storage facilities, and wrecked thousands of homes and other buildings.

The early June rains — the worst in more than 40 years — have had a particularly disastrous effect on the sugar harvest. Alberto Betancourt, director of Cuba's sugar marketing company, reported that Cuba would be unable to fulfill shipments to foreign clients for at least one month. This includes 1.5 million tons of sugar that Cuba had arranged to trade with Russia for 2.3 million tons of badly-needed oil.

Betancourt explained that this year's harvest — plagued by bad weather even before the two storms — will yield only 4.2 million tons. This is nearly 3 million tons less than last year's harvest and 4 million tons less than three years ago. The sharply reduced production is due both to the storm's direct effect on the sugar crop, and to the heavy damage sustained by road and rail links connecting the cane fields to the shipping ports.

The double impact of the recent storms comes in the midst of the worst economic crisis that Cuban working people have faced since the 1959 revolution. The crisis stemming from the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe — Cuba's main trading partners for decades — and greatly exacerbated by the U.S. trade embargo, has meant that many basic food items are unavailable. Because of the lack of fuel

and raw materials, many factories have been paralyzed. Production has dropped in all areas.

Today, Cuba has only \$2 billion in hard currency to purchase fuel, medicine, machinery, and other essential goods on the world market. This is down from \$8 billion in 1989. Sugar accounts for 63 percent of Cuba's hard-currency exports.

In addition to the sugar crop, more than 5,000 tons of other agricultural products were damaged. Government officials report that less than one-fifth of these can be salvaged. The severe flooding affected crops that had survived the earlier March storm, including coffee, bananas, potatoes, tomatoes, and other vital foods.

Transportation and communication between provincial cities and Havana was also hampered by the destruction and damage to some 200 bridges, at least 35 kilometers of railway, and huge sections of major highways. More than 22,000 homes were damaged and 2,000 were completely destroyed. Many areas lost electrical and telephone service and some 60,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes until the flood waters receded. Many warehouses were also hit.

Cuban workers and youth quickly mobilized to begin to repair roads, housing, schools, and neighborhood centers. In the eastern province of Guantánamo, for example, workers and volunteers are organizing to rebuild 317 homes that were destroyed in the storm and to repair another 2,000.

Roads and railways to shipping ports are a main priority, as are broken water lines. The previous storm had also caused severe damage, forcing emergency measures to prevent illness from contaminated water.

Agricultural workers have launched a campaign to sow and harvest short-cycle foods such as sweet potatoes, to more quickly replace the lost crops.

Iowa hog roast raises funds for Curtis defense

Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist, was the target of a police frame-up and beating in Des Moines, Iowa. He was convicted on false charges of sexual assault and burglary in September 1988 and is currently serving a 25-year sentence. Since his arrest, thousands of workers, farmers, students, and

believed the fight to defend immigrant workers from arrest and deportation was a necessary part of building the union. I also believe that what you are doing to defend me is necessary if we are going to defend and build our unions, to fight for a decent wage, and to not be treated like slaves."

Víctor Díaz, a member of

Chicago, offered when she discussed the parole campaign with them. They donated more than \$100 to the effort.

Lois Cape, a Native Indian rights activist in Oka, Quebec; Armand Vaillancourt, a well-known Quebec artist; Steve Watson, representing the Ottawa; Rideau Center New Democratic Party Riding Association in Ottawa; and Paul Mailhot, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, spoke at a meeting in Montreal to win support for Curtis. Cape told the crowd, "I want to continue to support Mark's case. I believe that this injustice should be combated because this will help others to fight injustice as well." She told the gathering about the defense campaign for Tony Rios, a 16-year-old Lakota Indian imprisoned in South Dakota. At age 14, Rios was attacked by a man yelling racial slurs. He fatally stabbed the man in self-defense and was sentenced to life imprisonment after an unfair trial in adult court.

Jacques St-Onge, a member of the Men's Collective Against Sexism, argued during the discussion period that testimony at Curtis's trial by police officer Joseph Gonzalez, the alleged victim, and her younger brother proved Curtis's guilt and that physical evidence was not necessary since there often is none in sexual assault cases. "When it is the word of a member of an oppressed minority, in this case a young Black woman, against someone from the oppressor group, we should take the word of the oppressed," he said. The group he belongs to actively promotes the views of the Des Moines police and prosecutors among unionists and endorsers of Curtis's defense effort to try to



Militant/Chris Remple

Meat-packers and other supporters of Mark Curtis's fight for justice at fund-raising hog roast in Marshalltown, Iowa, June 5. Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife and a leader of the defense effort, is third from right.

DEFENDING MARK CURTIS AROUND THE WORLD

fighters for democratic rights around the world have demanded justice for Curtis.

In this column we will regularly report efforts around the world to win support for Curtis's fight against the police frame-up as well as his fight for parole. We urge *Militant* readers to contribute brief reports.

More than 45 Curtis supporters attended a Parole Now! hog roast and picnic in Marshalltown, Iowa, June 5. The event, which raised over \$400, opened a campaign to win support for Curtis's parole. Twelve workers from the Monfort packinghouse in Marshalltown, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union Local 1149, attended. Larry Ginter, an area farmer and supporter of Curtis's defense campaign, donated the hog at below cost.

The program opened with Harold Ruggless, vice-president of United Auto Workers Local 270, reading a message from Curtis. "I am especially excited because this event was organized by rank-and-file union activists at the Marshalltown Monfort plant," Curtis wrote. "When I worked at the Monfort plant in Des Moines, I

UFCW Local 1149, told supporters in Spanish, "Everyone here knows that Mark is not in prison because of sexual assault; he's in prison for unifying workers of all colors, regardless of race. I expect that Mark will soon win justice."

Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Curtis's wife, explained he will soon complete the time he is required to serve for the sexual assault conviction. The original rape sentence was 10 years, but under Iowa law this is cut in half, minus time off for good behavior. After June 18 Curtis will be kept in prison solely on a burglary charge that was added after his arrest to lengthen the jail term.

"Between now and August 21 we will reach out to get hundreds of letters and contributions to win parole for Mark," Kaku said. Fighting to win parole is key in Curtis's struggle for justice, she stressed. "We must reach out to officials and rank-and-file members of trade unions to win support and help expand the campaign throughout Iowa, the United States, and the world."

She described the support her coworkers, members of the United Steelworkers of America union in

convince them to end their support.

Vaillancourt responded to this attack. "I have read your documents and I find that you support the perpetration of an injustice," he said. Mailhot joined the discussion by explaining that Curtis's supporters cannot rely on the courts because "there is no justice for workers before the courts. We are carrying on this fight in the only court that really matters — the court of public opinion," he said. Meeting participants donated close to \$600 to the defense campaign.

Five members of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth of El Salvador (JCS), including executive committee member David Gilberto Vásquez, signed up to endorse the Mark Curtis Defense Committee during the organization's recent conven-

tion. They plan to discuss their group's endorsement of the case and the launching of a campaign to win as many endorsers as possible at a future Central Committee meeting.

The young fighters were interested to learn about Curtis's involvement in the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), and his participation in the fight to defend the rights of immigrant workers in the United States. Many others at the JCS convention took information on the case and said they will contact the defense committee after they read it.

The following individuals contributed to this article: José Alvarado, member of International Association of Machinists Local 254 in Des Moines; Roger Annis, member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1900 in Montreal; and Rolande Girard in Miami.

Cuba conference debates ideas of Che Guevara

Continued from previous page
ban workers don't have.

The Cuban Communist Party and the trade unions, aware of the problems resulting from tourism, encourage workers to donate their tips to funds that are then used to buy medicine and meet urgent needs of Cuban working people, such as medicine.

"The development of Varadero is impacting negatively on the youth," said Guerra.

Two students at the university described a recent discussion in class on the inequalities created by the tourist industry. "Our professor told us she didn't know how to explain to her children why neighbors who worked in tourism ate meat every day while their family couldn't," said one student.

"Some students consider dropping their studies to work as a taxi driver or waiter," stated Niger, a leader of the Federation of University Students at Matanzas.

The government plans to expand Varadero so it can accommodate some 25,000 tourists within a couple of years, conference participants were told.

Martínez said that while focusing resources on the industry is necessary as an emergency measure, "we cannot allow tourism to get to the point where it robs us of the revolution."

In his presentation, Aaron Ruby, a packhouse worker and leader of the Socialist

Workers Party in the United States, explained how capitalism is in a worldwide depression that will lead toward more wars.

Ruby pointed to the 14,000-strong coal miners' strike and the fight to defend abortion rights as examples of working-class resistance in the United States. "Working people and youth who join in these struggles become open to revolutionary ideas, such as those of Che," he said. Participants at the conference were eager to find out more information about working-class struggles

in the United States.

A Pathfinder literature table was a big pole of attraction at the event.

Because of the depth of the economic crisis in Cuba, funds to purchase books — even scientific journals — are almost non-existent. With the help of thousands of dollars raised by working people in the United States through Pathfinder's Books for Cuba Fund, Pathfinder was able to donate a number of titles to the university's library in Matanzas.

The writings of Leon Trotsky, who

many of the conference participants heard of but never had the chance to read, were especially popular. At a literature table set up at the conference, all six copies of Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed* were quickly snatched up and a dozen more requested. Conference goers also took copies of the Spanish-language magazine *Nueva Internacional* with the article, "Opening Guns of World War III" by Jack Barnes, and the book *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks).

New book is valuable resource in fight against U.S. trade embargo on Cuba

United States Economic Measures Against Cuba: Proceedings in the United Nations and International Law Issues, edited and with commentary by Michael Krinsky and David Golove. 377 pp. Northampton, Massachusetts: Aletheia Press, 1993. \$20.00. The book can be ordered by telephone at (800) 879-4214.

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

This new book is a valuable resource for those fighting Washington's trade embargo against Cuba. The editors are partners in the

IN REVIEW

New York law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky, and Lieberman, and have considerable experience defending individuals whom the U.S. government has tried to victimize through its embargo laws.

From this vantage point, Michael Krinsky and David Golove have compiled a book that is full of facts documenting the U.S. government's criminal embargo — its evolution and scope, and the challenges to it.

One of the most useful sections contains

the record of the United Nations debate on the embargo. Last November the UN General Assembly voted by a resounding margin — with only the governments of the United States, Israel, and Romania voting against — to support a Cuban-sponsored resolution condemning the U.S. embargo.

In his speech to that body, Cuban ambassador Alcibiades Hidalgo Basulto reminds the delegates of the more than 30-year-long history of Washington's aggression against revolutionary Cuba and its use of the trade embargo to try to strangle the Cuban people. The U.S. rulers' goal, he notes, is "to impose upon the Cuban people a political, social and economic system to the liking of the United States and selected by it."

Hidalgo adds that the embargo not only violates Cuba's sovereignty and that of other nations but, through a strict travel ban, "restricts the freedom of [U.S.] citizens to travel to my country."

The debate records the opposition to the U.S. embargo by a wide range of governments, including Canada, France, Britain, and other imperialist rivals of Washington. This underlines "how diplomatically isolated the United States has become in regard to its Cuba policy," as Richard Falk notes in

his introduction to the book.

Another section is devoted to the so-called Torricelli bill, which was enacted last October and forbids subsidiaries of U.S. companies from trading with Cuba. The chapter includes comments by prominent figures like former U.S. defense secretary Robert McNamara and Richard Leshner, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, both of whom argue in favor of loosening the embargo. This reflects the significant opposition to this bill and to the embargo itself that exists among sections of the U.S. ruling class.

The book includes a detailed chronology of the U.S. embargo measures against Cuba since 1960. It reproduces the actual text of several documents, including the Torricelli bill and other embargo legislation, as well as the UN resolution condemning Washington's policy.

The appendix includes several speeches and statements given in late 1991 by Ricardo Alarcón, then Cuba's UN ambassador. These statements give a compelling argument for why every fighter for social justice and democratically minded person should oppose Washington's trade embargo against the Cuban people.

Books for Cuba Fund

Workers, youth, and others have already donated \$3,300 to the Books for Cuba Fund to make it possible for Pathfinder Press to meet the many requests from Cuban libraries and schools for books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder. Additional funds are needed.

Contributions can be sent to: *The Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014, and should be earmarked for the Books for Cuba Fund.

\$84,176**1993 SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND**

City	Goal	Paid	Percent
Pittsburgh	\$2,000	\$2,480	124%
Seattle	\$2,500	\$2,929	117%
San Diego	\$500	\$575	115%
Boston	\$3,000	\$3,375	113%
San Francisco	\$6,500	\$7,260	112%
Newark	\$4,000	\$4,424	111%
Salt Lake City	\$3,000	\$3,282	109%
Los Angeles	\$6,500	\$7,097	109%
Philadelphia**	\$3,800	\$4,117	108%
Atlanta	\$2,500	\$2,683	107%
Birmingham*	\$2,000	\$2,135	107%
Washington, D.C.	\$2,400	\$2,541	106%
Detroit*	\$3,300	\$3,446	104%
New York*	\$8,500	\$8,868	104%
Houston	\$3,500	\$3,615	103%
Greensboro	\$1,950	\$1,985	102%
Cleveland	\$2,000	\$2,020	101%
Twin Cities	\$5,000	\$5,037	101%
St. Louis	\$3,350	\$3,370	101%
Miami	\$1,500	\$1,500	100%
Chicago*	\$5,000	\$5,000	100%
Cincinnati	\$300	\$300	100%
Des Moines*	\$1,750	\$1,750	100%
New Haven	\$500	\$490	98%
Baltimore	\$2,500	\$2,306	92%
Albany	\$200	\$175	88%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$1,028	69%
Albuquerque	\$200	\$0	0%
Denver	\$200	\$0	0%
Portland	\$200	\$0	0%
Other		\$388	
TOTALS	\$80,150	\$84,176	112%
Should be	\$75,000	\$75,000	100%
*raised goal			
**raised goal twice			

Workers collect \$84,000 for fund — well over goal

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The 1993 Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund has gone well over the \$75,000 goal. The final total received is \$84,176. Nearly 700 people across the country gave contributions ranging from a few dollars to \$1,000 to help surpass the target.

The money raised is already being put to use. The intense work to produce two new volumes of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* has begun. Issue no. 10 will analyze the crisis that is wracking the capitalist market system; the emerging resistance of workers and youth to the offensive against their standard of living and democratic rights; the imperialists' drive toward war; and the political opportunities for working people created by the collapse of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. *New Internationalist* no. 9 will analyze the rise and fall of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The fund-raising effort made several recent *Militant* reporting trips to Cuba possible. For example, *Militant* correspondent Ernie Mailhot attended May Day celebrations in Havana and a conference of Cuba solidarity activists there.

The fund also helped finance a *Militant* reporting trip by Aaron Ruby and Rose Ana Berbeo, who just returned from Matanzas, Cuba. They participated in a conference on the ideas of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara at the university there (see article on page 4).

Greg Rosenberg will be covering a youth brigade to Cuba for the *Militant* later in July. The group of young people from across the United States will spend two weeks reporting for campus newspapers, radio stations, and other media on developments in Cuba, including on the volunteer brigades working in agriculture.

A round of special Militant Labor Forums at the end of the drive helped take the fund over the top. Francisco Picado, a Miami garment worker and Socialist Workers Party leader, spoke about his recent fact-finding trip to Cuba at meetings in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Morgantown, West Virginia.

Contributions came from many different sources. In Cleveland, local fund coordinator Roni McCann said an activist, who helped organize a Pastors for Peace-sponsored tour of Cuban clergy, gave \$50 to the fund. Becky Ellis in St. Louis reported that although fund supporters there got off to a slow start meeting their \$3,350 goal, they made up for lost time the last few weeks. When they approached one St. Louis auto worker who has read the *Militant* for some time, he contributed \$150. San Diego, California, fund supporters got together June 13 and raised \$575.



Militant/Denise McInerney
Brian Taylor speaking on South Africa at fund-raising meeting in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jim DuHamel of Geneva, New York, sent in a coupon from the *Militant* with a contribution. He wrote, "As they say — every dollar counts and this \$3 money order would be larger if rumors of a lay-off were not circulating."

Every dollar does count, and the contributions, big and small, of workers and young people from coast to coast will ensure that the books and periodicals working-class fighters need to understand the world and change it will continue to be produced.

Attacks on religious freedom hurt abortion rights

BY JON HILLSON

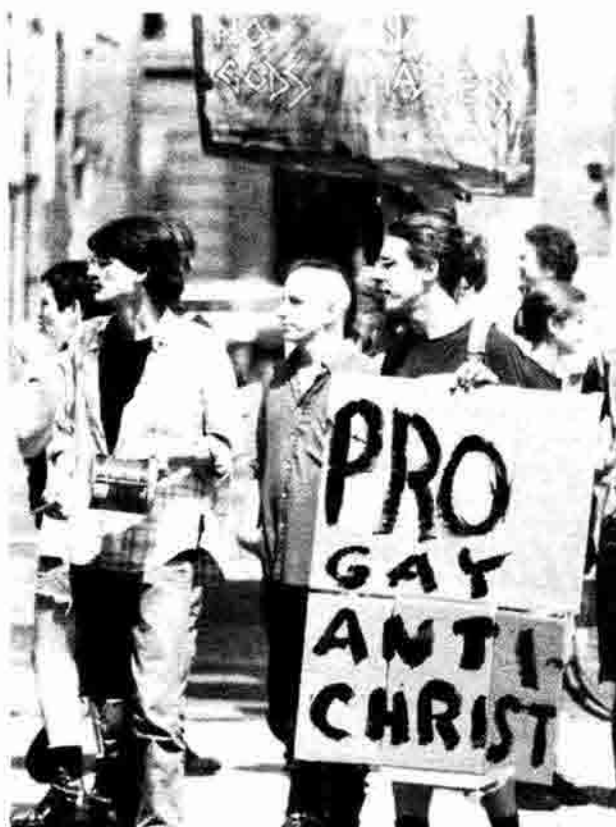
MINNEAPOLIS — Several recent incidents here highlight the importance of supporters of abortion rights also taking a strong stand in defense of religious freedom.

On June 11 local leaders of Operation Rescue — a right-wing group that opposes women's right to choose abortion — denounced a month of vandalism directed against Calvary Temple Church.

The church is the official host of Operation Rescue's summer school, which trains opponents of abortion rights for attacks on clinics around the country.

Nancy Peterson, a minister at the Pentecostal church and a central figure in efforts to disrupt the functioning of the Robbinsdale abortion clinic here, said church light fixtures were smashed and building doors glued shut.

Peterson stated she has been followed home late in the evening and that she and her husband, who is also a central



Militant/Jon Hillson
Counterprotesters at Minneapolis religious rally

AS I SEE IT

leader of right-wing antiabortion forces in the Twin Cities, have received death threats. A poster, featuring a hand holding a Molotov cocktail imposed over a photo of St. Paul's Catholic Basilica, was plastered on the church as well. The poster read, "Operation Rescue/come to our town/we'll lock you in a church/and burn the fucker down!"

The poster had first appeared in the summer issue of *Profane Existence*, which is published by the Twin Cities Anarchist Federation (TCAF). In an article entitled "Run 'em out of town," the paper asks why Operation Rescue "should be allowed to terrorize people and still lead peaceful lives? Their cars, property, billboards, and especially anti-choice offices, churches, and 'crisis pregnancy' fake counseling clinics are all fair targets."

The magazine, which refers to Operation Rescue's rightist cadres as "christian anti-choice morons," includes the address, phone number and directions to the church.

The vandalism of the church comes at a time when Operation Rescue's terror tactics have received widespread publicity. Repeated clinic sieges and invasions, the stalking of clinic staff members, and personal harassment of patients on the street and at home have earned Operation Rescue a justified reputation for violating the most elementary civil liberties and democratic rights.

Their arrogant pronouncements that Operation Rescue cadres are not bound to respect such rights because they answer to a "higher law" repel working people. And their refusal to condemn the cold-blooded murder of David Gunn — killed in March by an antichoice thug in front of the Pensacola, Florida, clinic where he performed abortions — convinces many that their "right to life" demand isn't

extended to those they consider their enemies.

That is why a broad cross section of the population here wants to see Operation Rescue stopped.

But the repugnant defacement of Calvary Temple, and the impermissible harassment of figures associated with it, did nothing to advance this goal.

On the contrary, it allowed the ultrarightists to appear as victims of violence and religious persecution, thus enabling them to score a much-needed public relations point.

A second example of the dangers of abortion rights activists targeting organizations and activities for their religious beliefs was the annual evangelical religious procession called the "March for Jesus," held in many cities across the United States and internationally. In Minneapolis the June 12 event was coordinated by the Abundant Life Christ Church.

The Action Coalition, an organization that includes ACT-UP, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the Progressive Student Organization, TCAF, University Anti-Racist Action, and the Welfare Rights Committee of Up and Out of Poverty, accused the event's planners of being "religious right-wing bigots." They

claimed the religious procession was timed to coincide with the launching of Operation Rescue's summer training and said it was part of a "right-wing mobilization."

The National Women's Rights Organizing Committee (NWROC) issued a leaflet stating the religious event was actually organized "by Operation Rescue."

But this was simply not true. The religious marchers didn't carry a single right-wing or antiabortion banner, placard, or sign. In fact, their premarch publicity explicitly forbade such trappings. Most participants were families, including small children, organized by area churches. The event had the flavor of a festive outing, as 20,000 believers marched in the procession.

Close to 100 Action Coalition marchers organized to protest the "Rally for Jesus." In addition to a proabortion banner, one of the most prominent signs among the activists read, "pro-gay, anti-christ."

Other signs read, "queer girls demand choice" and "first annual march against Jesus."

Some demonstrators chanted, "Mary was raped."

The Action Coalition's "counterprotest" got some news coverage. It has also sparked talk among activists here on what happens when religion and religious believers are defined as enemies of abortion rights.

Outfits like Operation Rescue use religion to conceal their right-wing agenda. But their real aims are political, not religious.

By attacking religion and believers, the Action Coalition helps Operation Rescue buttress its scam of being a religious organization.

By reading an explicitly rightist character into the "March for Jesus," the Action Coalition, along with NWROC, ended up a tiny handful jousting at a huge parade of supposed "rightist" enemies, who in fact did not exist.

The fact that a vast majority of working people, both those who are religious and those who are not, are repelled by Operation Rescue's hooliganism. Many defend abortion rights.

They also deeply oppose harassing and insulting people for expressing religious faith.

Working people must reject all instances of religious intolerance and abuses.

The antireligious tantrum of the Action Coalition obscured rather than clarified the right-wing political character of Operation Rescue and others of its ilk.

The united, massive, disciplined movement of working people and youth needed to defend abortion rights, clinic by clinic, must reach out to and welcome the broadest possible forces into its ranks.

Such a movement cannot impose a litmus test for believers, or nonbelievers, to engage in united struggle.

Jon Hillson works on the Burlington Northern railroad and is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1000.

Minneapolis rally supports abortion rights

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — As thousands of pro-choice partisans chanted "Operation Rescue, go home!" in a downtown park here, the ultrarightist foes of abortion concluded the first day of their national summer cadre training program in secrecy somewhere in the Twin Cities.

The June 14 evening rally, called by the Network to Ensure Access (NEA), the main organization preparing clinic defense teams, was the biggest abortion rights demonstration here since 1989.

Minneapolis Park Police estimated 4,000 people participated in the two-hour event in Loring Park, despite the constant threat of rain and 30-mile-an-hour winds.

The diverse, enthusiastic crowd spanned generations, with youthful pro-choice protesters predominating. Many high school and college students participated, the majority of them women, including Blacks, Latinos, and Asians.

Pro-abortion rights organizations set up literature tables and were jammed with customers throughout the night.

The largest ovations of the evening went to clinic doctors and staff members introduced from the stage.

Operation Rescue (OR) announced earlier this year it would launch a 12-week nationally organized school here starting June 14 on how to disrupt abortion clinics.

Its leaders also stated that they would organize major campaigns against clinics and their staffs here and in six other U.S. cities July 9-18 in a campaign called "Cities of Refuge." The antiabortion group is targeting clinics in Philadelphia; central Florida; Jackson, Mississippi; Minneapolis/St. Paul; Cleveland; San Jose, California; and Dallas/Ft. Worth.

Police officials claim they intend to thwart OR's illegal actions. Courts have issued injunctions to most local clinics restricting nearby public gatherings.

'Bullies with Bibles'

Reporters for Twin Cities media have thus far been unable to discover the location of the IMPACT (Institute of Mobilized Prophetic Activated Christian Training) sessions. Local Operation Rescue leaders have refused comment on their plans.

The reason for OR's clandestine sessions was explained to the June 14 rally by Nancy Bence, director of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

She listed documented acts of arson, bomb threats, vandalism, and assaults on clinics, their staffs and patients, carried out by rightist antiabortion forces, all of which "predated the arrival of Operation Rescue's IMPACT training school."

Bence urged increased participation of



Militant/Jon Hillson

Some of the more than 4,000 participants at June 14 rally to defend abortion rights

religious believers in abortion rights protests, denouncing the theological cover used by Operation Rescue to pursue its reactionary political agenda.

"We must not be intimidated by bullies with Bibles," she said.

Bence also cautioned the crowd not to lapse into antireligious sentiments against the rightists. "Poll after poll shows that the majority of religious people are pro-choice," she said. Bence cited a *New York Times*/CBS poll indicating that 77 percent of lay Roman Catholics favor legal abortion in some or all instances, and 85 percent believe a woman can have an abortion and still be a "good Catholic."

Lou Freeman, president of Minnesota/Dakota State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) blasted OR's claim that it is the "civil rights movement of the 1990s" based on its efforts to defend "the unborn."

"The moral equivalent of slavery is denying a woman's right to choose," Freeman said. "That is bondage. The NAACP stands for a woman's right to choose."

"If any group of individuals is allowed to dictate how I use my beliefs to exercise my right to reproductive freedom," stated Denise Orson, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 9198 who works at Advanced Circuits. "I shudder to think which of my beliefs they will find it necessary to assault next."

"Unions are already under attack by big business and all levels of government," she said. "If groups like the [antiabortion] Lambs of Christ are allowed to restrict the right to freedom of choice in one area, I believe they will continue the assault on our rights into every area of our lives. We must stop Operation Rescue now."

Chris Nisan, a member of the United Transportation Union at Burlington Northern railroad and of the Socialist Workers Party, also addressed the rally. He explained, that the "deeper issue this summer as we mobilize to keep the clinics open is the fact that without the right to control their own bodies women can never achieve full and equal status in society."

Other speakers included State Senator

Sandy Pappas; Elsa Batica, YWCA director of social action; Nancy Kohain-Kintigh, Feminist Majority Foundation; and Sue Rockne, a long-time abortion rights figure. Public office-holders in the crowd were introduced, and a note of support from Sen. Paul Wellstone was read from the stage.

The NEA announced that 1,000 more clinic defenders will be trained, doubling the number of those already organized.

Among those set to come to the next training session are Shuli, 16, and Ann, 17, who are bringing additional friends from St. Paul Academy. Ten students from their high school were at the rally.

"Personally, I don't think I could have an abortion," Shuli said, "but politically I think it would be horrible if it were illegal."

"If enough people come out, if enough people stand up, we can do something," Ann said. "We can keep [abortion] legal. We just have to."

Connie, a 19-year-old University of Minnesota student who recently trained for clinic defense, was inspired by the rally. The numbers help you "to feel united in this movement," she said. "The more people around, the better you feel, the more we can do."

The rally ended with a brief open microphone session. Nearly 2,000 people — overwhelmingly young — were still present.

They listened attentively and applauded short speeches from St. Paul Socialist Workers mayoral candidate Kari Sachs, members of ACT-UP, the Progressive Student Organization, National Women's Rights Organizing Coalition, anarchist groups, and other individual demonstrators.

But it was a young woman from a local high school who captured the attention of the crowd.

She urged the activists to defend the rights of minors to abortions, telling the story of a pregnant friend who sought to induce a miscarriage with a home chemical remedy. "That's why we have to defeat Operation Rescue," she said.

Jon Hillson is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1000 in Minneapolis.

Activists vow to defend Cleveland clinics

BY RONI McCANN

CLEVELAND — "I have news for Operation Rescue; we refuse to be another Wichita." These were the opening remarks by Elizabeth Kimmel, copresident of the Greater Cleveland National Organization for Women (NOW), at a June 6 press conference to launch clinic defense training by the Cleveland Prochoice Access Committee (CPAC). Cleveland is one of seven "Cities of Refuge"

targeted this summer by the antiabortion group Operation Rescue. Its Cleveland campaign is scheduled to start July 9.

CPAC is a coalition of various organizations and abortion rights activists. The founding groups were, Cleveland NOW, National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), People's Fight Back Center, Stonewall Cleveland, Socialist Workers Party, Lakewood Citizens for Choice, Planned Parent-

hood of Cleveland, Take Back Your Rights Committee, Catholics for Free Choice, Workers World Party, and Ohio NOW.

Loretta Kane, the national NOW special projects director, is leading the clinic defense training. Over 50 people attended the initial session. They will now help set up training programs in other parts of the city.

"Just as the freedom fighters stood up for civil rights, we too will stand up to Operation Rescue and their thugs," stated Kane at the press conference.

At a Militant Labor Forum that evening at the Pathfinder bookstore, activists discussed the importance of the training sessions. Amanda Byrne, cochair of the CPAC Outreach Committee, and Amy Husk Sanchez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Cleveland, spoke.

"We are fighting to defend clinic access. We are not defending the building, but women's rights," said Byrne. "This is a very important distinction to make. Some clinics don't want defense, but that does not effect our decision to do it."

"We encourage everyone to join with us in defending the right to choose by joining picket lines, demonstrations, and clinic defense actions," Sanchez said. "It's only through these types of mobilizations of the pro-choice majority, not by relying on the cops, courts, or politicians, that women's rights will be defended."

Operation Rescue and its supporters have also been organizing. Over 500 local supporters of the antichoice group rallied at a church outside Cleveland the day before the CPAC training to hear Keith Tucci, Operation Rescue's national director. Supporters of that organizations also picketed a local hospital where they say abortions are performed.

CPAC has planned clinic defense training every Saturday for the month of June. People from Pittsburgh; Buffalo, New York; and all over Ohio have been calling the committee to find out how to get involved. For more information on CPAC and planned activities call (216) 281-4225.

High court nominee gets bipartisan approval

BY GREG ROSENBERG

President Bill Clinton's nomination of Ruth Ginsburg to the Supreme Court on June 14 drew widespread praise from Democratic and Republican politicians alike, who indicated they expect little difficulty in her confirmation to the post.

Ginsburg is currently a federal judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. Her husband Martin Ginsburg — a tax lawyer and professor at Georgetown University — is a good friend of Ross Perot's.

While Ginsburg counts herself as a defender of a women's right to choose abortion, she has said that the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision decriminalizing abortion was too broad.

In March she argued before a New York University Law School audience that had the Supreme Court not made such a sweeping ruling in 1973 — a ruling that "displaced virtually every state law then in force" — foes of abortion rights would have had a smaller target to attack. "Would there have been the twenty-year controversy that we have witnessed?" she asked. "A less encompassing *Roe*, I believe, might have served to reduce rather than to fuel controversy."

The court's decision was a product of the rising women's rights movement that built on the massive entry of women into the work force and the victories of the civil rights movement that smashed Jim Crow segregation. The ruling was built around the right to privacy, a gain registered by the

struggles of working people.

Roe v. Wade, Ginsburg complained, "invited no dialogue with legislators. Instead, it seemed entirely to remove the ball from the legislators' court." The decision, she said, should not have been built around the right to privacy, but rather on the "women's equality dimension of the issue."

Major capitalist newspapers gave accolades to Ginsburg as a "pioneer on women's rights."

The *Wall Street Journal* editorialized, "We're happy to support this 'moderate' nomination." The *New York Times* called Ginsburg "an able jurist of moderate to liberal bent who does not frighten conservatives." Trumpeting an "excellent choice for the Supreme Court," the *Times* editors lauded "an exciting boost to diversity" that Ginsburg, a wealthy lawyer and judge, would represent.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said Ginsburg was a "good choice" who "has the experience and the intellect to hit the ground running if confirmed." Democratic senator Daniel Moynihan gave his ringing endorsement to the judge as well, stating, "Until she began her work in the '70s, the Supreme Court had never found that invidious discrimination against a person because of gender was unconstitutional."

A statement released by the National Organization for Women said that NOW was "celebrating" a victory with Clinton's nomination of Ginsburg. "Our months of phone calls, sign-on letters, news conferences and media

interviews about the need for more women in positions of power are paying off again," said NOW president Patricia Ireland. "Clinton is walking a good walk, not just talking a good talk, about making his administration look more like this country," Ireland stated.

Citing Ginsburg's litigation of a number of cases on behalf of women in the 1970s, people like Columbia law professor John Coffee refer to her as "the godmother of legal feminism." She was also praised by Robert Bork, the right-wing judge whose nomination to the Supreme Court under Ronald Reagan was defeated in 1987.

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion Rights Action League, called Ginsburg's remarks on abortion rights "cause for concern," and said that the Senate should determine whether Ginsburg "will protect a woman's fundamental right to privacy, including the right to choose."

During her tenure as a federal appeals court judge, Ginsburg ruled at least twice against trade union protections. In one case she decided in favor of a restaurant owner who called the cops to arrest unionists handing out leaflets.

Another ruling limited legal protections for unions that do not represent a majority of a company's employees, even in cases where the company acts in a threatening and "outrageous" fashion. White House officials said Ginsburg showed "balance and moderation in her labor decisions."

Garment worker launches mayoral campaign in N.Y.

BY IKE NAHEM

NEW YORK — Mary Nell Bockman announced her candidacy for mayor of New York City on the Socialist Workers Party ticket at a press conference June 17 at City Hall. Sixty people helped kick off the campaign at a public rally two days later.

Besides Bockman, the Socialist Workers Party is running Al Duncan for public advocate and Melissa Harris for comptroller.

Harris, 24, is a garment worker and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). She has been a leader in antiapartheid activities in New York City, in particular in building a student network linking campus groups and activists. Pointing to the revolution in South Africa and the fight against right-wing anti-immigrant violence in Germany, Harris said, "Young people will be part of all the struggles that

break out today whether they are directly youth struggles or not."

Duncan, a railroad worker and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is a 43-year-old Vietnam veteran and longtime campaigner against U.S. military intervention — from Vietnam, Panama and Iraq, to Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Haiti today. It is the workings of the market system combined with the effects of the disintegration of the Stalinist regimes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Duncan said, "that has led to the current crisis where the major imperialist powers — the United States, Germany, Japan, Britain, and France — intensify their economic competition leading to trade wars which ultimately end in their waging military war against each other. But the war makers can be stopped."

Bockman, 34, is a garment worker and



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Mary Nell Bockman, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York City (left) marches in Puerto Rican Day parade with supporters. Campaign banner reads, "Independence for Puerto Rico" and "Solidarity with the miners strike."

member of the ILGWU. She is running for mayor against the incumbent Democrat David Dinkins and the Republican Rudolph Giuliani. Bockman recently participated in a team to the Midwest coalfields to build support for striking members of the United

Mine Workers of America and has been active in defense of abortion rights.

"Both Dinkins and Giuliani," said Bockman, "stand for more cuts in education, health care, staffing of homeless shelters, and cuts in funding for tuberculosis clinics, a disease which has virtually disappeared and which has now reached epidemic proportions." Both capitalist party candidates, she continued, call instead for "more cops on the streets, the expansion of prisons, and more money to pay for interest payments on city bonds."

The socialist candidates stressed they will be presenting a program of struggle to unite working people across lines of race, sex, and immigrant status.

The rally urged people to join the socialist campaign in July and August to obtain thousands of signatures on petitions to secure places on the ballot for the three candidates and to help the campaign open new storefront offices in the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Socialist candidates in Minnesota campaign to defend abortion rights

BY EDY RUGER

MINNEAPOLIS — "I want to work on his campaign," said a young unionist who regularly defends an abortion clinic here.

He was referring to Joe Callahan, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, who was busy talking with pro-choice activists at a campaign table as thousands rallied here against the antiabortion

group Operation Rescue June 14.

Kari Sachs, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of St. Paul, joined Callahan at the table. The two socialists launched their election campaigns at the abortion rights rally. They spoke to hundreds there as they walked through the crowd, distributing campaign literature and selling the *Militant* newspaper.

Callahan, 41, and Sachs, 28, work at the

Ford Twin Cities truck assembly plant. They are members of United Auto Workers Local 879. Both have been active in clinic defense efforts in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

The two candidates and several supporters distributed statements to hundreds of activists, pledging the active support of their campaigns to promote clinic defense efforts.

Addressing 2,000 demonstrators at an open microphone at the conclusion of the rally, Sachs received a warm reception when she identified herself as an auto worker, and socialist mayoral candidate.

"Antiabortion terror is a key component of the reactionary program of Patrick Buchanan," Sachs said, as some in the crowd hissed at the mention of the rightist politician's name. "We have to unite and resist his so-called cultural war against the gains won in struggle by labor, women, Blacks, and other oppressed nationalities."

Sachs also urged demonstrators to support striking members of the United Mine Workers of America in their ongoing battle against the coal bosses for a contract.

Callahan's running mate for Minneapolis Board of Education is Elizabeth Swenson, a 20-year-old Ford assembly worker.

Anthony Lane, 41, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, is the Socialist Workers candidate for St. Paul City Council.



Militant/Jon Hillson

Joe Callahan (right) and Kari Sachs (second from right), Socialist Workers candidates for mayor of Minneapolis and St. Paul campaigning at June 14 demonstration against Operation Rescue.

Socialists take on Ross Perot in New Jersey

BY TED LEONARD

WALL TOWNSHIP, New Jersey — Socialist Workers candidates Steve Marshall and Mark Rahn took on Ross Perot's demagogic politics here at a campaign forum sponsored by the Texas billionaire's organization, United We Stand America.

The June 5 event began with brief presentations by more than 45 candidates, mainly those running as "independents" or Republicans. Some of the candidates also set up tables and distributed materials to the 1,500 people who attended.

"Are you ready to go to work to reform the government? To rebuild this country? To make 'Made in America' the standard of excellence again?" Ross Perot asked in opening the second part of the program — an hour-long presentation by Perot himself.

In his hour Perot attacked the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which he referred to as the "Mexican trade pact." Blaming Mexican workers for unemployment in the United States, a press release announcing the rally had encouraged unemployed workers to attend.

"Do you know how much Mexican money is flowing into Washington?" Perot then

asked, alleging that Mexican lobbyists were the reason for the support to NAFTA in Congress. Pointing to a photograph of men scratching their heads in an advertisement in favor of the trade deal, Perot revealed the chauvinist character of his anti-NAFTA campaign. "Everybody is scratching; they must have gone to Mexico and caught something," he stated.

Perot launched an attack on government welfare programs, asking the audience if their immigrant ancestors sought government relief when they left Ellis Island.

"I was born rich because of my parents," Perot said in conclusion. "I want everybody to have that opportunity."

Marshall, a rail worker who is the Socialist Workers candidate for the state assembly in the 29th District, offered a radically different perspective from Perot's solutions. Speaking during the brief time allotted candidates in the first part of program, he addressed the economic and social catastrophe that working people confront today.

The problem, Marshall said, "is not red tape or individual corruption. It's not Mexico, or Japan or Iraq, or other working people in the world. Instead it's the deep crisis

of the capitalist system.

Rahn, a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Socialist Workers candidate for governor, stated "We need an international fighting alliance of the working class and all the oppressed to fight for jobs for all through a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, as well as to expand affirmative action for Blacks, Latinos, and women."

"We need to oppose the scapegoating of immigrants, the blaming of particular groups of people for unemployment and other social problems that they did not cause."

Rahn pointed to the current strike by the United Mine Workers of America, the recent strike of grocery store workers in New Jersey, and the fight being led by the African National Congress against apartheid in South Africa as examples of how working people can defend their interests.

In an interview after the rally, Rahn said, "working people have no interest in opposing or supporting NAFTA. That is a debate for the owners of the mines, the mills, the factories, and the banks. Their concern is profits. Our concern as working people is jobs, a decent standard of living, and human dignity and solidarity."

Socialist meeting

Continued from front page

tions, classes, workshops, and social events. Topics will include how working people can resist the imperialists' drive toward World War III; opportunities presented to revolutionists since the collapse of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; and working-class answers to what rightist politician Patrick Buchanan calls the "culture war."

One of the central themes of the conference will be the expansion of Pathfinder Press worldwide. Pathfinder publishes and distributes books by and about working-class leaders such as Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V. I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, and Mother Jones, among many others.

Over the past year Pathfinder has expanded the reach of these important books, and work is already under way to upgrade the physical plant of the Pathfinder printshop. A slide show presenting the accomplishments of Pathfinder and the *Militant* newspaper over the past year will be one of the major events at the conference.

One of the new books Pathfinder will be showcasing at the Oberlin conference is *To See the Dawn: Baku 1920—The First Congress of the Peoples of the East*. This book contains the complete proceedings and documents of this historic conference. Classes will be given on the book as well as on recent developments in Azerbaijan and the Central Asian region by representatives of Pathfinder who recently returned from the Tehran book fair in Iran.

Other books already printed or slated to come off the presses in time for the Oberlin conference include new editions of *The Jewish Question*, by Abram Leon; *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions; Origins of Materialism*, by George Novack; and *Notebook of an Agitator*, by James P. Cannon.

For more information on the conference, contact one of the Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 16. A conference organizing office has been established at 1863 W. 25 Street, Cleveland, OH 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Fax: (216) 861-1773.

Salvadoran elections set for March 1994

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD
AND GREG ROSENBERG

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — The first national elections since the end of El Salvador's civil war are planned for March 1994. The backdrop to this approaching electoral contest is the refusal of Salvadoran president Alfredo Cristiani to implement aspects of the 1992 peace accords, as well as increased struggles by workers and peasants.

The accords, which were signed by the Salvadoran government and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), brought an end to the 11-year-old civil war, which claimed 75,000 lives. The majority of those killed were victims of the Salvadoran army and government death squads. Nearly 1 million people became refugees in this country of 6 million.

Since the end of the war, openings for mass political activity have expanded significantly. Meetings sponsored by FMLN member organizations and other political groups are widely advertised in daily newspapers. Many are open to the public. Bookstalls with a variety of political literature often spring up outside these events. Workers have taken advantage of these openings to press their demands against the employers.

In recent months a series of strikes and street demonstrations has occurred. Government spokespeople described these actions as "motivated by political interests" and the



Delegates to May convention of the Young Communists of El Salvador projected campaigning for the candidates of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front as their main activity in the coming months

work of FMLN "agitators."

Security forces opened fire May 20 on a march of 500 disabled Salvadoran army veterans and former FMLN combatants de-

manding medical care and other benefits. One army and one FMLN veteran were shot to death.

Three thousand people joined a funeral procession May 22 for the FMLN member, 18-year-old José Santos Martínez. Protests forced the dismissal of the cop in charge during the shootings.

Government workers struck the Public Works Ministry in San Salvador May 3. A group of workers and their supporters demonstrated at the nearby Sacred Heart Market, paralyzing all business there.

In a telephone interview, Oscar Martínez of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) said "The government is still not recognizing the unions and the labor code, and the agreement proposed by the International Labor Organization." As is the case with all unions in El Salvador, the UNTS is not legally recognized by the government. Martínez said both the government and businesses are violating the accord and trade unions have decided to organize demonstrations "to pressure the government to ratify the agreements."

Thousands without land titles

Peasants have also engaged in political struggles. They have held demonstrations demanding Cristiani honor the peace accords, which promise to grant land titles. Under the accords, 15,000 army veterans and 7,500 former FMLN combatants were to receive land grants from the government.

However, thousands have yet to be granted land.

José Danilo Acosta, 25, who works on a cooperative, told the *Militant* he joined the FMLN as a combatant at age 12 after his father was murdered by a right-wing death squad. Like many others, he has not been granted a title to the land. In addition, the government's promise of job training, Acosta said, has not been sufficient to get employment.

The leadership of the FMLN, which declared itself a political party last September, is centering its activities on the election campaign. It is currently discussing who to support in the presidential race.

Some FMLN forces, including the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), one of its five member organizations, support the candidacy of Rubén Zamora, a prominent politician running on the Democratic Convergence ticket — a coalition of the Social Christian and social democratic parties.

Schafik Handal, general secretary of the Communist Party of El Salvador, another FMLN-affiliated organization, told delegates at the Communist Youth convention in late May that he was seeking the FMLN's nomination for president. The FMLN is planning a referendum to determine which candidate to support.

Meanwhile, government officials and some Salvadoran newspapers accuse the FMLN of hiding weapons and continuing to organize guerrilla units. The right wing *El Diario de Hoy* newspaper quoted Salvadoran information secretary Ernesto Altshul as saying that "well-armed and uniformed bands" of FMLN guerrillas are functioning inside the country.

FMLN leaders deny this charge and say all of their 25,000 combatants have been disarmed and demobilized. The Cristiani government says the explosion of an arms depot outside Managua, Nicaragua, which killed two people, proves its point. The arsenal has been linked to the FPL.

After initially denying the connection, the FPL stated the weapons were under their control but that "no arms have been removed from that depot since November 1991."

The March 21 *New York Times* reported top officials in both the Reagan and Carter administrations were aware of the Salvadoran army's involvement in systematic assassinations and massacres, but covered them up. This included knowledge of the U.S.-trained Atlacatl Battalion's massacre of 700 peasants in the village of El Mozote in 1981 and the 1980 assassination of the archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero.

North Korea makes gains in talks with Washington

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — In a joint statement signed by U.S. and North Korean officials, both governments agreed to mutual "assurance against the threat and use of force, including nuclear weapons."

The statement was signed during talks between representatives of the governments of the United States and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as North Korea is officially known, held in New York June 2-11.

The talks took place amidst threats by Washington against North Korea following the DPRK's announcement that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

After the agreement was reached, North Korean officials announced that they would not withdraw from the treaty.

Washington and Seoul have belligerently demanded that North Korea open military facilities to "inspections" by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The United States maintains 37,000 troops in South Korea, and uses the smokescreen of nuclear proliferation to cover its hostility toward Pyongyang and the reunification of Korea. The Korean Peninsula has been divided since the U.S.-led Korean War ended in 1953.

The U.S. government has used the annual Team Spirit exercises — joint military maneuvers with the South Korean regime — as a threat against North Korea.

"We think this is a victory for us," Kim Jong Su said, commenting on the agreement during an interview here. "The United States agreed to respect the sovereignty of our country and agreed to nonintervention in our internal affairs." Kim is the deputy permanent representative of the DPRK to the United Nations.

"The nuclear problem is not the main question," the Korean official said, pointing to the U.S. government's hostile attitude toward North Korea. "We are ready to develop relations with Washington on an equal footing. We will be loyal to the principle of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons."

The nuclear treaty is no guarantee of a country's commitment to banning nuclear weapons production, Kim pointed out. "Some countries are in the NPT and produce nuclear weapons, as do some countries who are outside the NPT," he said.

"Whether we withdraw or join the NPT is the decision of a sovereign nation," the Korean diplomat explained. "The U.S. has no right to force us."

The North Korean government has always said it has nuclear power facilities. But it denies accusations that it is developing

nuclear weapons, explaining that its use of nuclear power is for peaceful purposes only.

The DPRK government calls on Washington to "give up its nuclear arms and respect Korea," Kim said, noting the contradictory character of Washington's position. The Clinton administration just announced that the U.S. government will resume nuclear arms tests.

Washington, he said, "should implement the decisions of the joint statement." It must prove that it is against the spread of nuclear weapons, he said, "with actions — by withdrawing all nuclear weapons from its bases in South Korea, and all its nuclear ships from the Korean Peninsula."

Regarding the inspection of nuclear facilities, the Korean official said that future inspections should be carried out by the committee formed as a result of an agreement signed by the governments of South Korea and the DPRK in 1991 for the denuclearization of the entire Korean Peninsula.

'Militant' announces several staff changes

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

With this issue, Hilda Cuzco and Greg Rosenberg join the *Militant* staff. Cuzco until recently assembled cabs for 18-wheel trucks at the Kenworth Trucking Co. plant in Seattle, and was a member of International Association of Machinists Local 389.

Over the past year, Cuzco was actively involved in the defense of two immigrant workers in Seattle who were framed up by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for providing assistance to refugees from Central America. The activists were acquitted in December 1992. Cuzco reported on the case for the *Militant*. Prior to moving to Seattle to help build the Socialist Workers Party branch there, Cuzco worked in the meat-packing industry in Omaha, Nebraska, and was a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Rosenberg — until recently an auto worker at Ford Motor Co. in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a member of United Auto Workers Local 879 — was the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Minneapolis in this year's election.

He recently participated in a *Militant* reporting team to El Salvador, as well as a similar team to India in December 1992, and wrote about political developments in those countries.

Naomi Craine has been named business manager of the paper. Craine joined the *Militant* staff in August 1992. Since then she



New *Militant* staff writers Greg Rosenberg and Hilda Cuzco

has contributed a series of articles on the police frame-up of union and political activist Mark Curtis as well as on many other subjects. Craine organized the coverage of the recently completed *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription drive, which surpassed its goals.

Craine is organizing a team of volunteers

from Birmingham, Alabama, and Houston to attend the American Library Association's annual conference in New Orleans June 26-29 to promote and solicit library subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. This is another step in a sustained effort to improve the promotion and circulation of the socialist publications.

Che's 'Socialism and Man in Cuba' published in Iran

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

TEHRAN, Iran — *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara has just been published in Iran. The pamphlet, which presents the Cuban revolutionary's ideas on the political challenges and tasks for working people in the transition from capitalism to socialism, has already been published in several languages by Pathfinder Press.

Shohreh Izadi explained how the project came about in an interview during the sixth International Tehran Book Fair in mid-May.

"After last year's book fair, I arranged to work with Pathfinder to translate and publish the book," she said. "Once it was ready for printing I took the draft to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and a few weeks later they gave permission to go ahead with printing."

"I thought this book would be interesting because we've never had Che's thought printed in Iran," she continued. "Everyone has seen him as a guerrilla fighter, especially young people during the Shah's time. But I wanted to show Che as a political and the-

oretical thinker, addressing the questions the Cuban people face in saving and rebuilding their revolution."

"This book is a good introduction to Che's thought," Izadi said. "By reading it you get into Che's mind and see what he thought about revolutions and how people can change society from one form to another, in a way that benefits the people."

Izadi explained the financial difficulties in publishing a pamphlet like *Socialism and Man in Cuba*. "For a beginner like me to publish a book," she said, "financial matters are a central question. So help from my friends was crucial in raising the needed money. People were pleased to help, and that encouraged me to a great extent."

The book sells for 800 rials in Iran (about 50 cents). It is being distributed through the Morghe Amin bookshop and publishing house in Tehran. Izadi reported sales so far have been good. "We printed 2,000 copies in February and over 1,000 have already been sold," she said. "Morghe Amin told us it was their best seller at the Tehran book fair, and 200 copies have been sold to book-



Shohreh Izadi (left) staffing Pathfinder booth at Tehran book fair in May. Izadi translated *Socialism and Man in Cuba* into Farsi and published the book in Iran.

shops in Tabriz. Some distributors have already reordered."

The book was also featured in an advertisement in the literary magazine *Takapou*.

Izadi is currently working on translating "Washington's Assault on Iraq: The Opening Guns of World War III," which is published in English in the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Pathfinder Press announces sale of Marx and Engels titles

BY TONI GORTON

Pathfinder Press has announced a special sale of books and pamphlets by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. Available to members of the Pathfinder Readers Club, the sale will run from June 28 through July 31. (See ad on next page.)

The sale provides workers, young fighters, and others a unique opportunity to add important works by Marx and Engels to their libraries. It offers at big discounts such titles as *The Communist Manifesto*; *Capital*; *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*; *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*; *The Housing Question*; *The Wages System*; *Selected Correspondence*; and many others.

A number of the same titles in Spanish and French are also included in the offer.

Several books that are part of this sale are published by Pathfinder. The others were published in the former Soviet Union and are increasingly difficult to obtain today. All of them contain articles and letters essential to learning about Marxism.

A list of the titles on sale appears on the facing page.

For \$10 a year, Readers Club members can take advantage of special offers like this as well as receive a 15 percent discount on all titles published by Pathfinder.

To take advantage of this sale — and to join the Readers Club — visit the nearest Pathfinder Bookstore (see directory on page 16) or write directly to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150.

Rightists attack London bookshops

BY IAN GRANT

LONDON — Freedom Press, an anarchist bookshop in East London, was the target of an attack in March organized by thugs calling themselves Combat 18. The 1 and 8 are alphabetical codes for Adolph Hitler's initials.

A gang of four assailants wearing balaclavas (ski masks) and wielding baseball bats entered the premises on a Saturday morning and smashed printing and publishing equipment worth \$7,750. As they left they ignited a gasoline bomb. Although the outfit has organized several violent assaults against individuals in the last 12 months, no one was reported injured in this attack.

Combat 18 has carried out attacks against Jews, Blacks, antiracist activists, and other perceived "enemies." Its motto is "White revolution is the only solution!"

The London Pathfinder bookshop sent a letter of solidarity to Freedom Press along with an offer to participate in any public fund-raising appeal initiated by Freedom Press to enable them to continue their publishing and bookselling enterprise.

The Pathfinder bookshop, which provides premises for the Militant Labour Forum each week, has received several anonymous phone calls from rightist outfits threatening participants in the forums.

In April Combat 18 carried out attacks against another store, the Killburn Bookshop, located in a predominantly Irish area of London. Killburn prominently features books by Black, Irish, gay, and lesbian authors. Several publishers and booksellers condemned the attacks and sent messages of solidarity to Killburn.

Alan Harris, director of the Pathfinder

bookshop said, "Actions like those carried out by Combat 18 thugs against the Freedom Press and Killburn must be vigorously combated. All those concerned with civil liberties and democratic rights must work together to ensure that those responsible for carrying out attacks like this are arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Swastikas smeared on New Zealand Pathfinder bookstore

BY MICHAEL TUCKER

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Swastikas were discovered May 30 on the window and door of the Pathfinder bookstore here. The symbols were smeared on with food.

The bookstore had shifted to its new storefront location downtown several weeks earlier. A window display featured books by Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X.

Pathfinder bookstore representative Joan Shields condemned the smearing of the shop with swastikas as a "politically motivated attack" on democratic rights. "Not only is it an attempt to intimidate supporters of the bookshop, but all other working people and youth who are interested and active in politics," Shields said.

The Christchurch daily *The Press* carried a report on the attack, quoting Shields. A number of representatives of unions and civil liberties groups also condemned the attack.

A meeting to celebrate the opening of the new Pathfinder bookstore in Christchurch was held June 19.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BY MAGGIE PUCCI

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 16.

Pathfinder is reissuing two classic books, *The Origins of Materialism* and *Notebook of an Agitator*. Both will be available in late June with attractive new covers.

The Origins of Materialism, by George Novack, traces the history of materialism to its origin in the bustling maritime cities of ancient Greece. Novack tells why materialism remains today a bulwark against supernaturalism, spiritualism, and obscurantism of all kinds.

Notebook of an Agitator: From the Wobblies to the Fight against McCarthyism and the Korean War contains articles by James P. Cannon spanning four decades of working-class battles. Cannon recounts the defense of frame-up victims Sacco and Vanzetti, the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters' strikes, labor's fight against the McCarthyite witch-hunt of the 1950s, and much more. Cannon was a founder and leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

The book now contains a glossary of people and organizations described by Cannon as well as descriptive introductory notes.

Pathfinder representatives from Toronto, Montreal, and Detroit spearheaded Pathfinder's participation at the Learned Societies Conference in Ottawa, Ontario, in early June. Professors and students there bought \$800 worth of Pathfinder titles. Sixteen copies of the latest Pathfinder book *The Truth about Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention* were sold. *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* and *Woman's Evolution* were two of the publisher's best-sellers at the conference, demonstrating the popularity of Pathfinder's women's studies titles.

Pathfinder bookstores in Vancouver, British Columbia, and New York City have launched local Pathfinder Readers Club newsletters. The New York bookstore signed up 12 new Readers Club members in May, becoming the first Pathfinder bookstore to go over the 100-member mark! A Pathfinder supporter in San Juan, Puerto Rico recently signed up a new Readers Club member there.

The Readers Club entitles members to a 15 percent discount on all Pathfinder titles at any of the 35 Pathfinder bookstores in the world for a \$10 annual fee. Members of the Readers Club are also offered special monthly discounts on selected titles. To join, write or call Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014, (212) 741-0690, or visit the Pathfinder bookstore near you.

A supporter from Los Angeles writes that the Pathfinder book *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists* has gained in popularity among airline workers facing union contract discussions. He writes, "The experience of the Eastern strikers is particularly important, and is the realization that concessions don't save jobs — only putting up a fight does."

In the past two months more than two dozen airline workers in the Los Angeles area have purchased copies of the book. Five additional copies were bought by participants in a citywide picket line in support of the coal miners' fight for a contract in May.

A longtime reader of Pathfinder books from a California prison enclosed a brief note with his latest order. The letter reads, in part, "The books on this list will be the start of my bringing new customers to the company." Pathfinder makes its titles available to prisoners at 50 percent off the cover price plus a \$2.50 postage charge. Prisoners who would like a free copy of the newly-published 1993 Pathfinder catalog can write to Pathfinder in New York.

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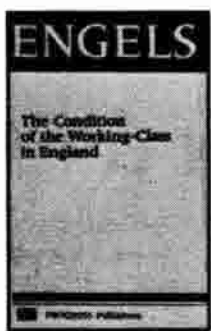
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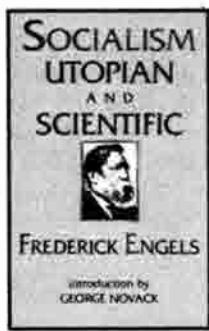
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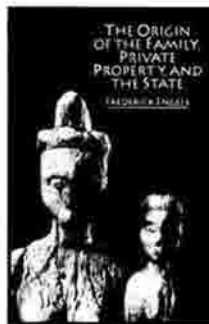
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Unionists rally to support Timex workers

BY IAN GRANT

DUNDEE, Scotland — About 7,000 trade unionists and youth participated in a march and rally at the Timex factory here June 19 to show their solidarity with the 343 workers who have been locked out by the company after conducting a two-week strike in February. The action was backed by the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC).

The solidarity rally took place four days after Timex management announced it intended to close the factory by Christmas. The announcement followed the resignation of Peter Hall, the Timex company president at Dundee. Timex's U.S. vice-president, Mohamed Saleh, claims the company has lost £10 million (US\$15million) at the Dundee plant since 1982, and £2 million (US\$3million) just in the last year.

For several months locked-out members of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, predominantly women, have picketed the factory around the clock. They have reached out to other working people in Britain and other countries, winning support to their fight for reinstatement.

The company has attempted to bus in a complete replacement work force. Pickets estimate less than 200 have been hired.

After the workers rejected the company's concessionary offer June 3, Timex announced plans to hire an additional 270 replacement workers.

A company spokesman quoted in the June 6 *Independent* said the company expected to make a profit this year, and rejected fears over the quality of production at the Dundee plant. Along with announcing plans to close the plant, Timex offered to take back half



7,000 people marched June 19 in solidarity with Timex workers in Dundee, Scotland.

the sacked work force at reduced rates of pay in order to try to meet existing orders. This was overwhelmingly rejected by the workers.

On June 19, the day of the solidarity rally, management stopped production in the factory and welded the gates shut. Addressing the rally, Labour member of Parliament John McAllion said, "Whatever they've said before cannot be believed. It ain't over yet!"

John Kydd Jr., union convener at Timex, restated the workers' demand for a return to work under the previously existing condi-

tions, saying "Those who thought that physical support at the gates was over have got their answer today!" He called for more mass pickets, and went on to explain, "If they fail to deal with the workers, this company will close."

Other speakers included Alan Tuffin, leader of the Union of Communication Workers and president of the Trades Union Congress. Tuffin read a message from the Communication Workers of America that said, "In recognition of the anti-worker, anti-trade union activities of the Timex Corpora-

tion, any call for action will receive support." Postal workers have refused to deliver mail to the factory since the dispute started.

A week before the rally, the Timex Strike Committee came under intense pressure from the police to call off the solidarity event. Threats were made to arrest the entire strike committee under the Public Order Acts. The day of the rally a large police contingent was mobilized, which included mounted units from outside the city.

In an effort to break the workers' resistance, Timex has relied heavily on anti-union laws, which criminalize effective picketing. The locked-out workers, who are restricted by these laws to six pickets, also face harassment by the police. But company attempts to get court injunctions prohibiting mass protests outside the factory, such as the one on June 19, have been turned down in face of the wide support won by the Timex workers.

In a fresh move to strengthen their fight, the Timex workers have just produced a mass leaflet addressing unemployed workers in the region who are being pressured, under threat of losing benefits, into taking jobs at the plant.

At a Scotland-wide meeting of shop stewards, the STUC called a day of action in support of the Timex workers for July 1. Plans are also being made for a July 4 picket outside the U.S. Consulate in Edinburgh, and U.S. Embassy in London. A delegation of sacked Timex workers plans to speak to U.S. workers about their fight as guests of the United Steelworkers of America in the near future.

New Canadian gov't continues assault on labor

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — Under the cover of a "new-style" government headed by Conservative Party leader Kim Campbell, Canada's capitalist rulers are intensifying their efforts to make working people pay for the country's economic crisis.

Campbell replaced Prime Minister Brian Mulroney at the June 11-13 Conservative Party (Tory) leadership convention in Ottawa. She will become prime minister June 25 and lead the Conservative Party into a federal election, expected later this year.

The Tories, whose popularity has plummeted with Mulroney at the helm, hope that with the election of Campbell they may have a shot at winning the upcoming parliamentary elections. Mulroney was forced by his party to announce his decision to resign in February.

Campbell, who was defense minister in the Mulroney government, won the Tory leadership in a close vote over environment minister Jean Charest. Campbell's victory took place on the second ballot with 53 percent of the vote — just 187 votes more than Charest.

Although Campbell received financial and political support from leading bankers and capitalist politicians, ruling-class opinion was divided over whether Campbell or Charest would be more effective in furthering the attacks on social benefits that escalated under the Mulroney government.

Sixty thousand workers marched on Parliament Hill May 15 protesting the economic policies of the Mulroney government as well as demanding jobs and an end to cutbacks in unemployment insurance, health care, and other government services. The workers' anger reflected the hatred the Mulroney government has earned from working people over the past nine years.

At the beginning of the Conservative Party leadership race, Campbell, as the hand-picked successor of Mulroney, was virtually unopposed. As unease in ruling-class circles mounted, Charest — a member of Parliament from Quebec — picked up support from the editors of the *Globe* and *Mail* and others who felt Charest had a clearer profederalist and anti-Quebecois nationalist position as well as a greater commitment to slash government social spending. This resulted in a surge of support for him near the end of the campaign.

Anti-working-class program

The media hype around the Conservative leadership campaign portrayed Charest as a

young dynamic politician from Quebec dedicated to fighting Quebecois separatism. Some bourgeois commentators tried to whip up anti-Quebecois sentiment by calling for a prime minister from outside Quebec.

Others presented Campbell's election as a step forward as "Canada's first woman prime minister." Campbell, however, is a capitalist politician who has consistently defended the Mulroney government's attacks on working people. In 1990-91, as justice minister in the Mulroney government, she promoted legislation to recriminalize abortion. The legislation was defeated.

The basic agreement on domestic and foreign policy by Campbell and Charest, demonstrates the growing consensus in the ruling class on the need to press the attacks on working people.

As a small imperialist power facing sharp trade competition from Washington and

other major capitalist powers, the employing class in Canada has been on a drive to reduce labor costs through massive layoffs, forcing workers to produce more for lower wages, and cutbacks in social programs.

Canada's unemployment rate stands at 11.4 percent. Between 1980 and 1990 real wages rose only 2 percent, the lowest increase since statistics began to be recorded in 1927. In a population of 27 million, 4 million people live today below the official poverty line.

Ottawa has been trying for years to close the gap in labor productivity between Canadian and U.S. industry. As recently as 1991 that gap had widened to more than 20 percent, giving U.S. capitalists the advantage.

Under the banner of attacking the federal deficit both Campbell and Charest — who will be Campbell's deputy prime minister — have committed themselves to even fur-

ther attacks on social programs. During the leadership campaign Campbell promised to eliminate the government deficit in five years. Charest said he could do it in four.

In her speech to the Conservative convention prior to the leadership election, Campbell said, "We will reduce the size and scale of government and we will find a way with the provinces to eliminate not just our \$32 billion federal deficit, but our collective national \$60 billion deficit." During the campaign both Campbell and Charest refused to commit themselves to maintaining the universality of social programs like Medicare.

Imperialist foreign policy

Campbell's anti-working-class policies at home are mirrored in the increased use of Canada's military forces against working people around the world. This is being car-

Continued on Page 16

Machinists at Northwest reject concessions

BY KIP HEDGES

MINNEAPOLIS — Just one week into a four-week voting period, Tom Pedersen, president of International Association of Machinists (IAM) District Lodge 143 announced that the 26,000-member union at Northwest Airlines was sending the company's concessionary contract down to defeat.

IAM members rejected the contract despite the union officialdom's recommendation that it be accepted.

Management is demanding cuts in wages averaging 11 percent. Other concessions include cuts in vacation time.

In a show of opposition to the proposed contract, several hundred Northwest Airlines workers, members of IAM Local 1833 in Minneapolis, jammed into Champs Bar in St. Paul on the night of June 3 to hear the local band Bad to the Bone. A feature of its performance was the burning of a copy of the contract summary to the shouts of "vote no."

The following day thousands of unionists turned out at the Met Center in the city of Bloomington to vote on the contract. IAM member Marv Nelson stood in front of the Met Center all day with a sign saying, "Vote No." "I have a terrible phobia about giving money to millionaires," he said. "I'd rather give it to my church or the needy." One truck carried a huge plywood sign that read, "Full Pay To the Last Day" on one side and "Just Say No" on the other. A mechanic with a top hat

and tuxedo flew a six-by-eight-foot kite nearby which read, "Yes-Vote No."

A cleaner with four children explained that she had planned to vote yes. "When I got in there I voted no. I just couldn't allow myself to be blackmailed by the company."

"I think a lot of us felt it was time to take a stand," said baggage handler Bob Krueger. "The company has been beating us up pretty badly for the last year or so." He was referring to the use of forced overtime, arbitrary discipline, and speed up by the airline.

Before the vote, IAM vice-president John Peterpaul spoke in support of the contract, saying that if the proposal were voted down, the airline would almost certainly declare bankruptcy. A judge would then be able to legally abrogate the labor contract and impose even steeper cuts.

Referring to these views, Melanie Zimmer, a mechanic at Northwest said, "They make it seem like there is nothing we can do if a judge cuts our wages by 20 percent. In 1963 a judge in Mississippi had the legal right to lock up a Black man for trying to eat in Woolworths and that man had a moral right to fight back. And he did. In 1993 we have the moral right to defend ourselves from a judge or a company or both."

IAM members from Minneapolis and St. Paul are now organizing to show their support to striking coal miners in a solidarity rally in Ava in southern Illinois June 27.

In rejecting the contract the rank and file drew the anger of a variety of Democratic and Republican party politicians and from the big business media in the area that had been actively pushing ratification. For its part the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* said in a June 12 editorial that by "rejecting the wage concessions negotiated by their leaders, members of Northwest Airlines' largest union have put the future of the . . . company under the darkest and most threatening cloud yet." The newspaper also advised union officials to dispense with the "formalities of union democracy" and impose a concession contract on the membership.

Ron Carey, national president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union, which represents 7,000 Northwest flight attendants, announced that his union had halted voting on a contract containing similar concessions because the heavy rejection by the IAM had rendered the vote meaningless. Carey had campaigned for the pay cuts as a way of "saving jobs."

Karen Schultze, a Detroit-based flight attendant and member of Teamsters Local 2000, reported that many flight attendants were voting against accepting pay cuts. "Many of us have already taken concessions at other airlines like Eastern and Republic," she said. "This didn't solve anything. It would have just encouraged the company to ask for more."

'You can't dig coal with bayonets'

1943 coal miners' strike is powerful example for fighting workers today

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

As thousands of miners battle the coal bosses in a strike for a decent contract, many working people are looking to their example. The coal miners' strike shows that there is only one way for workers to push back the employers' antilabor offensive — to wage a fight that relies on their own power and reaches for solidarity from other working people.

Exactly 50 years ago, an earlier generation of miners gave a powerful example of how to fight and win. In 1943, in the midst of World War II, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) — half a million strong — carried out four national strikes to win a wage increase and better working conditions. The miners stood up to the government's war propaganda, threats, strike ban, and wage freeze — and won.

The story of this historic battle is told in vivid detail in the Pathfinder book *Labor's Giant Step* by Art Preis, which describes how the mass working-class struggles of the 1930s led to the rise of industrial unions in the United States. Preis himself was a participant in many of these fights. Pathfinder is preparing a new edition of this book.

Preis explains that World War II was a war for profits, not democracy. The DuPonts, Mellons, and other U.S. ruling families fought their rivals in Europe and Japan over the world's markets and raw materials. To do this they slaughtered millions of workers and farmers, both in and out of uniform.

World War II was also a war at home against the working class. The corporations and their government in Washington unleashed a savage drive on workers' standard of living and job conditions.

The war profiteers squeezed workers through longer hours and speed-up in the factories. President Franklin Roosevelt's administration imposed a virtual freeze on wages. It wrested concession after concession from the top officials of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO), including a no-strike pledge and the elimination of premium pay for weekends and holidays.

To impose compulsory arbitration, the government set up a War Labor Board (WLB) handling all labor disputes. The board, known by workers as "the Graveyard of Grievances," was made up of labor-haters along with a few union officials as window dressing.

While corporations made a killing from juicy war contracts, workers faced grim conditions. Washington enforced a wage freeze and rationing on necessities. Meanwhile the cost of living went up by 30 percent between January 1941 and January 1943. Roosevelt also signed a war tax bill that for the first time imposed income taxes on most working people.

Working people in the coal-mining areas faced some of the worst conditions. According to a UMWA survey of Pennsylvania mining towns, food prices there more than doubled between 1939 and 1943. The coal bosses' disregard for safety had resulted in 64,000 miners killed and maimed in 1941, 75,000 the next year, and about 100,000 the following year — a higher casualty rate than what the U.S. armed forces suffered in the war!



Coal miners "won not for themselves alone, but for the labor movement as a whole," explained the November 13, 1943 issue of the *Militant* in a front-page article (above). "The miners' strikes of 1943, taking place in the midst of the Second World War, will forever remain a landmark in the history of the American class struggle."

As restiveness grew in the coalfields, a wild-cat strike by Pennsylvania anthracite miners broke out on Jan. 2, 1943. They called for a wage raise of \$2 a day. The WLB and then Roosevelt — addressing the workers as "your Commander in Chief" — quickly ordered them back to their jobs. The miners ignored his threats and returned to work January 22 only at the pleading of their own leaders.

In March the UMWA opened negotiations with the Appalachian bituminous coal operators. It demanded: retention of the existing 35-hour, five-day week in the mines; pay for time traveled between the mine portal and the point of work; and a \$2-per-day raise in base pay.

The big-business press and politicians immediately howled with patriotic outrage. "Traitor," "treasonous," and "a Hitler" were among the epithets they hurled at UMWA president John L. Lewis. The war effort, they said, meant everyone must sacrifice for the "national interest."

Bosses' war frenzy

The bosses' war frenzy swept up the class-collaborationist leadership of the AFL and the CIO. The overwhelming majority of union officials agreed to Roosevelt's hypocritical call for "equality of sacrifice."

Miners, however, pointed out that workers were being told to give up wage improvements and the right to strike while the government let corporations, including coal companies, jack up prices.

Roosevelt then issued a "hold-the-line" executive decree placing wages under the most sweeping controls ever. The president's war manpower commissioner issued an order that barred 27 million workers from moving to higher-paid jobs.

The bosses refused to bargain. The WLB intervened in the dispute and ruled out any raises, but the UMWA declined to appear before the WLB, calling it a "court packed against labor." A week before the contract

expiration deadline, miners in western Pennsylvania walked out.

As the strike spread Roosevelt threatened to intervene with the U.S. army. In response, nearly 10,000 Ohio miners left the pits. By the morning of Saturday, May 1, every union soft-coal mine in the country was shut down tight.

"The national strike of the miners was not only the largest coal strike the country had seen up to this time," Preis wrote in *Labor's Giant Step*. "It was the largest single strike of any kind the land had ever known. It was carried out with a dispatch, discipline and single-minded determination that had never been surpassed in the American labor movement."

Roosevelt ordered the government seizure of the struck coal mines. Miners were told they were working "for the government" and were ordered back to work. But the miners didn't budge and awaited decision by their union.

In a May 3 eyewitness report for the *Militant*, Preis wrote from western Pennsylvania, "Sticking by their guns in a magnificent display of union discipline and solidarity, and in the face of an unparalleled barrage of government threat and intimidation, the miners throughout this key soft-coal area today held hundreds of local meetings and in an organized, deliberate fashion voted to return to work tomorrow pending the outcome of the 15-day mine truce" announced by Lewis.

The miners' impressive action brought an outpouring of support from the rest of the working class, despite the war jingoism of the bosses and their followers. Hundreds of union locals in the auto, rubber, steel, and other industries sent the miners solidarity messages.

Preis describes in his book how on the day of Roosevelt's back-to-work order, "a thousand delegates representing 350,000 members of the United Auto Workers in Detroit struck for four days against a mountain of backed-up grievances. Some 50,000 rubber workers in Akron, Ohio, struck for five days for a wage increase."

Many other workers shared the miners' readiness to resist the bosses. As the new UMWA strike deadline approached, 30,000 Chrysler and Dodge auto workers in Detroit struck for four days against a mountain of backed-up grievances. Some 50,000 rubber workers in Akron, Ohio, struck for five days for a wage increase.

Among the chorus of union bureaucrats denouncing the miners, the most rabid voice was that of the Stalinists in the Communist Party (CP), who played an influential role in a number of CIO unions. The CP's policy was to subordinate workers' interests to those of the privileged bureaucracy that ruled the Soviet Union.

Since the Kremlin at the time was seeking a permanent deal with U.S., British, and French imperialism, the Stalinists became the most chauvinist, prowar wing of the U.S. labor movement. The Communist Party even denounced Blacks fighting Jim Crow segregation as "aiding Hitler." The CP called on workers to accept speed-up and sent its leaders into the coalfields to try to start a back-to-work movement and break what it called the miners' "treasonable strike."

Virtually the only newspaper in the labor

movement that consistently told the miners' side of the story and spoke in their defense was the *Militant*. Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party promoted solidarity with the UMWA strike in their unions and went to the coalfields to distribute the socialist paper. One socialist reported from the Pittsburgh area, "The miners are now taking *The Militant* down into the pits with them and passing it on to their fellow workers. In some places they read it while on the main trip down. They all like it."

When the May 31 truce deadline passed, 530,000 miners again stayed off the job "without any special strike call being issued and with casual matter-of-factness," the *Militant* reported.

'Can't dig coal with bayonets'

The president threatened to call out the federal troops, bellowing at the strikers that they were "employees of the Government and have no right to strike." The miners gave Roosevelt their famous answer: "You can't dig coal with bayonets."

Seeing that the government had not cowed the miners into submission, some of the coal operators flinched and began to negotiate seriously with the union. UMWA officials then announced a two-week truce. Meanwhile, Congress pushed through the country's first federal antistrike bill, the notorious Smith-Connally War Labor Disputes Bill.

Days later, 1,800 delegates at the Michigan CIO convention in Detroit backed the miners and denounced the antilabor law, saying it "made a mockery out of avowed claims that this is a war for democracy."

The UMWA's deadline passed June 19 and the miners struck again for two days before Lewis called another truce, this time through October. Roosevelt, however, infuriated the workers by threatening to draft them into the army to force them to work. In protest, about 40 percent of the miners extended their strike by several more days.

Explaining their indignation at the military conscription threat, one UMWA veteran told a union meeting in Library, Pennsylvania, "Going into a mine is no easy thing. Every time you go in, you never know if you're coming out. If they want to pass such a law on us men, let 'em pass it. We've worked in these mines and risked our lives and damned near at times had to eat grass and frozen apples to stay alive. But we're still living and still fighting."

The Illinois Operators Association caved in and signed a contract with the UMWA, which the WLB flatly rejected for violating the wage freeze. But the UMWA ranks were ready to respond. By the November 1 strike deadline, half a million coal miners had walked out — the fourth official national wartime strike in 1943.

"Roosevelt was at the end of his rope," Preis noted. "He could not arrest 530,000 miners. He could not force them to go down into the pits at bayonet point, and even if he could, they need not mine an ounce of coal. He could not jail Lewis and the UMW leaders, for the miners swore they would strike 'until Hell freezes over' if Lewis were victimized."

Defeated, the WLB finally agreed to a contract raising wages to \$57 a week — an increase of \$1.50 a day — plus \$40 to each miner for retroactive portal-to-portal pay.

The miners had cracked the government's wage freeze and strike ban. "The miners' victory," Preis wrote, "opened a whole new wave of labor struggle, mounting steadily through 1943, 1944 and 1945, reaching a titanic climax in the winter of 1945-46. The employers' postwar plan to turn the war veterans against the workers and smash the unions was never able to get going."

The miners didn't rely on so-called friends in Congress or the White House, both of which acted in defense of the employer class. They didn't buy the bosses' argument that workers should sacrifice their livelihoods in the name of the war effort. They didn't count on favorable legislation or court rulings. They mobilized their own ranks, put up a tenacious fight, and won massive labor solidarity in the process.

Today, unionists and others seeking to fight the employers' assault on the rights and living standards of working people can learn some valuable lessons from this chapter of working-class history.

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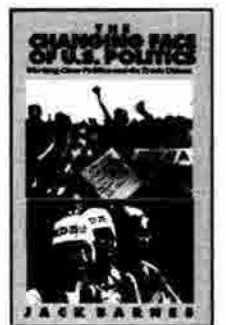
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Marrowbone UMW victory spurs other organizing drives

BY ELIZABETH LARISCY

LENORE, West Virginia — As hundreds of miners, their families, and friends filled the park at Laurel Lake here to celebrate the union-organizing victory at the nearby Marrowbone mine complex, other organizing drives by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) are spreading in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky.

The workers, employed by Marrowbone Development Co. in southern West Virginia, won a resounding victory in a May 27 union representation election. The mine is owned by Zeigler Holding Co., one of the largest coal companies in the country.

International UMWA vice-president Cecil Roberts swore in two large groups of workers as members of the newly constituted UMWA Local 93 at the June 19 victory celebration. Additional swearing-in ceremonies took place throughout the day as miners came from work.

The week before the Marrowbone celebration, 80 miners from Wolf Creek Collieries participated in an animated meeting in Inez, Kentucky, to discuss their upcoming

union representation election set for June 28. The Wolf Creek mine is owned by Zeigler.

As the Wolf Creek miners met, 100 miners from the Pontiki Coal Co. poured into Sheldon Clark High School in Inez to attend their first union-organizing meeting. Pontiki miners have already signed enough union cards and have filed a request with the National Labor Relations Board to hold a union representation election. Pontiki is owned by MAPCO Coal Inc.

On June 20 workers at Beach Fork Coal Co., another mine in eastern Kentucky, held their first organizing meeting as well. UMWA organizer Bernard Evans, who spoke at the meeting, said many miners signed union cards. "I'm getting calls night and day from miners wanting to go union," Evans said in an interview. "I'm available anytime, any day, any night."

John Chapman, a Wolf Creek miner, spoke at the meeting of the Beach Fork miners. He explained how the companies had kept workers divided and competing with each other. "We've always been the 'Marrowbone boys' or the 'Wolf Creek boys' or the 'Beach Fork



Militant/Yvonne Hayes

Marrowbone miners being sworn in June 19 after UMWA organizing victory

boys," he said. "Now we're going to be together and be union brothers."

The Beach Fork and Pontiki mines are located in Martin County, Kentucky, near Inez.

A front-page headline of *The Mountain Citizen*, a newspaper published in Inez, read, "Unionization Fire Spreads Across Eastern Kentucky."

"It's like a revival," said Howard Green, a UMWA International Executive Board

member from District 17. "We're on the move in eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia."

At the celebration in Lenore, West Virginia, Marrowbone miners recounted the struggle that led to the UMWA victory over a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, and salad. Miners began organizing for a union in March as they fought cuts in benefits imposed by Zeigler, the new owner of the mine.

Four of their leaders were fired for leading a strike in response to the cuts. In a swift response 450 miners stayed off the job for 10 days until the company agreed to rescind the firings.

The unionization campaign continued on the job. Regular community meetings were held with UMWA representatives where everyone was welcome to raise questions, share information, and discuss openly what joining the union would mean.

The company launched its own campaign to convince the workers they were better off without a union. Management put full-page ads in the newspapers and a neon sign at the portal that read "Vote No," promised favors to individual workers, and attempted to intimidate others on the job. But on May 27 miners voted 256-151 to join the UMWA.

Joe Stanley, president of Local 93, said the next step is to build unity among all workers at Marrowbone — those who voted for the union and those who opposed it. Unity will be essential in fighting for a decent contract, he explained.

Elizabeth Lariscy is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Ravenswood Steelworkers support miners

BY YVONNE HAYES
AND MICHAEL ITALIE

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — Coal miners, aluminum workers, and their supporters fanned out in the community here and in nearby Ripley and Pt. Pleasant June 12, raising nearly \$14,000 for striking members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in Logan and Boone counties.

Invited by United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 5668 at Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. and members of its women's auxiliary, 35 miners and dozens of their supporters stopped traffic on major roadways in the three towns all day. They also stationed themselves on the road leading to the aluminum plant at the morning and afternoon shift changes.

"We're with you" and "Give 'em hell" were frequent greetings as drivers rolled down their windows and fished in their pockets. Contributions ranged from handfuls of change to the 5-, 10-, and 20-dollar bills many people pulled out of their wallets.

The last donation of the day at one collection site came from a young man who dropped two crisp \$100 bills in the bucket and drove off, saying simply "Good luck."

Drivers stopped at checkpoints in the roadway centerlines. Near sandwich boards reading "Support UMWA," miners in camouflage and Steelworkers in a variety of union T-shirts held out large plastic pails to receive donations. Drivers received informational leaflets while participants in the collection tied black and red streamers on their car antennas.

The collection was conceived at a USWA Local 5668 meeting the first week in June when several miners came to speak about

the strike. "We assigned a committee of four of us to get this organized," said Ernie Cobb, a member of the USWA local.

"We put ads in three local papers, signing it 'Friends of the United Mine Workers' so that more than just Steelworkers could participate. This is a way of giving people a chance to get involved and show their support."

"It was the miners who taught us how to organize like this when we were locked out," said a member of the women's auxiliary. "The whole labor movement really stood behind us when we needed it."

On June 29 of last year 1,700 members of USWA Local 5668 returned to work at Ravenswood Aluminum after a 20-month lockout. By remaining united and reaching out to other working people, the workers were able to keep the union intact, winning an important victory.

The local organized frequent marches, rallies and picnics to win solidarity and keep up their morale. The UMWA organized bucket collections at mine bathhouses and in dozens of coal mining communities in southern West Virginia.

"Go Steelworkers" stickers were evident on dozens of cars that passed the union checkpoints, showing the depth of the support to the fight at Ravenswood that continues to this day. Members of Local 5668 have had to contend with job combinations, changed work rules, and deep divisions that remain in the community. One important question is how to relate to former strikebreakers who are now being hired at the plant as jobs open up. The company claims the right to put those who crossed the picket line during the lockout on a preferential hiring list, which according to the unionists was never agreed to.

At the collection site outside the plant, at least half those who USWA members identified as having crossed their picket lines last year stopped to give money to support the miners.

"I will never condone or forgive what they did during the strike," said Cobb. "It's a bitter pill to swallow."

"But they did real good today. They're glad [the lockout] is over and some are glad there's a union. Hopefully they will make good union members."

Cobb noted that several had attended recent local meetings to be sworn in as union members.

On the TV news that evening, one Steelworker explained their act of solidarity with the miners. "We are paying back a debt of honor," he said.

Yvonne Hayes is a member of USWA Local 7886 in Frederick, Maryland. Michael Italie is a member of USWA Local 14919 in Cleveland.

New contingent of miners prepares for possible strike

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BROOKWOOD, Alabama — As the expiration date of the contract between the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Independent Bituminous Coal Bargaining Alliance (IBCBA) approached, miners discussed what steps to take in preparation for whatever action might be necessary.

Many of their fellow union members, employed at companies belonging to the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), are already on strike; the BCOA contract expired February 1. Union miners at IBCBA companies, on the other hand, have continued to work under two extensions of the agreement.

The IBCBA is comprised of four medium-sized coal companies that left the BCOA — Jim Walters Resources, Drummond Coal Co., U.S. Steel Mining Co., and Westmoreland Coal Co. These employers began negotiating with the UMWA last October and talks have continued ever since.

One reason for this situation, union officials say, is the new bargaining group's willingness to disclose the information requested by the UMWA and discuss the real issues in dispute. In contrast, the BCOA refused to disclose the real extent of its members' companies' ownership of coal lands, precipitating an initial month-long selective strike against Peabody Coal Co. in February.

With the approach of the June 30 expiration of the second contract extension with the IBCBA, UMWA miners are hopeful an agreement can be reached. But they are also prepared for battle.

"Everybody at work is hoping something will be sent down for us to vote on this week," said Ron Smith, who works at Jim Walters Resources No. 5 mine near here.

"You hear all kinds of rumors. Some say we're going to get another extension. Some say it's going to be some kind of contract. But one thing's for sure — we're prepared to do whatever is necessary to win a contract."

To back up his contention Smith pointed to the organization of the union local into picketing teams.

"Every member of the local is assigned to a team. And each team has a captain," Smith noted. "We got this together back in the fall and have kept it together just in case we need it. And you can bet we know how to use it if we have to."

Jim Walters Resources also operates the No. 7 and No. 4 mines in this area. The more than 1,200 UMWA members work in this complex are also prepared.

"Jim Walters was serious about taking the union on this time around," said Mike Foster, who works at the No. 4 mine. "It was reported to us last fall that the company had taken more than 500 applications up north

Continued on next page



Militant/Yvonne Hayes

David Whitman, UMWA Local 2935 president, with activist from USWA Local 5668 women's auxiliary collecting donations in Ravenswood, West Virginia.

Solidarity with striking coal miners grows

Continued from front page

makes it worth coming to the conference."

"Everyone is in good spirits," reported Fred Shelton, a member of UMWA Local 1793 with 20 years' mining experience. A week earlier, members of that local beat back an attempt by Peabody president George Shiflett to fire 163 workers at the Kentucky Camp 1 mine.

"We're relieved that we're out on strike and doing something in this fight," said Shelton. Stenciled signs reading "One day longer," "This is UMWA country," and "We support the UMWA" were stacked in the corner of a newly opened storefront strike headquarters. Shelton said local members plan to paint the walls, and some strikers have volunteered to paint murals depicting miners at work and in struggle.

Residents in the surrounding area are stopping by to express solidarity with the strike and pick up support signs to place in their front yards. Local restaurants and pizza parlors have volunteered to send food to each shift of pickets one day a week. Beverage vendors are donating cold soft drinks.

The coal strike, which began May 10, now involves UMWA members in West Virginia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Miners are on strike at 74 facilities owned by Peabody Holding Co., Arch Mineral, Consol, Ashland Oil Co., Zeigler Coal Holding Co., and Rochester and Pittsburgh. Miners at CLI Corp.'s preparation plant in Pennsylvania returned to work after that company withdrew from the BCOA and signed an interim agreement with the miners' union.

The 1993 contract negotiations cover an estimated 60,000 UMWA members and 120,000 retirees.

'Fighting for our future'

Illinois strike coordinator Jim Thomas told more than 200 camouflage-clad strikers and their families assembled in Cutler, Illinois, June 22, "This is a fight for job security. Every mine that opens up is nonunion. Every mine that closes is union. We're fighting for our future."

In 1988 the BCOA signed a contract with the union that required at least three out of five workers hired at newly opened facilities

of BCOA companies to be UMWA members laid off from other mines owned by the same company. The coal bosses have been circumventing this contract provision by opening new facilities under names different than the signatories to the BCOA contract.

No negotiations are taking place today. "Till the parent companies come to the table, there can be no negotiations," said UMWA subdistrict board member Roger Horton from southern West Virginia. Horton is a member of UMWA Local 5958 on strike at Arch Mineral's Ruffner mine. "We have been paper-shammed for the last five years," he said.

Peggy Henry is a member of UMWA Local 2412's organizing committee and is on strike at Peabody's Marissa mine in Illinois. "It's like an octopus with lots of tentacles," she said.

"The parent company and owner, Peabody Holding Co., is the body. The subsidiaries they own are the tentacles. UMWA coal miners have given so much of their lives," she continued, "but Peabody just gives us one or two tentacles. They cut off those tentacles by shutting down the union mines and throwing you to the dogs," she said.

Miners on strike at Consol mines near Cadiz, Ohio, have opened a solidarity storefront on Main Street next to the county courthouse. A huge hand-lettered picket sign covers most of the front window. The office is staffed by UMWA strikers, retirees, and family members. Retired miners said they are helping out because this is a life and death fight for union jobs. In the last 12 years the number of union miners in the area has gone from 1,200 to 100.

"This fight is for every working person," said Mike DeLost, chairperson of UMWA Local 1148's strike committee at Peabody's Pit 6 facility in Marissa. "Consider what has



UMWA picket shack in Yolyn, West Virginia.

happened to working people in the last 12 years — unemployment, an antilabor Republican Party administration, a decline in union membership and rights, and a pro-business labor relations board."

Roger Horton said, "We need to get the message out to every labor organization. Morale is high. We have a lot of support. We welcome every kind of solidarity."

Solidarity activities expand

On June 13, UMWA representatives Bob Kendrick and Babe Erdos addressed members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2000. The local organizes workers at the Ford assembly plant in Avon Lake, Ohio. The auto workers voted to donate \$300 to the striking miners and established a solidarity committee to organize future UMWA support activities.

UMWA strikers Dwight Summers and Gene McCairo from Arch Mineral mines in southern Illinois addressed a special union meeting of UAW Local 270 called to discuss contract negotiations.

Local 270 organizes 200 workers at Fawn Engineering in Des Moines, Iowa, which produces vending machines. The miners invited the auto workers to visit the picket lines. They said solidarity visits are important because "it not only gives us the opportunity to show you our strike, it also shows our members they have support."

Workers at Fawn Engineering organized a plant-gate collection for the miners and raised over \$200 to help the strike.

United Steelworkers of America Local 9014 voted to send \$500 one month after striking miners addressed their union meeting. Local 9014 organizes 1,400 workers at Hussmann Refrigeration in Bridgeton, Missouri.

Tom Wilson, a UMWA staff representative, addressed UAW Local 110 members from the Chrysler plant in Fenton, Missouri, at their annual picnic June 20. Four Illinois Peabody strikers staffed a strike support table at the event, distributing information on the miners' fight and selling T-shirts and buttons.

On June 27 UMWA locals in Illinois are sponsoring a union rally in Ava. Strikers have extended a special invitation to the 1,700 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers who have been locked out since May 20 at the Central Illinois Public Service Co. (CIPS) power plant in Springfield.

UMWA locals in northern West Virginia and Illinois are organizing to march in local July 4 parades. A special solidarity rally is scheduled July 15 featuring Trumka and international guests in Pinckneyville, Illinois.

UAW Local 751 at Caterpillar and Allied Industrial Workers Local 837 at the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co. are sponsoring a June 26 solidarity march and rally in Decatur, Illinois. The event is organized to show support for the Caterpillar and Staley workers' fights for contracts, for the locked-out workers at CIPS, and for the striking miners.

Jim Shinell, chairman of the Staley workers' bargaining committee, said, "Whether you're in a union or in an unorganized plant, we want you to attend the rally. These fights are for all workers."

He reported that since the unionists at

Staley began working without a contract the company has attempted to impose the terms of their "final offer," which include 12-hour work shifts and drastically reduced provisions for overtime pay.

A leaflet for the June 26 solidarity march and rally produced by the sponsoring unions and titled "Fight the Union Busters" says, "Throughout Illinois, unions are under attack by an organized coalition of corporations. These companies are undermining our communities, wages, safety, and all of our futures. It's our solidarity versus theirs."

Violence-baiting by companies

As the strike increases in numbers and support each week, the coal bosses are taking measures to try to break the determination of the miners and cut off solidarity.

Peabody Coal and Eastern Associated Coal Corp., subsidiaries of Peabody Holding Co., purchased a full-page ad in the *Wall Street Journal* soliciting support for their side. BCOA executives issue a couple of news releases each week alleging incidents of violence by the miners.

Supervisory personnel from struck facilities throughout the area have been brought together to cut coal at Peabody's Hawthorne and Lynnville mines in Indiana, at Arch Mineral's Conant and Captain mines in Illinois, and at Ziegler's Old Ben No. 26 mine in Illinois.

At the Arch Mineral's Wylo mine in southern West Virginia, security guards teargassed 150 pickets gathered outside the mine to stop the company from moving stockpiled coal June 19. As the pickets dispersed, the guards fired shots into the air, striking a picket shack and a nearby house.

On June 8 Ashland Oil Co. attempted to run supply trucks into its Dal-Tex mine near Sharples, West Virginia. "I went and talked to the drivers," said David Whitman, president of UMWA Local 2935 at the mine. "I explained this was an unfair labor practices strike and asked them to honor the picket line. Twelve of the 15 drivers said they had a job to do."

Because 300 local members were on their way to the picket line, the convoy was slowed down. It took the supply trucks five hours to travel one and a half miles.

In the town of Sharples, a man crossing the street was hit by one of the trucks in the convoy. "Things got tense," said Whitman. The state police decided not to escort the convoy into the mine, and the drivers turned back.

Trumka answered the companies' charges of violence. "To describe UMWA members — their own employees — as 'terrorists' underscores the refusal of the BCOA companies to recognize the hard work, professionalism, and productivity of their workers," said the UMWA president. "It is precisely that 1930s attitude that makes negotiating a contract with the BCOA so difficult."

"The UMWA unequivocally and absolutely rejects violence. It is our members that are usually the victims of violence," he continued. "I commend our miners for their discipline in the face of constant provocation by the coal companies. We refuse to be distracted from the issue of job security for our families and communities."

Mike DeLost from Illinois said, "The coal companies are always alleging incidents of violence. But no one is ever charged and no evidence is ever produced. They want to make the union look bad and lose support."

Peggy Henry from Marissa said the local union's organizing committees are soliciting donations for the food pantry and painting strike support signs. "We're trying to talk to everyone we can about the issues in this fight," she explained.

Miners in Kentucky proudly wear a strike sticker bearing a clenched fist. "UMWA, unity, solidarity, discipline" reads the sticker.

Fred Shelton from Kentucky said, "We'll stay out one day longer than Peabody."

Strike supporters who wish to contact the UMWA and invite speakers to their local meetings, send contributions to the strikers, or visit the picket lines can call: UMWA Project Solidarity '93, (800) 334-UMWA; or Region III office in Herrin, Illinois, (618) 942-6112.

Mary Zins is a laid-off miner and member of United Transportation Union Local 1405 in St. Louis.

New contingent of miners

Continued from previous page

for people to come down and scab if there was a strike.

"The reason Jim Walters and other IBCBA companies have been bargaining is that they knew people would not put up with any attacks on the union. So they decided to back off."

Preparations for a fight at Jim Walters Resources began in earnest more than a year ago, Foster points out. Many here thought the company would try to imitate Pittston Coal Co. in the current contract talks. Pittston forced workers on a bitterly fought strike in April 1989, which the miners won 11 months later.

UMWA members prepared to fight

In April 1992 Jim Walters Resources laid off 25 percent of its work force at its three mines in Brookwood and the No. 3 mine in nearby Adger. UMWA members knew they had a fight on their hands and began to get ready.

Local union selective strike committees were set up to coordinate a possible strike. In order to build a network of solidarity with other unions and to mobilize pensioners, laid-off miners, and family members in auxiliaries, local union solidarity committees were established. In addition, locals set up public relations committees to organize community support for the union.

This initial round of organizing culminated last August in a rally of 1,500 miners and their supporters at the Civic Center in Bessemer, Alabama. There, the presidents of the UMWA locals at Jim Walters Resources and UMWA president Richard Trumka appealed to the union membership to intensify its preparations and warned the company of the union's resolve to fight.

"About a month and a half later negotiations began with the IBCBA," Foster pointed out.

After the August rally preparations for a possible strike picked up at all the Jim Walters locals. In addition miners at Jim Walters,

Drummond, and U.S. Steel mines turned their attention to helping the striking members of the United Steelworkers of America at Trinity Industries, who were confronting that company's union busting.

Trinity strikers spoke at every UMWA local in the district and received support in numerous forms, including mobilizations of miners on the picket line, generous donations of money and truckloads of food, and use of union halls for social gatherings.

Westmoreland confrontation looming

The *Coal Field Progress*, published in Norton, Virginia, reports on a June 6 UMWA rally in the nearby town of Appalachia, where miners and their supporters gathered to prepare for a strike against Westmoreland, a IBCBA member company.

Like Peabody and other BCOA companies, Westmoreland operates a nonunion subsidiary called Criterion, based in Deane, Kentucky. Westmoreland has discontinued or scaled back production at union-organized operations while opening new mines under the formal ownership of its nonunion arm.

The issue of nonunion labor at Westmoreland's Kentucky operations "must be decided once and for all," UMWA District 28 president Donnie Lowe told the rally. He cited job security as the number one issue in negotiations with both bargaining groups.

Among those attending the meeting were several Pittston miners, many with signs on their cars reading "UMWA Pittston miners in solidarity with Westmoreland miners."

Pittston miners and other UMWA members in District 28 are also preparing for the possibility that large fines could be levied against the union. Many are pledging between 2 and 8 hours of pay per month for a special relief fund to defend strikers in the event of victimization.

John Hawkins is a laid-off miner and member of UMWA Local 2368.

South Africa

Continued from front page
ucation its most important investment."

At a rally in Soweto later that day, Mandela told a crowd of 40,000, "Just as the sun rises every morning, so no force can prevent a one-person, one-vote democratic election in our country."

Mandela will be visiting the United States from June 30-July 12. His speaking tour includes stops in Atlanta; Chicago; Los Angeles; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota; and Washington, D.C.

In early June participants in South Africa's multiparty talks set April 27, 1994, as the date for the country's first nonracial election. Voters will elect a 400-member constituent assembly to write a new postapartheid constitution.

The election date was endorsed June 15 by a 52-member negotiating council. The final ratification vote is expected to take place July 2 at the earliest.

Conservatives stage two-day walkout

Minutes before the June 15 vote backing the election date, the Inkatha Freedom Party and its allies in the conservative alliance, the Concerned South Africans Groups (Cosag), walked out of the multiparty talks.

Mandela characterized the walkout as an attempt to sabotage a decision on the election date. "We want to warn them that no party will be able to hold the multiparty negotiations to ransom," he stated at the June 16 rally in Soweto. "We call on them to return to the negotiating table as there is no other way forward. . . . The process will continue with or without Cosag."

The ANC and the National Party government both support the drafting of an interim constitution by the negotiating council, with a final constitution to be decided by the democratically elected constituent assembly. Cosag wants negotiators to decide on a final constitution before elections are held.

The walkout, which represented an attempt by Buthelezi to test his strength within the negotiations, quickly fizzled as all the parties felt pressured to return two days later for the next session of multiparty talks.

On June 23 Mandela and Buthelezi held their first meeting in two years in Johannesburg and promised to travel together in areas of the country torn by violence to appeal for peace.

The next major task facing the negotiators is the formation of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC), which will assume key governmental powers during the election campaign. Speaking at a session June 10 of South Africa's parliament, Roelf Meyer, the government's chief negotiator, called for installing the TEC "without necessarily waiting for legislation."

"We would be concerned about the TEC's powers in the absence of legislation," responded ANC spokesperson Carl Niehaus. "The ANC does not envisage some consultative body but one with real powers."

Meanwhile, South African president F. W. de Klerk stirred up a new controversy in mid-June in an interview with the Johannesburg *Sunday Times*, where he presented his proposal to limit the powers of South Africa's next president — widely expected to be Mandela — to a largely ceremonial role. De Klerk proposes creating an "inner cabinet" with the power to make fundamental decisions.

The ANC strongly rejected de Klerk's proposal. "In de Klerk's 'inner Cabinet,'" ANC chief negotiator Cyril Ramaphosa stated, "the majority party would be outnumbered by the minority parties — the opposite of democracy."

The ANC calls for a government of national unity based on majority rule to last for five years after the country's democratic elections take place.

"The government of national unity is not a device to be used by those who want to cling to power," Ramaphosa continued, "nor is it to be used to undermine the will of the majority."

"There would be no point in the holding of democratic one-person, one-vote elections if the results made no difference to the status of the majority party and minority parties in the government," he said.

"President de Klerk would be well advised to refrain from putting forward unworkable and unacceptable proposals which he may be forced to retract."

Somalia: true face of U.S. invasion

Continued from front page
much of the southern half of Somalia.

The June 5 confrontation began as Pakistani soldiers attempted to seize control of Radio Mogadishu, which had been broadcasting statements opposing the occupation of Somalia by UN troops.

Some 18,000 UN troops, including 4,200 from the United States, are currently in Somalia. The U.S. military turned control of this operation over to UN commanders in early May. Washington invaded Somalia in December and at its height had 26,000 troops stationed in the southern part of the country. The UN order calls for deploying troops throughout the entire country including in the northern territory of Somaliland, which has declared itself an independent state.

The bombing attack launched June 12 targeted Radio Mogadishu and its transmitting site, an abandoned cigarette factory, and what

Washington claimed were arms depots belonging to supporters of Aidid. As U.S. aircraft bombed Mogadishu, 100 U.S. infantrymen seized the radio transmitter. More than 200 Somalis were detained as well.

"The goal of this operation is to disarm the city of Mogadishu," stated retired U.S. admiral Jonathan Howe, the UN envoy to Somalia.

"When the troops first came, the humanitarian effort was their raison d'être," stated a foreign aid worker to the *Washington Post*. "Now we have become their fig leaf."

"How could anyone do this," asked a staff worker at the Benadir Hospital where many of the injured and dying Somalis were brought. "All the people of Somalia are against the United Nations action. We are all ready to die."

U.S. president Bill Clinton defended the onslaught, proclaiming, "We're striking a blow against lawlessness and killing, and we're advancing the world's commitment to justice and security."

UN troops fire on unarmed protesters

The bombing campaign sparked a number of street protests by outraged Somali citizens, including a demonstration of 2,000 in the capital June 19.

Pakistani troops opened fire on an earlier peaceful demonstration of 4,000 in Mogadishu June 13, killing more than 20 Somalis and wounding 50 others. "Clinton killed these innocent people," shouted the marchers. "This is American blood!" others yelled.

Writing in the June 14 *Toronto Star*, correspondent Paul Watson, an eyewitness to this attack, stated that the UN troops "opened up with a crackling salvo and screaming people scrambled for cover. The Pakistanis say they were fired on as many as six times before shooting back. But I didn't hear any shots fired from the crowd of demonstrators. And I didn't hear any order to disperse or warning shots from the Pakistani troops' positions either."

"Several of the Pakistanis' bullets even struck a hotel housing journalists at right angles to the protest march," continued Watson. "Minutes later, Pakistani soldiers in three armored personnel carriers rolled by the dead and wounded Somalis lying in the traffic circle. The troops didn't even stop to look."

Commenting on these developments, Leslie Crawford, writing in the British *Financial Times* June 14, stated, "The air raids and the actions of the Pakistani troops have buried the UN's humanitarian mission in Somalia."

The day following this massacre, a U.S. Cobra helicopter fired a missile into one of Mogadishu's most congested neighborhoods. The shell landed in a tea shop, injuring at least 12 people, according to reports from area hospitals.

U.S. military officials claimed they were targeting a multiple rocket launcher that pilots spotted in the residential neighborhood. According to an article in the June 15 *Washington Post*, however, this supposed military

target was just an old and rusted relic that residents regarded "more as a neighborhood toy or an antiquated curiosity than a weapon of war."

Fierce battles between UN forces and Somalis raged for six hours in the streets of Mogadishu June 17 in response to hours of U.S. bombardment of the city that morning. More than 60 Somalis and 5 UN soldiers were reported killed and at least 100 Somalis and 44 UN troops were wounded in this battle. The actual figure is probably quite a bit higher. U.S. and UN officials refuse to release even estimates of casualties.

Two missiles slammed into the office of the French aid group International Action Against Hunger, killing one worker and injuring seven others, according to agency officials. Digfer Hospital reported damage to its intensive care unit from projectile explosives that came through the ceiling.

Interspersed with the air bombardment, which shook buildings two miles away, were loudspeaker announcements telling residents in neighborhoods under attack to evacuate to a street near the U.S. embassy compound. Few people did. UN ground forces, including French, Italian, Belgian, Pakistani, and Moroccan troops, followed up the air strikes with house-to-house searches allegedly to find weapons and in an unsuccessful effort to detain Aidid. The troops did seize control of Aidid's housing compound.

One day after this latest attack, U.S. president Clinton declared the operation a success and announced a halt to the bombing campaign. "In this battle, heroism knew no flag," he stated. However, four U.S. battle ships, carrying 2,200 troops from the Persian Gulf, arrived in Somalia June 19.

In Ottawa, Canada's capital city, several hundred Somali refugees marched June 15 through the streets to protest the U.S. bombing. They carried banners describing the UN mission as "feeding people with bullets."

Canadian government

Continued from Page 12

ried out under the auspices of United Nations "peacekeeping" operations in Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, and elsewhere.

As defense minister, Campbell participated in the attempted cover-up of the murder of four Somali citizens by Canadian troops stationed in Somalia.

Speaking on behalf of Ottawa, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, referred to the killing of Somalis by UN troops by saying, "It is unfortunate there have been deaths of civilians, but we are in a war there."

Campbell and Charest are also committed to press ahead with rearmament programs for the Canadian military. This includes spending \$5 billion on a new fleet of attack helicopters and \$83 million for 4,500 French-made antitank missiles and 425 launchers.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Support the Second U.S. Cuba Friendship Caravan by Attending the Cuban Film Festival. Six weeks of the best Cuban films on video — big screen, every Wed., June 2 through July 7, 7 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W. 14th St., 3rd Floor. Donation: \$5. For more information: (212) 926-5757.

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Solidarity with the United Mine Workers. Speakers to be announced. Sun, July 11, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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Justice for Mark Curtis — Parole Now! Speakers: Frances MacQueen, director of the Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture; Mike Barker, member of the Hospital Employees Union; Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers Party and author of the pamphlet *Why Working People Should Join the Fight to Free Mark Curtis*. Friday, July 9, 7 p.m. Britannia Community Centre, 1661 Napier. For more information: (604) 872-8343.

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Lean back, if possible, and enjoy your flight — "Major airlines will drop unprofitable routes, get rid of some hubs. . . . Flights will be



Harry Ring

more crowded, airlines will shoe-horn passengers into smaller planes. . . . That will cut their fuel bills and require fewer pilots and attendants." — *The Kiplinger Washington Letter*

Respect for the electorate — In

an unsuccessful bid to bring out voters in support of defeated Los Angeles mayoral candidate Michael Woo, the California Democratic Party sent out a 100,000-piece mailing offering six free doughnuts in exchange for ballot stubs.

Love those landlords — Selling the *Militant* in East Orange, New Jersey, a reader came to an apartment complex with a generous but empty lawn area. Children were at play inside and a posted notice declared: "On several occasions I have been to your buildings and have observed several young children playing in the rear of the premises. . . . Absolutely no loitering in the front or in the rear of said premises will be tol-

erated. Eviction proceedings will be initiated immediately."

Neocolonial discount? — For a recent two-day speaking trip to Brazil, George Bush pocketed \$100,000. Which sounds pretty good until you recall that when Reagan left office, he made a similar trip to Japan, for which he received \$2 million.

Big Brother's Bagel Bar — A Florida parolee almost went back to the slammer when a drug test failed to distinguish between heroin and the poppyseed on his morning bagel. So Florida made a new rule. Prisoners with a drug use record, a dispatch indicates, will be barred

from eating poppyseed bagels as a condition of parole.

By capitalist values, probably so — "I didn't do anything in my entire career which I thought was criminal," says junk bond swindler Michael Milken, who did two years after being convicted on six felony fraud counts. He's also supposed to pay \$1.1 billion to settle criminal and civil charges and is currently being "rehabilitated" in a community service program.

Mickey Mouse Builders, Inc. — In Florida, Walt Disney World settled out of court for construction defects and repairs to owners in a condo tract built by a Disney subsidiary.

Most of the improperly built homes collapsed when their roofs were torn off by Hurricane Andrew.

Zoo Doo economics — A company is tapping the green market with Zoo Doo, droppings collected from zoo animals to be used as fertilizer. A pint container, \$4.95.

Thought for the week — "It's not just a German problem. England had 6,000 violent attacks against foreigners last year. . . . Every Western industrialized country can reckon a potential base of more or less 15 percent extremism. But that's normal." — German government's expert on rightist extremism.

Trinity announces it will reopen Alabama plant

BY DENISE McINERNEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — "We're going to stick together. We stayed out almost nine months, and our fight continues inside the plant," said Marvin Williams, member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226. Williams was responding to the news that Trinity Industries, Inc. intends to reopen its railcar plant here.

The plant was the target of an eight-and-a-half-month strike by the Steelworkers. In late March, Trinity announced plans to close the plant June 3. One day before that deadline, union and company officials signed a settlement agreement ending the strike. The company waited eight days before announcing its intention to recall union members.

In a statement released to the press, Trinity said, "Ongoing production of railcar parts will continue at the Bessemer plant. . . . New railcar manufacturing will resume on a limited basis within the next few months."

The strike began as a dispute over wages and health insurance. During the walkout, Trinity fired 57 union members for alleged strike violations. The fate of these workers became a major issue in the fight.

Under the terms of the settlement, the Steelworkers will get a 13 percent wage increase over four years with no change in the cost of insurance. The union has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board asking that the 57 fired workers be reinstated; these charges are still pending.

Workers are continuing to discuss the outcome of the strike and the prospect of going back on the job. One unionist said, "Trinity didn't break us. We had a lot of support. If they could have replaced us, they would have."

Another stated, "I think the union goes back in a better position than when we came out. We proved a point."

Local 9226 president James Allen said, "Trinity knows they have to respect us for coming out and staying out; we have earned that respect. The union is much stronger today."

A few days after the Trinity strike ended, 13 members of Local 9226 visited another USWA picket line in Columbiana, Alabama. Nearly 200 workers at National-Standard, which manufactures wire used in tires, went on strike there after rejecting the company's demand for concessions.

The Trinity workers explained to the National-Standard strikers how they were able to remain united for almost nine months on strike. They described how their local reached out and won solidarity from other unions and the community.

The two groups of workers also exchanged ideas on how to deal with provocations from the company and the cops. Although their strike was only one week old, workers at National-Standard had already faced intimidation and harassment from the police. In addition, the company has employed private security guards who videotape most of what happens on the picket line. The Trinity strikers had faced similar types of harassment. Their picket line was teargassed by hired goons and so-called private investigators waved guns at strikers.

As they were leaving, the Trinity workers pledged to respond whenever the National-Standard strikers ask for their help.

Denise McInerney is a member of USWA Local 9226 in Bessemer, Alabama.



Steelworkers picketing Trinity plant in Bessemer, Alabama, in March. Workers are getting ready to return to work after eight-month strike. "I think the union goes back in a better position than when we came out," said one unionist about the outcome of the strike.

25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
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Escalation of the war in Vietnam is continuing at an even more rapid rate, now that Washington is playing up the negotiations in Paris in an attempt to mask its real intentions.

The *U.S. News & World Report* of June 24 reveals the real state of affairs in the first sentence of its lead article: "Suddenly, in the midst of so-called peace talks in Paris, American war casualties in Vietnam are rising at a record rate. . . ."

"Twenty thousand American men will be killed in Vietnam this year, at the current rate, and 120,000 will be wounded. That is more than in all previous years of the war combined."

For this reason, the hoopla about peace talks is apparently quite unconvincing to the GIs in Vietnam, who see an ever larger percentage of their buddies being killed. The *U.S. News & World Report* article goes on to say that "the mood of many Americans [in Vietnam] — civilians and military — has changed almost overnight."

"Instead of a 'gung ho' attitude about winning the war, a deep lethargy has set in." According to the article, only the top brass continue "to echo an optimistic Administration line about 'steady progress.'"

"Talk to the lower echelons — officers and enlisted men, career employees and civilians on temporary contracts — and you hear a different story. At this level, the U.S. effort in Vietnam is talked about openly and frankly as a lost cause."

Soldiers who return for a second tour of duty are especially bitter, according to the article. They "find the areas they had 'won' on their first tour being contested again."

The morale of dictator Thieu's South Vietnamese conscripts is no better. *U.S. News* states that "The desertion rate among South Vietnamese soldiers, always an indicator of troop morale, has shot up — while the defection rate among Communist soldiers has plummeted."

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

July 10, 1943

One of the favorite devices of the capitalist press is to pretend that workers and in particular the coal miners by fighting to protect their living standards are playing into the hands of the Axis. To believe these gentlemen the news of the coal strike was just so much grist to Goebbels' propaganda mill. Thus, on June 29 the *N. Y. Times* featured an article with the headline: "Coal Crisis Whets Axis Propaganda."

On the very next day, the editors of the *Times* gave themselves the lie direct by printing the following in a dispatch from Stockholm:

"Further illustrating the present state of mind on the German home front is Dr. Goebbels' failure to play up the United States coal strike situation. Neither on the radio nor in the press has there been any prominent mention of this subject. . . . Such is the low state of morale in Germany now that Dr. Goebbels deems it more prudent not to publicize the word 'strike' to remind the workers of their lost privilege."

In printing this true report, the capitalist liars not only expose themselves but provide added testimony that far from serving the ends of fascism abroad the militant struggle of the workers in this country can only serve to inspire their brothers in Germany and in the occupied countries in Europe to overthrow their fascist oppressors.

Debate on myth of overpopulation

Continued from Page 18

Marx and Engels then explain how it will take a socialist revolution that wrests power from the capitalist class and begins to organize society based on human needs, not profits, to resolve this contradiction. A new revolutionary government, Marx and Engels explain in the *Communist Manifesto*, would combine "agriculture with manufacturing industries" and take steps to ensure the "gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country by a more equitable distribution of the population over the country."

Population control not road forward

Arguments that destruction of the environment, hunger, and poverty come from overpopulation point in the same direction: working people — particularly those who live in the semicolonial world — should be encouraged or forced to have fewer children. "For all the cruelty of the enforced sterilization policy in China, controlling the Chinese population appears to have led to a higher standard of living there than would have been believed possible," D.S. says.

If working people in China have a somewhat higher standard of living than they did in the past, it is because in 1949 the Chinese peasants and workers made a revolution and overthrew the rule of the landlords and capitalists. Although the brutal bureaucratic caste that has ruled China since then has usurped the power that the Chinese masses fought for, the initial increase in labor productivity made possible

by that revolution has not been completely exhausted or reversed.

The cruelty of the Chinese authorities that D.S. refers to includes fines, beatings, and destruction of homes to enforce rules that strictly regulate the number of children couples may have. It is a policy that directly attacks the basic right of women to control their own bodies. Women in China who do not have "permission" to become pregnant are often dragged to abortion clinics by family-planning officials; many others are forcibly sterilized.

D.S. argues this brutality is a result of a policy that is unfortunate but necessary, if people are to have enough to eat. But this is simply not true.

As the May 31 *Militant* article explained, "In today's world, hunger is completely abnormal." New scientific discoveries and technology have led to greatly increased agricultural productivity. D.S. is incorrect when he says the "green revolution has been shown to be a real myth." In the United States, for example, farmers produced 3.5 times more per work-hour in 1989 than in 1960. And 1.36 times more than in 1980.

Contrary to D.S.'s assertion, in the world today there is no "family of man" that eats from the same table when there is food and starves together when there is none. Rather, as Joe Hansen explained, there is an economic system — capitalism — that "dooms people to starvation in the shadows of bursting granaries."

— EDITORIALS —

Support Cuba Friendshipment

An important effort is under way that deserves the broadest support possible: the second U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment. Initiated by the group Pastors for Peace, it has involved thousands of people from all walks of life — and has the potential to involve many more — in a movement to end the trade embargo that Washington has imposed on the Cuban people for the past 33 years. Over the next several weeks this will be the most important activity for all those who oppose the embargo.

Dozens of Cuba solidarity groups, national and local, met in Chicago June 19–20 and decided to make the upcoming Friendshipment their central priority.

Building on the big success of the first Friendshipment to Cuba last year, this caravan of buses and trucks will travel through 120 U.S. cities to the Mexican city of Tampico, where activists will load 100 tons of material aid on a ship to Cuba. It will involve people around the United States as well as in Mexico and Canada.

Activities like the Friendshipment, being organized from Miami to Seattle in opposition to the embargo, are evidence that Washington has never been more isolated in its aggressive policy toward Cuba.

Reflecting the deepening conflicts between the U.S. government and the other imperialist powers, the United Nations in November voted overwhelmingly — with only Israel, Romania, and the United States opposed — to support a resolution condemning the embargo.

Even inside the United States, many ruling-class figures have begun raising their voices against the embargo. These capitalist politicians argue that the Cuban government will be forced to make concessions to Washington and that this will supposedly, once the embargo is lifted, lead to the Cuban revolution's downfall.

But these big-business forces are mistaken. The working class in Cuba is stronger today than anytime in the last decade. An end to the embargo will give working people in Cuba more space to defend and advance their revolution.

Working people and youth in the United States and around the world have every interest in ending this criminal embargo. For more than 30 years the Cuban revolution has been an example to working-class fighters that it is possible

to stand up to the rulers in Washington.

In addition, millions of democratically minded people — some of whom support the revolution, many who don't — strongly believe in freedom to travel and the right to exchange ideas, and when told of the U.S. travel ban on Cuba will oppose it.

The Friendshipment is an opportunity to involve very broad numbers of people in this fight, much beyond the 200 drivers and others who will be on the caravan. Unionists, students, family farmers, religious organizations, and businesspeople can all participate in one way or another. A large number of Cuban-Americans, many with relatives in Cuba, oppose the embargo and travel ban and will be interested in being part of the Friendshipment.

There is still a lot of work to do. Local committees are coordinating the aid collection effort in dozens of cities. Public educational events will take place in each of the 120 cities the caravan visits. Money needs to be raised to purchase three buses that will be donated to Cuba as well as vitamins, antibiotics, aspirin, and other medicines. All kinds of badly needed items will be collected, from school supplies to computers and truck tires. In Chicago, for example, there are drop-off points — with posters and collection cans — at various grocery stores, bakeries, and bookstores, including the local Pathfinder bookstore.

Supporters of the Friendshipment can bring speakers before their school or union or farm organization to publicize this campaign and explain why Washington's anti-Cuba policy should be opposed. Meetings can be organized to show a documentary video about the first Friendshipment and build the second one. Funds and further support for the effort can be generated at house meetings with coworkers, classmates, friends, and relatives.

The first Friendshipment to Cuba had a significant political impact, both in the United States and internationally. This year's caravan will represent another blow against Washington's indefensible policy of aggression toward Cuba. It will be an important step in organizing a broad-based campaign to force the U.S. government to lift the embargo and let people travel freely to Cuba.

Is overpopulation to blame for ecological ruin?

BY SARA LOBMAN

In this issue are two letters sent in by readers regarding the article on the myth of the population explosion that appeared in the May 31 issue of the *Militant*. The questions and arguments raised by Sandy Knoll of Bloomington, Michigan, and by D.S. of Amherst, Massachusetts, are an opportunity to further discuss important aspects of this question.

Knoll agrees that "poverty and ecological destruction are caused by capitalism, not overpopulation." She adds, however, that an expanding population destroys the natural environment and diminishes the quality of life.

D.S. points out that many resources are not renewable, that some of the same fertilizers and pesticides that gave such a boost to food production are poisoning the water supply and are harmful to farm workers and others who work the land, and that there is no known way to safely dispose of many waste products, especially radioactive material.

It is true that human beings do have an impact on the environment. Unlike other species, we are producers —

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

toolmakers who consciously alter and master nature. While greatly increasing our productivity, this refashioning of our natural surroundings has oftentimes had ill effects, especially as technology advances.

Pollution of the air, land, and water; contamination of food; careless use of fossil fuels, minerals, and other finite resources; and the creation of massive amounts of radioactive wastes are all byproducts of capitalist production. More than 150 years ago, Frederick Engels warned against "flatter[ing] ourselves overmuch on account of our human conquests over nature. For each such conquest takes its revenge on us."

But to try to resolve this contradiction by limiting the earth's population is to look backward to humanity's past, not forward to its future.

Under capitalism, the billionaire owners of the banks, factories, mines, and mills don't care about the environment any more than they care about the working people who produce the wealth of society. Their only concern is making profits.

Every gain by working people to increase our fighting ability and strengthen our position in relation to the capitalist exploiters puts us on a better footing to fight hazardous conditions on the job, on the farm, in our homes, and in our entire environment. And these advances help prepare us for building the massive revolutionary working-class movement that will be needed to overturn capitalist rule, which is a prerequisite to finally halting the destruction of the environment and cleaning up the mess left by capitalists. The scientific know-how and technology exist to say confidently this can be done.

For example, fossil fuels are not the only potential source of power. If scientific research is directed toward developing solar power and other energy possibilities, unhindered by a profit motive, then solutions to the energy problem can be found. There are already ways to eliminate some of the most harmful byproducts of industry.

Acid rain, which according to government figures has damaged millions of acres of trees and made many lakes in the United States uninhabitable to most forms of life, can be prevented by the use of scrubbers that keep sulfur and nitrogen oxides from being released into the air during the combustion of fossil fuels. But scrubbers add costs to the bosses' manufacturing expenses, so they don't get used.

Are overcrowded cities necessary?

"Cities are congested and crowded," Knoll writes, pointing to another problem she attributes to overpopulation. "City life is characterized by long lines and crowds at public facilities, traffic jams, people practically living on top of each other."

Knoll's description of modern-day cities is accurate. But it is not because of overpopulation that millions of human beings are crowded into the cities while vast expanses of the planet are sparsely populated.

Here too Engels, along with Karl Marx, have some useful things to say. They explained how the rise of capitalism forced the peasants off the land and drove them into large manufacturing towns to work in the mines, mills, and factories. It is from this bloody beginning that the modern working-class was born. The two communist leaders point to this as one of the great accomplishments of capitalism.

But Marx and Engels also pointed to the devastating social conditions that arose as more and more people crowded into the cities. Comparing conditions in Manchester, England, in 1844 and in 1872, Engels explains some areas had benefited from the construction of new streets, railways, and public buildings. "On the other hand," he says, "thanks to the enormous extension of the town, whose population has since increased by more than half, districts which were at that time still airy and clean are now just as overbuilt, just as dirty and congested as the most ill-famed parts of the town formerly were."

Continued on Page 17

U.S. warlords out of Somalia!

Washington's bombing of Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, is a criminal act that working people and all fighters for social justice throughout the world should strongly condemn.

Massive U.S. firepower killed and wounded hundreds of Somalis during the mid-June attack. Among other targets, the occupation forces opened fire on one of the city's largest and most crowded hospitals, containing more than 500 patients.

The true intent of this attack was not to combat "lawlessness and killing," as U.S. president Bill Clinton claims, but to assist the 18,000 United Nations troops in consolidating its occupation of the country against the will of many Somalis. That's why one of the first targets of Washington's bombing was Radio Mogadishu, which had been broadcasting appeals for the withdrawal of the occupation force from Somalia.

This assault, occurring six months after U.S. troops first landed in Somalia, exposes the lie that Washington's invasion was strictly for humanitarian purposes. From the beginning, the U.S. rulers' intervention in Somalia was designed to reassert what they claim is their "right" to intervene militarily in countries around the world that have been wracked by political and economic crisis resulting from the decline of the capitalist system.

Washington's primary focus was never to feed hungry

Somalis. In fact, U.S. troops arrived in Somalia after the worst of that country's famine was over.

Despite talk by U.S. officials about the need to confront Somali "warlords," the most powerful and dangerous warlords are really in Washington. The U.S. rulers possess the biggest military arsenal in the world. They have demonstrated that when the opportunity presents itself they're willing and eager to use it. The bombardment of Mogadishu comes just two years after Washington's slaughter against the people of Iraq, a country that since then has periodically been bombed by the U.S. military.

In response to Washington's bombing of Mogadishu, thousands of Somalis have taken to the streets in protest. Some chanting, "Clinton killed these innocent people," have correctly placed the blame for the bloodshed at the steps of the White House. The firing by Pakistani UN troops on one of these peaceful protests has only heightened the hostility of many Somalis to the UN occupation force. Somali refugees marching in Ottawa, Ontario, for example, aptly described the UN mission in Somalia as "feeding people with bullets."

Working people throughout the world should solidarize with the Somali people's fight. The labor movement should demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. and UN troops from Somalia and the opening of U.S. borders to Somali refugees.

Defeat Operation Rescue

The thousands of supporters of abortion rights now preparing for battle with Operation Rescue in Minnesota, Ohio, Florida, and other states are setting an example that should be emulated by working people everywhere.

Operation Rescue is targeting seven cities over the next several weeks in a campaign the antiabortion rightists call "Cities of Refuge." Their goal is to shut down clinics that provide abortions, attempting to deal a blow to women's rights and the democratic rights of all working people.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration, which paints itself as pro-choice, has nominated Ruth Ginsburg to the Supreme Court. Ginsburg is hailed in the big-business media as a pioneer feminist. In reality, her views have nothing to do with advancing the current battle to safeguard a woman's right to choose abortion.

Ginsburg has argued that the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* court decision decriminalizing abortion was too broad in its scope. "A less encompassing *Roe*, I believe, might have served to reduce rather than to fuel controversy," she told a law school audience in March. Ginsburg complained that such a ruling "invited no dialogue with legislators. Instead, it seemed entirely to remove the ball" from their court.

Rightist outfits like Operation Rescue will not cease their

offensive against abortion rights if further restrictions are placed on a woman's right to choose. On the contrary. Any concession to these forces will only put the taste of blood in their mouths.

Abortion rights were certainly not won in "the legislators' court." The mass incorporation of women into the work force during and after World War II, combined with gigantic struggles for Black rights and women's equality in the 1960s and 1970s is what led to the decision to decriminalize abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Groups like Operation Rescue are not attacking abortion rights on their own. As the capitalist economic crisis worsens, the two political parties of big business have escalated their assault on a women's right to choose. The rulers need to drive against the living standards and rights of working people. A key component of this effort is to try to take away women's right to control their own bodies, dealing a blow to all working people.

The battle over abortion rights and the fight to keep the clinics open will be decided in the streets and in front of the clinics themselves — by physically outmobilizing and defeating Operation Rescue. This is how abortion rights were won in the first place. It's the only way to defend them now.

Pittsburgh glass workers reject concessions

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

We invite you to contribute short items as a way for other fighting workers around the world to learn from these impor-

"We've given concessions for three straight contracts. If they close it, then they close it, but we've taken enough," said one worker after the vote. "I'm proud of our members for drawing the line, even if it means losing our jobs."

In June 4, the day before the vote, workers from all three plants held a

ON THE PICKET LINE

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

In the face of a company threat to close the plant, workers at the Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) South Greensburg, Pennsylvania, facility June 5 voted 148-59 to reject a concession contract, which had called for cuts in medical benefits and pensions.

PPG had unilaterally implemented this contract a month ago, leading to a work stoppage. The union considers it a lockout. Workers at two other plants, with separate contracts but facing similar cuts, joined the walkout. The three plants with more than 800 workers have been idle since early May. The workers are organized by the Aluminum, Brick, and Glass Workers union (ABG).

Steve Hloznik, president of ABG Local 12 at PPG's Creighton, Pennsylvania, facility, said that the company's ultimatum was simple, "accept the contract or we'll close the plant."

Even if the contract was accepted, company officials said, the plant is in danger of closing. PPG owns other plants that are nonunion. The company is pitting workers there against those at the South Greensburg plant. According to Frank Demonte, a worker with 21 years at PPG, the company says it needs a \$7.87 reduction in wages and benefits to keep the plant operating.

spirited picket line, which surrounded the PPG headquarters in downtown Pittsburgh. Dressed in the union's red T-shirts with "Solidarity" across the front, the picketers chanted, "PPG — liars and thieves" and "Who are we? UNION! What do we want? A CONTRACT! When do we want it? NOW!"

Several members from other unions joined the picket line. A leaflet was handed out to those passing by explaining the issues.

Strikers have won solidarity from unions and the community. "We need support from people like you," said Steve Hloznik, speaking at the June 6 Militant Labor Forum in Pittsburgh. Hloznik invited everyone to come to the picket lines and to a labor rally June 22 in downtown Pittsburgh, which will also involve striking mine workers as well as other unions.

Hloznik addressed the attempt to blame unions for plant closings. Some people ask, "Why do those people vote to shut their plant down?" This is not accurate, he said. "Workers never shut down plants. Companies decide to build plants and companies decide to close them." Hloznik said that PPG has recently closed five union plants and opened four nonunion ones.

Members of Local 12 have traveled to nonunion PPG plants in Meadville, Pennsylvania, and Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to talk to workers and help efforts to organize a union there. More visits to nonunion plants are planned. "We're not giving up, we're attacking. We are very determined," said Hloznik.



Workers picket Pittsburgh Plate Glass June 4

Militant/Sheila Ostrow

The volunteers in these teams report receiving an overwhelmingly positive response. PPG has already implemented the health cuts at those plants.

"We are fighting for every worker whether they are union or not," said Hloznik, "this is a workers fight and not just a union fight." □

Chicago Teamsters strike for contract

"People would not accept the contract of misery" offered by Laminations Specialties, said Porfirio Ruiz as he picketed along with 12 other workers against the Chicago-based corporation. Ruiz is shop steward for International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 714, which organizes 89 workers in two plants. When the contract expired May 18, the workers rejected the company's offer at the time and all of them walked out.

The company proposed a 50-cents-an-hour wage cut and that workers pay half of their medical insurance costs.

"They also used the threat of moving the factory to Mexico," explained strike committee member Carmelo Molina, "to have us ac-

cept their terms."

Ruiz, who has worked 13 years for the company, explained that Laminations Specialties "wanted to divide us." They proposed that workers with less than three years seniority receive a 25-cents-an-hour raise, while those with more than three years would have their wages frozen. "They wanted us to fight each other," said Ruiz of the boss's failed attempt.

"We keep the picket lines up 24 hours a day" at both plants, stressed Molina. With the help of Chicago police, he added, the company escorts about six strike-breakers per shift, who work alongside management personnel to try to keep production going.

The workers pledged to remain on strike as long as necessary. We are tired of begging," said Ruiz. "The times of slavery are long gone." □

Garment workers strike in Connecticut

Some 70 strikers and supporters held a rally June 10 at the Mario Valente garment shop in New Britain, Connecticut. Workers at Mario Valente, members of International

Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 151, have been on strike since May 18. They walked out when their boss, Boris Zubry, asked them to sign a contract with "Alternative Service Inc. (ASI)," a New-Jersey-based leasing firm. The intent was that ASI would "lease" the workers back to Mario Valente, thus negating their union contract.

The action by the workers, most of whom are women, has forced Zubry, a recent émigré from Russia, to enter into negotiations with the ILGWU. The employer seems to have conceded he will recognize the union, but is pushing for major concessions.

After the rally the strikers gathered at a hall to hear an update on negotiations. ILGWU negotiator Ron Ullman outlined the issues in the strike. These include the company's proposal to institute four ten-hour days instead of five eight-hour days, with no overtime pay until a worker has worked 40 hours in a week; a medical plan that would not cover "pre-existing conditions"; more than doubling the amount a worker would have to pay for family health coverage; and a provision ending an employee's medical coverage on the last day of the month that she or he is laid off. Given that there are frequent layoffs due to the seasonal nature of the work, this last provision is a major issue that workers are not prepared to accept.

Zubry is keeping the shop open with recent immigrants from Poland. But his production level is down and he has been unable to fill major orders. The spirit of the workers is strong, and they are determined to stay out until they win. □

The following people contributed to this week's column: Bill Scheer, member of Iron Workers Local 527 in Pittsburgh; Luis Madrid, member of United Transportation Union Local 577, and Johanna Ryan, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1011 in Chicago; and Tim Craine in New Haven, Connecticut.

LETTERS

Overpopulation I

Concerning your article in the May 31 issue on overpopulation, while it's true that poverty and ecological destruction are caused by capitalism, not overpopulation, I think it's important to mention that there are other problems related to the current level of the world's population and growth rate.

To many people, the quality of life is diminished by the loss of natural environment necessitated by the need to provide services to an expanding population. Development of roads, shopping centers, housing, and other things people need displaces forests, prairies, wetlands, animal and plant habitats.

Cities are congested and crowded. City life is characterized by long lines and crowds at public facilities, traffic jams, and people practically living on top of each other. Cities have expanded into suburbs and suburbs into rural areas.

I will be interested to see your article on population control programs in the United States. I didn't know that the U.S. ruling class had much interest in limiting population growth in this country, since there's no profit in supporting an environment that provides a high quality of life for working people.

Sandy Knoll
Bloomington, Michigan

Overpopulation II

As a scientist and a reader of your paper I was very disappointed with the "myth of overpopulation" which

presents some outdated views of Joe Hansen's. Oddly these are the same views as those of some capitalists who would like to believe that the non-renewable resources are really renewable so that they can continue to rape the land. As the population has grown we already have been unable to find ways to dispose of the waste that the world has been accumulating. We have already had two explosions of nuclear waste in Russia; contamination of the oceans and the land with radioactivity in this country and others is well documented. As the population grows these pressures continue to increase.

When you state that Somalia has only 27 people per square mile while the United Kingdom has 608 you neglect to say anything about the arability of that mile, or the resources that that mile contains. Not all land is equally valuable. Moreover, since J. Hansen wrote, the green revolution has been shown to be a real myth. The fertilizers that permitted increased yields are the same fertilizers that are poisoning nearby waterways with their runoff minerals. They required specially bred seeds which along with the fertilizers are expensive for all but the wealthy landowners. The practice of growing monocultures of crops goes hand in hand with extensive pesticide (and herbicide) use which causes workers and their children to be poisoned. Grass-roots workers in countries like India are trying to return to their native methods, growing plants suitable for mixed cropping and native seeds. These may be the best

ways but they will not give high yields. These truths do not deny the fact that the food distribution patterns in the world often reflect corrupt political systems.

However, for all the cruelty of the enforced sterilization policy in China, controlling the Chinese population appears to have led to a higher standard of living there than would have been believed possible when I was a child and we ate all our food to save the starving Chinese! Just as dividing the resources of a single family amongst a family of 15 versus a family of 4 will affect how comfortably that family will live, so the family of man will live increasingly diminished lives if the world's population continues to double at the current rate. To deny this truth, is to mislead your readers.

D.S.
Amherst, Massachusetts

On-the-spot coverage

The "from the spot" coverage of the miners' strike has been a real inspiration. During a Detroit to Norfolk, Virginia, drive to see relatives over Memorial Day weekend, I realized at breakfast after napping somewhere in Ohio that I was passing through the state that was the headline in the *Militant* — West Virginia. Although I had heard that it is unlikely and hard to find where the mines are, I decided to take a side road that seemed to make a diagonal toward my destination anyway, in hopes of meeting some miners' pickets. I didn't come across any miners' pickets, but to my surprise, I met

some members of my union, the United Food and Commercial Workers, striking a tannery somewhere between Thornwood and Monterey on route 250.

I talked about this with friends at the plant — we make sausages and hams — where I work and now maybe in a couple weeks one other guy and I will go down there to picket with the miners and just get out of Detroit. Your reports are from really out of the way places and unique in that worker-reporters are able to organize themselves to do them.

Denis Hoppe
Dearborn, Michigan

Frame-up in Georgia

A "Great Society" item, April 26, noted the case of an elderly woman who was jailed in Tifton, Georgia, for allegedly giving a false address when returning \$13 of merchandise to a Wal-Mart store. A recent Associated Press story gives more details of the case and I'm passing them on in this letter because it would be difficult to boil them down to the size of a Great Society item.

The prosecution of Mary Alice Waire, 69, was initiated by Wal-Mart. A cop said some stores prosecute people who use incorrect names or addresses while obtaining a refund. He said this is done to discourage shoplifters.

There was no suggestion that Waire lifted anything. Returning to Florida from a trip to Michigan, she and her husband ran short of gas

money and returned the merchandise, bought at another Wal-Mart.

Filling out the refund form, she mixed up her home address and the location of the Wal-Mart where they bought the merchandise.

When arraigned, Waire pleaded innocent and did 11 days in jail because she couldn't raise bond.

Then she changed her plea on the assumption that the judge would release her.

That proved a mistake. He gave her a year, to be served on probation — provided she paid a \$300 fine.

She couldn't pay this and was put back in jail. After 33 days she succeeded in paying part of the fine, and was released.

While she was in jail, the Waires lost their Florida retirement home and their car. The clipping we received said the couple was living in a Tifton shelter while awaiting arrival of Social Security and disability checks.

The judge said she pleaded guilty, and that his only comment was "She was given a sentence appropriate to the charge."

Next case.
Harry Ring
Los Angeles, California

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.

Aid caravan to Cuba gains support

BY CHRIS NISAN
AND JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — With little time left until its July 16 departure, preparations for the second U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment are intensifying. Support for the caravan is growing around the country.

The effort, organized at the initiative of Pastors for Peace, will challenge Washington's 33-year economic embargo against Cuba. Last year a similar caravan successfully crossed the U.S.-Mexico border and delivered 15 tons of humanitarian aid to Cuba.

Some 200 activists will depart from 12 U.S. cities driving cars, vans, trucks, buses, and motor homes and make their way to Tampico, Mexico, where they will load about 100 tons of material aid on a ship bound for Cuba. The material aid will include school supplies, powdered milk, wheelchairs, and other medical equipment, truck tires, sewing supplies, as well as musical instruments and ballet shoes.

"Typewriters, IBM-compatible computers, bicycles, and spare parts are also needed," said Jerry Condon, co-coordinator of the project for Pastors for Peace, in an interview. Condon said funds are also needed for purchase of three buses to be donated to Cuba as well as vitamins, antibiotics, aspirin, and other medicines.

Local committees in dozens of cities are coordinating efforts to collect the aid, raise funds, and publicize the effort. "In Chicago," Condon said, "many community stores are carrying posters and cans soliciting financial contributions for the Friendshipment." Grocery stores, bakeries, and bookstores, including the Pathfinder bookstore, are among the dropoff locations there as well as in other cities.

Condon said the most important goal of the effort "is to expose the illegal and immoral character of the U.S. government's embargo against Cuba." Friendshipment organizers will not apply for a license to transport the aid to Cuba. Condon said the solidarity caravan is gaining support in Canada and Mexico as well. At least two trucks from British Columbia and Manitoba will join U.S. vehicles on the way to Mexico.

The breadth and scope of support gained for the Friendshipment is further proof of the isolation of Washington's policy of aggression toward Cuba.

"I applaud the Pastors for Peace Friendshipment," St. Paul, Minnesota, mayor James Scheibel told Rev. Lucius Walker at a news conference here June 11. Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), is the main spokesperson for the caravan. Pastors for Peace is a project of IFCO.

Cuba, Scheibel said, poses no threat to the United States. It's time to bring U.S. foreign policy "up to date," he told the media.

Others who welcomed Walker included Bill Means, president of the International Indian Treaty Rights Organization; Jim Zarnecki, former director of the Minnesota Museum of Art; and Barb Kucera, editor of the *Union Advocate*.

Walker was here as part of a speaking tour organized in several cities to build support for the caravan. His tour included a meeting at the Africana Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota and a fund-raising dinner at a local church where Walker addressed 300 opponents of Washington's embargo. The dinner raised \$3,000 for the Friendshipment.

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

SEATTLE — A successful three-day tour of this city by Lucius Walker brought contributions to the Cuba aid caravan totalling \$8,300, almost half of the \$20,000 goal Seattle activists adopted for the solidarity effort. So far 16 people in the area have signed up to be drivers, ranging in age from 23 to 70. Friendshipment supporters have made two trucks and a motor home available for the caravan.

Cliff Wiessner, a 48-year-old plasterer, is taking several weeks off work to join the car-



Participants in the Friendshipment from New Jersey marched in the Puerto Rican Day parade in New York City June 13 demanding an end to Washington's embargo against Cuba. The parade attracted thousands of participants and onlookers. More than 20 drivers have signed up for the caravan in New Jersey, including many Cuban-Americans. The caravan will also include a contingent of Cuban-Americans and others from Miami.

avan as a driver. "This is the first time I ever got involved in anything," he explained. "I feel strongly against the embargo; it's a terrible thing they are doing to Cuba. At a certain point you have to do something."

Events calling for an end to Washington's embargo against Cuba and promoting the Friendshipment included meetings at churches, community centers, and a high school. A demonstration in downtown Seattle June 14 also called for an "end to the blockade of Cuba."

Walker explained to the audience at the Unitarian Church that ending the embargo of Cuba "is not only in Cuba's interest, but our interest for what we can learn from Cuba. . . . That policy will only change when people like you take action."

BY JOHN COX

PITTSBURGH — More than 250 people attended a fund-raising concert here June 15 for the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment. The concert, which featured the music of two local bands, raised \$1,600 for the project. "The fact that we pulled in so many people, and such a

diversity of people, was very impressive," commented Lisa Valanti, one of the leaders of the Pitt-Cuba Coalition, which has been organizing for the Friendshipment in this area.

The coalition here has so far signed up eight drivers for the caravan, which will be sent off with a big celebration July 17. The local daily the *Post-Gazette*, has assigned one of its senior editors to accompany the caravan for part of the way.

Another measure of the success of the work done by the coalition was a resolution passed in May by the Pittsburgh City Council denouncing the U.S. embargo against Cuba and pronouncing July 11-19 "U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment Week" in Pittsburgh.

BY OSBORNE HART

OAKLAND, California — The 1993 U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment gained more support as San Francisco Bay Area activists gathered for an "Action Conference" at Laney College here June 12.

Nearly 130 conference participants attended workshops on mobilizing support for the July caravan, opposing the U.S. em-

bargo, and building solidarity with Cuba.

The San Francisco Bay Area U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment Coalition and the Laney College Mexican American and Latin American Studies departments co-sponsored the one-day event.

Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of Cuban-Americans in Miami that supports the Cuban revolution, was a guest speaker. Gómez, who recently returned from the May Day celebrations in Cuba, presented an overview of the difficult economic situation the Caribbean country faces and the effects of Washington's embargo on the people there.

"The consequences [of the embargo] are not only felt by the Cuban people. They are felt by Latin America and the rest of the world," said Gómez.

"Cuba represents the best of humanity," he continued. By building the caravan and actions against the U.S. embargo "we are defending the very existence of the Cuban people."

The conference was one of several events planned leading up to the caravan's July 20 send off from the Bay Area. Participants contributed more than \$900 for the caravan.

Lucius Walker spoke at a June 17 meeting in San Francisco. He said the only threat the Cuban revolution poses to Washington is its example. "Cuba is an example because it is the one nation that has taken seriously the axiom of socialism — the love of people," Walker said.

"The U.S. can't tolerate this example, because the U.S. population may take that example and use it," he said. At the meeting \$1,000 was raised for the caravan.

Malia Everette, a member of the Cuba Education Project at San Francisco State University, who signed up to be a driver, said the caravan has had "great success involving students and other young people." Solidarity groups also exist on several other area campuses.

For further information on the Friendshipment contact: Pastors for Peace, 331 17th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Tel. (612) 378-0062. Contributions can also be sent to that address.

Meeting of Cuba solidarity activists makes Friendshipment central task

BY KATE KAKU

CHICAGO — Representatives of dozens of organizations involved in Cuba solidarity work around the United States met here June 19-20 and decided to build the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment, initiated and organized by Pastors for Peace, as their central activity in the coming weeks.

Some 75 delegates and observers attended the two-day meeting of the National Network on Cuba, which promotes activities by national and local organizations opposed to Washington's policies towards Cuba.

Following a report and discussion of the extremely difficult economic conditions in Cuba today and the importance of stepped up work within the United States to end the three-decade-long trade embargo of Cuba imposed by the U.S. government, participants spent much of the first day discussing how to maximize the size, scope, and impact of the Friendshipment. Jerry Condon, co-coordinator of the project for Pastors for Peace, initiated the discussion with a report on the growing support for the caravan.

Over 200 drivers in 80 trucks and buses will drive across the United States, visiting 110-120 cities along 12 different routes. They will be collecting and transporting to the Mexican port city of Tampico some 100 tons of material aid — including medical supplies, powdered milk, bicycles and spare

parts, sporting goods, art materials, sewing machines, computers, and three buses. A previous Friendshipment caravan to Cuba last November involved around 100 drivers carrying 15 tons of material aid.

The caravan will depart from the northernmost cities on July 16 and 17 and cross the border to Mexico on July 29. "In each city public events will take place spurring on the caravan as it makes its way to the border," Condon told the Network meeting. In addition to donations of goods on the carefully selected list that has been prepared by Pastors for Peace, Condon emphasized that money is needed to pay for transportation costs.

In his report Condon highlighted the fact that almost a quarter of the drivers on the caravan will be Cuban-Americans from the Miami area and from New Jersey. Many Cuban-Americans are keenly aware of the hardships their relatives on the island are living through and are increasingly active in efforts to end the U.S. government trade embargo against Cuba.

"We want people to understand that this is a direct challenge legally and politically to the embargo," Condon told the gathering. "We will be contributing significant material aid that is desperately needed, but the main purpose is to expose the immorality of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba."

The caravan will be a joint effort with soli-

darity groups in Canada and Mexico as well. Tatiana Coll Lebedeff from the Mexico City-based Promotora de Solidaridad "Va por Cuba" was a special guest at the National Network meeting. She gave a report on the activities organized by Promotora and emphasized the international impact of the work being done in the United States.

With only a few weeks left before the caravan heads for Cuba, participants in the meeting stressed the importance of using the Friendshipment as a vehicle for organizing to broaden knowledge about Cuba and discuss why U.S. government policy should be changed.

Other items on the agenda of the meeting included applications for membership from several national and local organizations and reports from network task forces on labor, legislative lobbying, media work, and other areas. National organizations that joined the Network at this meeting included the Committees of Correspondence, the National Lawyers Guild, and the Communist Party USA.

The National Network on Cuba also called for an international week of action against Washington's embargo October 10-16.

Kate Kaku is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 5488 in Chicago and a member of the Chicago Coalition Against Intervention in Cuba.