

# THE MILITANT

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U.S. gov't uses terrorism charges to curb rights

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## Mandela: ANC election effort deserves support

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

PHILADELPHIA — Speaking at a number of events in this city July 4, African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela appealed for funds and continued solidarity to help the ANC wage a successful campaign to win South Africa's first-ever democratic, nonracial election scheduled for April 27, 1994.

"Almost every opinion poll in our country suggests that if an election were held today, the ANC would probably emerge with an outright majority," stated Mandela to a crowd of more than 2,000 people at the Bright Hope Baptist Church. "We are encouraged by such predictions but we are not complacent."

What the ANC wants is not just popularity but power, the revolutionary leader said. "We are working hard to make sure that almost all South Africans will vote for democracy and not the maintenance of white minority rule," he stated.

Mandela's appearance in Philadelphia is part of a two-week tour of eight U.S. cities that includes stops in New York; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; Los Angeles; Minneapolis; Atlanta; and Indianapolis, Indiana — where he speaks July 10 before the national convention of the NAACP.

In Philadelphia Mandela, along with South African president and National Party leader F.W. de Klerk, was awarded the Liberty Medal. The ANC leader also appeared

at a joint news conference with de Klerk in the afternoon and at a "Welcome Nelson Mandela" rally held at the Civic Center that evening.

Pointing to the horrible legacy of the slave trade that forced millions of Africans into bondage in the Americas, Mandela told those attending the Baptist church service that "there's a silver lining in every cloud."

"Now, on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean we have our brothers and sisters," he explained. "You have given us the strength to confront one of the most brutal, one of the most cruel forms of racial oppression."

To rising cheers, Mandela referred to de Klerk as the "so-called president of South Africa," who is only "the president of the white minority," which constitutes just 15 percent of the population. "The president of South Africa will emerge in the elections that are going to be

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Militant/Eric Simpson

ANC president Nelson Mandela at New York church June 30. "Our victory will be your victory," he said.

## Aristide, coup leader sign agreement to return deposed president to Haiti

BY HILDA CUZCO

After a week of United Nations-brokered negotiations in New York City, exiled Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Raoul Cédras, the army commander who ousted him, signed an agreement July 3 calling for Aristide's return to office on October 30.

The accord calls for Aristide to name a new military commander who will replace the current ruling high command. Aristide is also supposed to declare a political amnesty for the coup leaders, and Port-au-Prince police chief Joseph François, another coup leader, will step down.

"According to the agreement," reports the *Washington Post*, "the parties must arrive at a formula for reconstituting a legitimate Parliament." Aristide will then name a new prime minister to be confirmed by this revamped body. As soon as Aristide's nominee takes office, the United Nations will suspend the oil and arms embargo imposed on Haiti in late June.

A UN force is to be dispatched to Haiti allegedly to "retrain" the military and create a new police force separate from the army. According to U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher, Washington is likely to send "fewer than 1,000" troops as part of this force.

Aristide was elected president of Haiti in December 1990 and ousted in a bloody military coup in September 1991.

Cédras returned to Haiti immediately after signing the July 3 accord. Under strong pressure from UN and U.S. negotiators, Aristide also signed, after objecting that Haiti's top military officers would not necessarily be removed from the armed forces for their role in the coup, but could be simply

reassigned by a new commander.

Aristide and Cédras never met face to face during the negotiating sessions or even for the signing of the accords.

In Miami more than 1,000 Haitians took to the streets June 27 in support of Aristide. Many expressed doubt that Cédras would give up power voluntarily.

During the course of the negotiations

hundreds of Haitians and their supporters demonstrated several times in front of the UN headquarters in New York, carrying pro-Aristide and antimilitary banners.

"People are skeptical," said Rev. Rollin Darbouze, pastor of Holy Cross Church in the borough of Brooklyn, commenting on the accord. His church has provided material

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Aristide supporter Elmase Paul (center) and hundreds of others chanted, sang, and marched in the streets of Little Haiti in Miami to show support for the deposed Haitian president June 27. Many doubt military leaders will depart voluntarily.

## Washington steps up attacks against Iraq

BY PAT SMITH

Following the June 26 U.S. bombing of Baghdad that left at least 8 civilians dead and 20 wounded, Washington is stepping up its threats against the Iraqi people. On June 29, a U.S. warplane launched an air-to-surface missile against an Iraqi antiaircraft battery in the southern province of Basra. The Pentagon justified the attack by saying the plane had been "illuminated" by antiaircraft radar at the site.

A United Nations inspection team left Iraq July 5 after being refused permission to

### U.S. hands off Iraq!

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install monitoring cameras at two missile sites. The team's leader, Nikita Smidovich, warned that Iraq was in "material breach" of the cease-fire agreement that ended the Persian Gulf War, a phrase implying that another military attack could be justified under existing UN Security Council resolutions. The council warned of "serious consequences" if installation of the cameras is denied.

Iraqi officials say they have no objection in principle to installing the cameras, but first they would like a detailed account from the Security Council of how close it is toward ending the embargo it has maintained since the end of the Gulf War. Sanctions imposed on Iraq are supposed to be lifted once Baghdad fulfills UN demands.

The ongoing economic embargo has created near-starvation conditions for millions

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## Conference debates Cuba's socialist course

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND ALFREDO RICO

HOLGUÍN, Cuba — A wide-ranging discussion on Cuba's socialist course and other political questions took place here June 30 at the Third Conference of U.S. and Cuban Social Scientists. The meeting brought together 100 people, including dozens of teachers of economics, philosophy, art, and other fields from the eastern part of the country. Eight U.S. participants, including two representatives from Pathfinder Press, also attended.

The main organizer of the event was Luis Aguilera, head of the department of Marxism-Leninism at the Higher Technical Institute of Holguín and president of the Cuban Society for Philosophical Research in Holguín province. Pathfinder representatives had met Aguilera at a library conference here last October and were invited to attend the social scientists' gathering.

The Holguín event was a continuation of a conference of 200 Cuban and U.S. philosophers that was held in Havana the previous week.

The context of this discussion was Cuba's severe economic crisis. The collapse in trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern

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## U.S. continues assault on Somalia

The U.S. military and allied forces continue to attack Somalis protesting or resisting the occupation of their country. One Somali was killed and seven were wounded June 27 when UN soldiers fired at civilians opposed to the removal of roadblocks the Somalis had erected. Two U.S. and one Pakistani soldier were injured. The following day U.S. helicopter gunships opened fire on civilians in Mogadishu, killing at least two. Hospital sources said at least 80 Somalis were killed in street protests and fighting in the last two weeks of June.

Nightly helicopter reconnaissance missions fly as close as 20 feet above rooftops in Mogadishu. Somali witnesses report that in one incident the U.S. helicopters blew down several homes and shops.

## Nigerians protest vote annulment

Tens of thousands of Nigerians took to the streets July 5 to protest Gen. Ibrahim Babangida's annulling of the June 12 presidential elections. A general strike called by The Campaign for Democracy, a coalition of 42 human rights and social organizations, virtually closed all businesses the same day. Police fired tear gas at protesters who built and set fire to barricades in Lagos and Akure.

Although Babangida chose both candidates and wrote their platforms, he voided the vote and called for new elections to be held July 31. The two candidates in the earlier vote are barred from running and even more restrictive guidelines were announced for this election. Babangida, who took power in a 1985 coup, has abandoned his own timetable for giving up power four times in three years.

## Economic troubles plague G-7

The seven major imperialist powers doubt they can overcome declining economic growth rates, rising unemployment, and the bitter trade wars that come from increased competition at their annual Group of Seven meeting in Tokyo. Contributing to the gloom, European Community (EC) officials on the eve of the summit predicted a continued rise in unemployment and an overall 0.5 percent decline in the economies of its 12 member nations. The rulers of Germany, the largest and most powerful country in the EC, are expected to see their economy shrink by 2 percent.

Some 20 million Western Europeans, nearly one in nine workers, are out of a job.



Supporters of Bosnia basketball team displaying antiwar banner at July 1 game against Croatia at the European championships. "Our message with this team," said Emir Mutapcic, whose wife is a Croat, "is that if we can play together and live together, then our country too can live together." The team, which lost to Croatia 98-78, is made up of eight Muslims, two Croats, and has a Serbian coach.

And 1 million more are expected to join them in the coming year.

## UN to cut food aid to Bosnia

On June 30 the United Nations announced that due to shortages of food supplies and a lack of money it will cut in half food rations for 1.4 million people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and reduce by 20 percent the food aid for the 380,000 people in the capital city of Sarajevo.

Officials in the Bosnian government accused the UN of trying to use hunger to force the people of Bosnia to accept a plan to carve the country up into three separate "ethnically based" areas, 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. The Bosnian government has refused to sign the plan.

## Miami to pay choke hold victim

The city of Miami agreed to pay \$7.5 million and all medical expenses to Antonio Edwards, a 24-year-old construction worker who was beaten and choked by Miami cops in January 1992. Edwards remains in what doctors say is an irreversible coma.

Edwards, who is Black, was sitting in a car with friends when at least seven cops dragged him out, handcuffed him, threw him to the ground, and put him in a choke hold for several minutes. Police claimed the car fit the description of one used in the fatal shooting of a police officer earlier that day. No medical assistance was given at the scene, and when Edwards was eventually taken to the hospital, doctors and nurses were told he was suffering from a cocaine overdose.

Federal prosecutors refused to file criminal charges against the arresting officers, claiming they had insufficient evidence. A police report about the incident said the officers had used force against Edwards because he had resisted arrest and had appeared to be reaching for a gun. But no gun was ever found. The report was filed by a police officer who had been demoted after filing a false report in a previous arrest. It also turned out that Edwards's car was not the one used in the earlier shooting.

The police officer who applied the choke hold, Carl Seals, was suspended from duty with pay. His personnel file includes nearly 20 reprimands, one of which resulted from his beating a robbery suspect in the head with a police radio.

## U.S. allows loans to Hanoi

Washington will end its opposition to loans to Vietnam by international institu-

tions. But U.S. companies will still be barred from trading with Hanoi as part of an 18-year trade embargo. Washington launched the embargo after withdrawing from Vietnam in 1975 following its defeat in the Vietnam War.

## House kills funding for TV Martí

The House Appropriations Committee rejected State Department requests for \$12 million to fund the anti-Cuban television station TV Martí and \$16 million for its radio counterpart, Radio Martí. A week later on June 24, after a heated 45-minute debate, the committee voted 26-21 in favor of a measure introduced by Miami Democrat Carrie Meek calling for \$8.8 million for Radio Martí in 1994. No plan for how to fund the three-year-old television station was approved, casting doubt on its future.

## House upholds Hyde amendment

The U.S. House of Representatives voted June 30 to uphold a ban on federal funding for abortions. The House vote adds to the 1977 Hyde amendment rape and incest as conditions that would allow federal funds to be used for abortions. The earlier amendment — named for its author Congressman Henry Hyde — only allowed federal funding in situations where the woman's life was in danger.

In the course of the House debate, Hyde argued that allowing poor women federal funding for abortions was the same as telling them "there are too many of you people and we want to, kinda refine, refine the breed"

— PAT SMITH

## THE MILITANT

### Haitian workers demand end to military regime

*Thousands of Haitians and others have protested across Haiti and in the United States for an end to the military regime in that country and for the immediate return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The 'Militant' covers this important fight. Don't miss a single issue!*



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# Rift grows between Washington, Tokyo

BY BOB MILLER

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa fell June 18 following a vote of no confidence approved 255-220 by Japan's parliament. This "could signal the death knell of 38 years of LDP rule," warned the Japanese daily *Yomiuri Shimbun*.

Japan's political crisis is unfolding with the country in its worst economic slump in 20 years. Tokyo and Washington are in the midst of one of the most acute trade conflicts in their history. And after 45 years with no Japanese troops abroad, the ruling class is divided over foreign policy, as Japanese soldiers now serve on UN "peacekeeping" missions in Asia and Africa. Tokyo has sent 700 troops to Cambodia. The killings of two Japanese soldiers there have sparked a wide-ranging debate in Japan over the first deployment of troops abroad since World War II.

Thirty-nine members of the LDP house majority voted for the no-confidence motion submitted by the main opposition party, the Socialist Party of Japan (SP). The deputies then bolted from the LDP and formed two new parties, the Harbinger Party (Sakigake) and Renaissance Party (Shinseito). "Their defection has created Japan's most serious political crisis in years," said the *Wall Street Journal*.

Since its formation in 1955, the LDP has selected 19 consecutive prime ministers. The parliament was dissolved by Miyazawa and new elections have been scheduled for July 18.

"I think there will be further splits in the LDP, and a split within the Socialist Party," said Deputy Prime Minister Masaharu Gotoda. Meanwhile, the Renaissance and Socialist Party leaders are discussing the possibility of forming a joint government after the vote.

SP leader Sadao Yamahana sought to alleviate concern about the party's long-standing objections to Japan's security treaty with the United States by meeting with U.S. ambassador Michael Armacost and stressing the importance of maintaining good "relations with Washington." Other SP leaders, however, indicated that they would refuse to join with the new party conservatives, according to the *New York Times*, adding to speculation that the SP would also split.

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 became public in Japan as divisions grew within the LDP over how to handle the economic crisis.

Japanese auto exports are predicted to fall for the eighth consecutive year in 1993. Land prices have continued to plunge. The stock market dipped 3 percent following the no-confidence vote in parliament.

"There were no noisy public demonstrations that brought this government down," observed the *Wall Street Journal*. "It is the rulers themselves who feel an urge to break with the past... [and] change many of the relations Japan has with the outside world, particularly its trade and diplomatic ties with the U.S."

The distance that Japan's rulers are taking from Washington on foreign policy is re-

vealed as negotiations take place leading up to the G-7 summit meeting in Tokyo beginning July 7. The Clinton administration proposal to create a \$4 billion fund to help turn Russia's state-owned enterprises into private companies, was called a "preposterous suggestion" by foreign minister Kabin Muto. Nor did Japan go along with a British-U.S. proposal to condemn Iran for "sponsoring terrorism." Japan has recently increased its trade with Iran. Clinton has expressed concern to the Japanese government over a \$360 million loan to help Tehran rebuild an electric-generating plant.

In addition, Tokyo refused to agree to the indefinite extension of the treaty on the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons. "There are people in Japan," a senior U.S. administration official said, "who believe Japan shouldn't foreclose for all time their

ability to develop nuclear weapons."

Negotiations to define a new trade relationship between the United States and Japan broke off in deadlock June 28. Japanese negotiators sought a guarantee that trade sanctions would not be used to enforce any new agreements. But deputy U.S. trade representative Charlene Barshefsky replied "no."

The *New York Times* noted, "the deadlock is a sign of the shift in Japan's trading stance."

Another factor the *Times* points to is that a smaller percentage of Japan's exports and investments are going to the United States as its attention shifts to Asia.

Last year, for example, Japan's investment in China doubled to about \$1 billion while Sino-Japanese trade increased 27 percent to nearly \$29 billion. In 1992 Japanese firms announced 1,800 investment pro-

jects in China, about the same as the previous 13 years combined. Trade with China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan grew to \$84.9 billion.

In Tokyo's most direct attack yet on the Clinton administration, Japanese officials have swept through Asia in recent weeks to rally opposition to new U.S. trade policies, arguing that while Japan may be Washington's target now, other Asian countries would be next.

At issue is Washington's insistence on numerical targets for gaining market shares and other quotas that would assure U.S. access to Japanese markets.

Bob Miller is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

## Thousands protest racist attacks in Canada

BY HEIDI ROSE

TORONTO — More than 2,000 people marched here June 28 to protest several brutal attacks by racist thugs against Tamil workers in early June.

On June 6, Sivarajah Vinasithamby, a former mathematics teacher in Sri Lanka who now works as a dishwasher, was brutally attacked as he left work. He remains partially paralyzed. Four days later, Ganalan Muthulingam died of injuries from an assault that took place June 7, and on June 20, Ganeshamoorthy Vignesswaramoorthy was slashed with broken beer bottles by two attackers who shouted racist epithets at him.

"These are recent events," Sinnathamby Sittampalam of the Tamil Resource Center told the rally that kicked off the protest march. "But there are many more to recount."

Speaking for the ad hoc coalition that organized the rally, Amy Cassapullai said, "Last year it was Blacks, this year Tamils. There are many ways of using differences to take away our rights. It's a global threat. We need to come together to build a powerful movement. We will show this city we are strong."

A statement issued by the Communist League demanded the apprehension and prosecution to the fullest extent of the law of those responsible for racist attacks. The statement urged working people to "call to account those ultimately responsible for these racist antiworker attacks — the federal government, provincial governments, and police forces."

More than 80 organizations endorsed the antiracist action, which was the largest, broadest, and most working-class protest of this kind to occur in Toronto in some time.

By far the biggest contingent of marchers were Tamil immigrant workers. Organizations represented included the Ontario Coalition of Abortion Clinics, Young Asians United, ANC/Mandela Support Coalition, Native Canadian Center, AIDS Action Now, and a host of student and community service organizations.

Chants and placards included, "Immigrants yes, racists no," "We are one," "Smash the Heritage Front" (a small ultra-



Militant/Heidi Rose

More than 2,000 protested June 28 in Toronto against racist attacks on immigrants

right group).

Representatives of the Black Action Defense Committee, the Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils, Two Spirited People of the First Nations, and Toronto Anti-Racist Action (ARA) were among the keynote speakers at the kickoff and closing rallies.

Marchers were able to complete the planned route and hold a peaceful action despite provocations by the police. In the days leading up to the June 28 protest, the big business media carried many articles violence-baiting antiracist youth. They seized on an incident that took place June 11 at a demonstration organized by Anti-Racist Action. The home of a Heritage Front leader was trashed and several windows broken.

In a provocative move, Toronto police timed their arrest of some members of ARA to take place at the June 28 demonstration itself.

despite earlier promises by the cops that they would not interfere with the peaceful protest.

Organizers of the protest informed participants at the demonstration of the arrests and appealed to everyone to remain at the rally site while marshals went to the police station to work for their release. The demonstration remained disciplined and the marshals succeeded in obtaining the release of those arrested.

Marchers were urged to attend a July 5 town hall meeting to discuss the next steps in the fight.

## 'Militant' editor leads indexing project

BY SARA LOBMAN

Over the next several months, *Militant* editor George Fyson will be organizing a special research and indexing project, which will take him away from day-to-day editorial responsibility for the paper.

Fyson is putting the finishing touches on editing an extensive index of resource material used by the *Militant* and its sister Spanish-language publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*. Once finished, this catalog will be an invaluable source for the writing staffs as well as supporters of the socialist publications.

While Fyson is working on this project, *Militant* managing editor Argiris Malapanis will assume day-to-day editorial responsibilities for the paper.

Naomi Craine has taken over Fyson's responsibilities for the business aspects of the paper's production. Fyson had assumed the additional task of business manager in March in an effort to improve the professionalism of the business, promotion, and circulation operations of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

These aspects of the two periodicals' work, from organizing the computer entry of new subscriptions and renewals to responding to readers' requests for more information, are handled by members of the *Militant*'s writing staff.

## Cops assault Caribbean parade in Montreal

BY ROSEMARY RAY

MONTREAL — The annual Carifête parade, a festival organized by the Caribbean community here, was violently attacked by hundreds of riot police July 3. This was the third time in several years the cops have broken up the parade. One 15-year-old boy was charged with attempted murder and 14 others were arrested on various charges of obstructing and assaulting police.

Thousands of onlookers turned out to watch the parade and cheer the floats of calypso dancers in colorful costumes and giant puppets. A Haitian float carried banners calling for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and opposing military intervention in Haiti.

As the floats entered Trenholme Park, shots were fired at parade participants, wounding four people. Rows of riot police then ordered the park cleared. One man who refused to leave the park was kicked

in the groin by the cops. Marcos Townsend, a photographer for the *Canadian Press* news agency, who is Black, was maced by the police when he reached down to pick up a camera lens. "I dropped to my hands and knees," he said. "I was coughing and trying to blink." Townsend was handcuffed and later charged with "refusing to circulate."

The cops justified their actions by claiming they were responding to a riot that broke out after the shots were fired into the crowd. Their assertion that "Black gangs" initiated the violence has been widely repeated in the big-business media. Eyewitnesses, however, report that the violence began when scores of cops attacked the crowd.

The brutal police assault comes as no surprise. Montreal mayor Jean Doré has been threatening a crackdown on the right to demonstrate and assemble since vandals looted shops following the Canadian hockey

team's June 9 Stanley Cup victory.

"Eventually police will have to react and readjust and be more repressive," Doré warned at the time.

Montreal police chief Alain St-Germain complained that the Canadian Charter on Rights and Freedoms is restricting police from being able to do their job.

These comments have provoked a sharp debate among working people. Many argue that more cops are necessary to maintain "law and order." But others are not so sure.

Jaques, a construction worker and eyewitness to the July 3 police attack, said, "I saw them hitting people with their nightsticks so hard — people who were just there to have a good time. These people live in this country. They have a right to celebrate. It's wrong that they're talking about taking that right away."

Rosemary Ray is a member of Canadian Autoworkers Local 1900 in Montreal.



# Pro-choice activists prepare to defend clinics in many cities

In cities across the United States, abortion rights activists are mobilizing to defend clinics from a summer offensive organized by the antiabortion outfit Operation Rescue. The July 9-18 "Cities of Refuge" campaign will target clinics in seven areas — Philadelphia; Jackson, Mississippi; Minneapolis; Cleveland; San Jose, California; Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas; and several towns in central Florida. The rightists will harass those entering the clinic, try to intimidate clinic defenders, and attempt to physically block the clinic doors to prevent women from exercising their rights. We print below two articles on preparations to defend clinics in Minnesota and Mississippi.

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — Abortion rights activists here will launch "Keep the Clinics Open Week" with a mass rally July 10.

Nearly 2,000 clinic defenders have already been trained in sessions organized by the Network to Ensure Access (NEA).

"The pro-choice movement is organized, dedicated, and mobilized," Amy Phenix, a leader of the NEA, said. "There are thousands of volunteers now on call 24 hours a day ready to be dispatched to stop illegal anti-choice activity and to ensure that not a single woman will be denied access to a clinic."

More than 1,600 people signed a full-page statement in the daily newspapers in Minneapolis and St. Paul rejecting antiabortion hooliganism.

"We speak now, but we will also act: to protect women and medical facilities and medical providers; to ensure access to medical facilities," the statement read.

The statement, sponsored by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, was signed by Minnesota governor Arne Carlson; U.S. senator Paul Wellstone; Minneapolis mayor Donald Fraser; St. Paul mayor James Scheibel, and scores of area religious figures, elected officials, and community, political, and union activists.

Jon Hillson is a railroad worker and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1000.

BY DENISE MCINERNEY

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Abortion rights activists here are preparing to travel to Jackson, Mississippi, to help defend the clinics there.

"It's important for people who believe in freedom of choice to go to Jackson and show a positive, pro-choice force," stated local clinic defender Paul Dobyns. "We

have to stand up to Operation Rescue and their scare tactics."

"We're going to lose our rights if we don't defend them now," Talitha Williams added.

Dobyns and Williams are members of the newly formed Birmingham Clinic Defense Team. The group regularly organizes defense and patient escorting efforts here. Ten members of the organization traveled to Jackson to participate in a clinic defense training session organized by Mississippi National Organization for Women and Pro-Choice Mississippi. These groups are preparing to respond together to Operation Rescue's plans to blockade the two clinics in Jackson that provide abortion services.

Four public training sessions will be held in Jackson before the July 9 assault. In addition, the Birmingham group will hold a training session here.

The Birmingham team is actively recruiting more people to participate. Two members of the group organized a Rock for Choice concert July 1. Rock for Choice, which is affiliated with the Feminist Major-



Militant/Arnold Weissberg  
Amanda Byrne of Cleveland Pro-choice Access Committee addresses June 12 abortion rights rally. The group was formed to counter Operation Rescue's summer offensive.

ity Foundation, sponsors benefit concerts that aim to encourage pro-choice activities. Three local bands performed at the Birmingham show, and a number of pro-choice groups set up information tables.

David Gunn, Jr., the son of the doctor who was killed by a Florida antiabortion thug in March, sent a message to the show. Honey Gilmore spoke on behalf of the Birmingham

Clinic Defense Team. "We will not have our rights taken from us," Gilmore said. "It's up to us to claim our rights and defend them from physical threats. . . . We must let these rightists know that we will not back down."

Denise McInerney is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 9226 at Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama.

## Women's rights group holds conference

BY NAOMI CRAINE

BOSTON — The National Organization for Women (NOW) held its annual national conference in Boston July 2-4. Some 1,500 delegates and guests from across the country attended the meeting to elect national officers, discuss resolutions, and participate in a variety of workshops and other discussions.

"Our campaign for a woman attorney general brought Janet Reno to power," said the introduction to the conference brochure, "and we know that we must increase pressure for more women, and especially more women of racial and ethnic diversity, to be named to the [Supreme] Court and other positions of power." This "feminization of power" was a focus of many of the speeches at the meeting.

The fight to defend abortion rights was addressed in a couple of workshops. Most of the discussion on that struggle, however, took place informally among hundreds of young activists and others who are gearing up to defend the clinics during Operation Rescue's planned offensive in seven cities July 9-18.

Some 20 members of the NOW chapter on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville organized a workshop for young activists to meet each other and share experiences. They have helped to defend abortion clinics in central Florida, one of Operation Rescue's

main targets. Other participants, from Boston to the San Francisco Bay Area, have been involved in similar struggles.

One session featured speakers from welfare rights organizations from around the country. On the last day, delegates adopted a resolution opposing federal and state "welfare reform laws" that reduce or cut off benefits to recipients "based on number of children, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or ability to work outside the home." The resolution also called for benefits to be raised to meet the federal poverty line, including cost-of-living adjustments.

"You have to get your backbone up and fight," Sally Bartolo, a school cafeteria worker from Everett, Massachusetts, told the gathering. She and 31 other workers were fired from their jobs, which paid \$4.94 per hour, after joining Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 26. They waged a public fight, including demonstrating in downtown Everett. They won a sex discrimination lawsuit on the grounds that their work was of comparable worth to that of the school cus-

todians, who were paid twice as much, but they have not been rehired.

Bartolo spoke at a session titled "Everyday Women/Extraordinary Acts." The platform also included a female police officer who described a years-long fight to be promoted to captain.

Defending gay rights was also part of the organized and informal discussions at the conference. One guest there was Darlena DeBerry, a person with AIDS from Tampa whose house was firebombed while she was in Washington, D.C., April 24 to take part in a national demonstration for gay rights. She and other activists from Tampa, New York, and Chicago organized a demonstration of more than 100 people in Tampa June 14 demanding the police carry out a real investigation.

"This is important," she said, "because six homes of gays and lesbians have been torched in the Tampa area in the last three years."

The delegates reelected NOW president Patricia Ireland to a four-year term.

## 'Militant' receives excellent response at library meeting

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW ORLEANS — The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* received an excellent response from many of the thousands of librarians attending the American Library Association conference held here June 26-29. This was the first time representatives of the two socialist periodicals participated in the annual event.

More than 12,000 librarians from every state in the United States and from several other countries attended the conference. Hundreds of businesses set up tables to exhibit their literature and other products.

Supporters of the socialist press set up an attractive display table to promote *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, bound volumes, and the *Militant* on microfilm from 1928 to the present.

Enlarged front covers of historical issues of the *Militant*, featuring reports on strike battles in 1934 and 1943 and the assassination of Malcolm X in 1965, attracted the attention of thousands of librarians passing by the table. A large poster highlighting earlier issues of the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, which has been published since 1977, was also on display.

*Militant* supporters distributed 1,800 copies of a new brochure promoting library subscriptions, and several hundred copies of a *Perspectiva Mundial* promotion piece. Librarians also picked up 150 copies of both the 1992 *Militant* index and the cur-

rent issue of the paper.

A number of librarians and teachers attending the conference stopped by the table for further political discussions. They were particularly interested in learning about the *Militant's* history and its coverage today on the labor movement and important issues in world politics, such as the democratic revolution unfolding in South Africa and the roots of the Yugoslav conflict.

Many responded favorably when told that the *Militant* opposes the U.S. bombing attacks against Iraq and Somalia. "I'm glad there's someone presenting this kind of information," commented one librarian from Decatur, Georgia.

A conference participant from the University of Ghana wanted to read the *Militant's* coverage from the mid-1980s on the revolution in Burkina Faso and its central leader Thomas Sankara. A representative of the University of the Virgin Islands came by the table to discuss the *Militant's* view of recent developments in eastern Europe and Russia. From the University of Puerto Rico, one librarian was quite excited to learn for the first time about *Perspectiva Mundial* and how to subscribe.

*Militant* library subscriptions are available for \$80 a year, including the index. The annual library rate for *Perspectiva Mundial* is \$40. For further information, contact the *Militant* business office at 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

## Supporters of framed-up unionist get good reception at NOW gathering

Supporters of the fight for justice for Mark Curtis, a union activist framed up by police in Des Moines, Iowa, on sexual assault charges in 1988, got a very good response at the NOW national conference. Hundreds of participants took literature on the case and on the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's current campaign for letters supporting Curtis's right to parole.

Some people attending the conference were already familiar with the case; many others were learning about it for the first time. Several people signed up to receive further information, see the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*, or write a letter to the parole board when they got home. One delegate watched the video during the conference and said she would read more and consider supporting the case.

Fifteen conference participants bought packets containing further information. The packets included facts about the defense case, letters from prominent supporters, articles by opponents of Curtis's

fight for justice, and a pamphlet answering those slandering the defense effort. One person who read the entire packet in one night said she appreciated the fact that the defense committee included literature produced by those who believe Curtis should remain in prison. "I'm still not sure what I think," she said, "but I'd like to discuss it more."

A few opponents of the defense campaign briefly leafleted outside the first two days of the conference. The flier they passed out denounced, by name, individual members of NOW who had endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee or supported Curtis's democratic rights as a prisoner, and demanded they withdraw support. NOW as an organization has no position on the case.

Curtis supporters spoke to many of those who received this leaflet, and found a lot of interest in learning the facts of the case. "I want to know more about the case," a delegate from New Jersey said. "I know that rape charges are sometimes used to victimize people." —N.C.



# Victory in cop brutality case reaffirmed

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — The U.S. Federal Court of Appeals issued a ruling May 28 upholding a lower court decision that found two Des Moines police officers had brutally beaten Mark Curtis while he was in their custody.

Curtis, a former packinghouse worker, was arrested in March 1988. He was framed on charges of rape for his union and political activity in defense of the rights of his immigrant coworkers. The cops called him a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds," as they beat him. In September of that year he was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison on the rape charge. A burglary count — tacked on weeks after his arrest — brought the sentence up to 25 years.

Curtis sued the cops under federal civil rights law. In January 1992 the court ruled in his favor.

Senior Circuit Court judge Myron Bright, writing for a three-judge appeals panel, summed up the facts proven at the trial: "Curtis was taken to the Des Moines jail, where, while being processed, Des Moines police officers Daniel Dusenberry and Charles Wolf physically beat him."

The appeals court ruling upholds the full damages and attorney fee award against the Des Moines cops — totaling, with costs and interest, \$64,000. According to the Des Moines city attorney, this judgment was the largest against the cops in years.

The court ruling is an important blow to the frame-up itself. By reaffirming that the cops lied about the beating, it raises questions about their testimony on the rape and burglary charges. This victory comes as Curtis's supporters launch an international campaign to urge the Iowa State Board of Parole to release him. Curtis has now served over four and a half years in prison and more than meets the legal requirements for parole. The court ruling will also give a boost to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's campaign to raise \$15,000 to pay legal and other expenses.

The appeals court decision is also a blow to the attempt of Keith and Denise Morris, parents of the young woman Curtis is accused of attacking, to seize the \$49,000 in fees awarded to Curtis's attorneys and the \$11,000 in damages — also paid to the at-



Framed-up unionist Mark Curtis after beating by Des Moines police in March 1988. Cops called him a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds," as they beat him.

torneys for outstanding bills — won in the lawsuit against the cops.

The Morrisses, who attended every day of the trial of the cops who beat Curtis to show support for the police, laid claim to the entire \$64,000 settlement. Because of a civil judgment they won in 1990 for damages, based solely on the frame-up conviction, the Morrisses claim Curtis owes them \$80,000.

The appeals court ruled that the lower court was correct in awarding the \$49,000 to Curtis's attorneys. This is an important civil rights issue. The law under which Curtis challenged the cops' brutality was a product of the Black rights struggles of the 1950s and '60s. In addition to allowing for such suits, the law mandates that lawyers who take on civil rights cases against the government are acting in the interest of everyone and should, if victorious, have their fees paid by the government. This provision allows attorneys to take on cases for victims of government attack who are too poor to hire a lawyer.

"The clear Congressional intent and pur-

pose of [the civil rights law] was to encourage attorneys to prosecute constitutional violations," the appeals court said in upholding Curtis's victory. "This is precisely what Curtis's attorneys did in prosecuting Curtis's civil rights claims against the police officials."

The judges, however, also ruled that the lower court made a mistake in awarding the \$11,000 Curtis won in damages to his

attorneys in payment of outstanding legal debts.

The new ruling awards the \$11,000 and interest, to Keith and Denise Morris. This means that Curtis's attorneys will have to give the money — already paid to them by Curtis — to the Morrisses. On July 7, the Court of Appeals rejected a request by Curtis's attorneys to rehear and reconsider this aspect of their verdict.

While praising the ruling as a whole as a vindication of Curtis's civil rights fight against police brutality, the request for a rehearing explained that the court's decision to ward the \$11,000 to the Morrisses was based on a simple misreading of the facts under the Iowa law concerning priority in granting outstanding financial claims.

Aggressively contacting supporters and winning new adherents to write letters urging Mark be paroled and to contribute financially provides the opportunity to explain the ruling upholding Curtis's victory over police brutality, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee said in a June 27 letter sent to supporters. The letter noted that this would also put supporters in the best position to raise the extra funds needed to pay the lawyers if the appeals court does not reverse their ruling on the allocation of the damages award.

Supporters in Des Moines report that after just four calls, they have received one check for \$500 and additional pledges totaling \$1,250.

## CORRECTION

In the June 28 issue of the *Militant* an article by Selva Nebbia quoted the letter sent out by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to supporters. One sentence incorrectly said, "Curtis's discharge date on the burglary conviction is currently June 2001."

The letter from the defense committee is in error. I will in fact discharge my 25-year sentence in June 2000. At mid-

night June 17 I discharged my 10-year sentence for third degree sexual abuse.

Please make this correction in an upcoming edition of the *Militant*. Many of my supporters look to the *Militant* for facts on this fight. Other than that small error, the coverage has been terrific! Thank you!

Mark Curtis  
Fort Madison, Iowa

## Prison releases Curtis's files

At the beginning of June, officials at the John Bennett Correctional Center in Fort Madison, Iowa, released to Mark Curtis 11 pages of files in response to his request to see the records compiled on him over the last year.

The files show that Curtis continues to be regarded as a good prisoner. He was awarded the highest ratings in both his "domicile evaluation" and "detail evaluation." These reflect the prison authorities' opinion of an inmate's living and work performance. Curtis is evaluated as "outstanding" in both areas.

His job supervisor rates him a "very good student and worker." His housing supervisor adds that Curtis has a "good bed area and gets along well."

At the same time, the files show that prison authorities continue to raise the fact that Curtis maintains his innocence as the central obstacle to his release.

"Dangerous person with this type of crime and his deep seeded denial he is very likely to reoffend," reads a treatment program evaluation in the file.

Supporters of justice for Curtis are urging the Iowa State Board of Parole to meet this summer and grant Curtis parole.

Curtis more than meets the legal criteria for freedom. He has served more than the average time for the rape charge for which he was framed; he had no previous convictions; his behavior and work record have been excellent; and he has widespread community support.

Last month Curtis actually served out his time on the 10-year conviction for sexual assault. Under Iowa law, prisoners get a day off for each day they serve without prison discipline, as well as extra time off for good behavior. Curtis has served more than four-and-one-half years. — J.S.

## Police ban books in English at Montreal rally

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — "The Pathfinder Bookstore lodges complaint with Police Board" was the headline of an article that appeared in the June 26 Montreal daily, *Le Devoir*. It described the Pathfinder Bookstore's protest of the police banning of all English-language books from a literature table set up at a June 14 public rally.

Police officers ordered the books removed from the table outside the Maurice Richard Arena. The Coalition Against Law 86, which includes nationalist organizations such as the Movement for a French Quebec and the three major union federations in Quebec, was holding a rally there against a legislative bill that would lift the ban on bilingual signs.

Representatives from the bookstore held a news conference June 22 to protest the police action.

"The decision of the Montreal police to force volunteers from the Pathfinder bookstore to stop the distribution of books in English outside a public rally constitutes an attack on the democratic rights of all," said Katy LeRougetel, codirector of the bookstore. "Does this mean that it's illegal to sell books in English in Montreal? Is it illegal to sell books by international leaders of working people like Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, and Karl Marx?"

"Pathfinder bookstore volunteers," continued LeRougetel, "are convinced that the fight against discrimination, which the Quebecois are subjected to on the basis of language, can only be waged if it's with total respect for the rights of all." The Quebecois constitute a French-speaking oppressed nationality in Canada.

Adopted a few days later by Quebec's national assembly, Law 86 partially lifts a 16-year ban on any language but French on public signs as well as on English immersion classes in the French school system in Quebec. These immersion classes are courses in math, history, or other subjects taught in English at French-language schools as a more efficient way to teach

children English than simply through English-language classes.

Large sections of working people in Quebec oppose these antidemocratic restrictions, which had been part of an otherwise progressive set of measures aimed at overcoming decades of discrimination imposed on the French-speaking majority of the Quebecois population.

The Movement for a French Quebec opposed Law 86 on the ground that it would open the door to the "englishization" of Quebec and launched what was in fact an anti-English and anti-immigrant campaign.

Two men, one of whom wore swastikas and other neo-Nazi symbols, had been distributing a leaflet to rally participants calling for "Quebec for the real Quebecois" and making derogatory remarks against Jews, Greeks, and Italians. The two men began threatening volunteers staffing the Pathfinder literature table at the entrance of the meeting.

### Cops deem T-shirt provocative

At roughly the same time, police officers asked Roger Annis, another bookstore volunteer who was selling the *Militant* nearby, what this newspaper was about. The police also asked if he supported "the Indians" since he was wearing a T-shirt with a slogan opposing 400 years of oppression against Native people.

The cops said that selling a newspaper like the *Militant* and wearing a T-shirt supporting Native people was a provocation. "You should leave," they added.

LeRougetel arrived during this discussion. A cop stressed that the meeting organizers didn't want books in English being sold outside their rally. LeRougetel went to check this fact together with two cops. One of the organizers of the rally said that books in French could stay, but not those in English.

The cops then said that the Pathfinder bookstore volunteers had the choice either to bow to this undemocratic restriction or move their table onto the sidewalk far away

from the people coming to the meeting. While protesting this decision, the volunteers removed books and documents in English from the table. A cop came back later to verify that nothing in English remained.

"It was just the police and the ultra-rightists who found our books 'provocative,'" said LeRougetel at the June 22 news conference. "A lot of people going to the rally stopped by the table to look at our books and discuss their content."

"The Pathfinder bookstore requests that Mayor Doré exercise his authority to guarantee that the Montreal police will never again stop the distribution of books on the basis of their language or political content," she concluded.

Messages protesting the police action were sent to the press conference by André Paradis, director of the League for Rights and Freedoms; Solidarité populaire Québec, a Quebec-wide coalition of some 60 community and union organizations; the Canadian Center on Racism and Prejudices; James Mafisa, African National Congress representative in Montreal; and world-famous sculptor Armand Vaillancourt.

The police decision, wrote Paradis, "was an arbitrary action restricting the right to protest, a key element of the freedom of expression." "Banning the sale of books in English or in any other language," said Solidarité populaire Québec's message, "doesn't have a place in a democratic society."

Reports on the Pathfinder bookstore's protest were aired or published locally by CFCF-TV, MIX 96-FM, Radio Centre-ville, *The Gazette*, *Le Devoir* and *The Mirror*, and nationally by the Canadian television network.

Two days after the news conference, Pathfinder bookstore volunteers set up a literature table at Quebec's national celebrations in Montreal, where a number of people expressed opposition to the police action.

Michel Prairie is a member of Communication, Energy and Paper Union Local 103 at Smith and Nephew in Lachine, Quebec.



# UMWA wins gains from new employer bargaining group

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BROOKWOOD, Alabama — The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and companies belonging to the Independent Bituminous Coal Bargaining Alliance (IBCBA) reached agreement recently on a one-year interim pact. The agreement takes the form of significant amendments to the 1988 contract between the union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

Fourteen thousand coal miners remain on strike in six states for a contract with companies belonging to the BCOA.

Jim Walter Resources, Drummond Co., and U.S. Steel Mining Co. signed the new agreement June 30. Westmoreland Coal signed the pact three days later.

While it does not take up the question of wages or pension benefits, the interim agreement between the UMWA and IBCBA directly addresses the major issue in dispute between the union and the larger BCOA — the rights of union members and the union at new or newly acquired operations of signatory companies.

According to the agreement, all job openings at existing, new, or newly acquired mines will be filled first by members of the UMWA. For the first time, miners who work at older operations of signatory companies will have transfer rights to new mines.

In addition, the obligation of companies to hire laid-off UMWA miners will extend for the first time beyond the particular company's laid-off employees to all laid-off union members.

Companies wishing to sell mines must

secure from the prospective buyers prior agreement to comply with the terms of the contract.

The new pact also streamlines the process the union must go through to win recognition. The UMWA will be recognized automatically and the current agreement implemented after a majority of the workers at any mine sign cards, and the cards are verified by a neutral party chosen by mutual consent of the union and company. The new process effectively bypasses National Labor Relations Board elections.

The agreement also allows for seven-day-a-week, round-the-clock production schedules, if the company gets the approval of the local union.

New medical care provisions effectively limit individuals' choice of doctor, and increase copayments for use of doctors and other health-care providers who are not officially part of the plan.

The interim agreement was entered into without a membership ratification vote. It will be explained to union members, many of whom are on a two-week vacation, at union meetings over the next three weeks.

Ratification of a contract based either on a new pact with the BCOA, one arrived at with the IBCBA, or one based on a third agreement will be done by membership vote. Parts of the interim agreement can be incorporated into the new pact at the request of either the union or the companies.

*John Hawkins is a laid-off miner at Jim Walters Resources and member of UMWA Local 2368.*

## Support grows for coal strike

Fourteen thousand miners are on strike in six states against companies that are part of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The miners, who are fighting for a decent contract, have been reaching out for solidarity. Their fight has inspired workers around the world.

Busloads of camouflage-clad UMWA strikers from the Rochester and Pittsburgh mines in southwestern Pennsylvania joined hundreds of unionists at a rally in Pittsburgh June 22. The rally was organized to support the workers at Pittsburgh Plate Glass, who are locked out and fighting company attempts to cut health and pension benefits.

Montono Norihisa, secretary of the National Confederation of Trade Unions in Japan, was one of the speakers who addressed the rally. Norihisa also visited several UMWA picket lines near Wheeling, West Virginia, during his stay in the United States.

Six hundred miners and their supporters joined a June 27 solidarity rally and picnic in Ava, Illinois. Dave Duncan, a mechanic at Alaska Airlines, told the rally, "This fight

is our wake-up call." Duncan spent three days on the picket lines as part of an International Association of Machinists delegation from Washington state.

One hundred fifty striking miners marched in the Fairview, West Virginia, Fourth of July parade. "What do we want? We want a contract," and "No contract, no coal," they chanted. Two hundred miners and their families also marched in Steelville, Illinois.

On July 1, 50 company security guards massed by the picket shack outside Arch Mineral's Ruffner mine near Yolyn, West Virginia. Arch is suing the union, claiming the picket shack is on company grounds. The union quickly mobilized 150 strikers, and after a heated standoff the company relinquished the shack to the miners.

Support for the UMWA strike was a feature of a June 20 meeting organized by UMWA Local 9856 in Ludlow, Colorado, to commemorate the Ludlow massacre. In 1914, Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. thugs slaughtered 30 striking miners and their family members there.

Larry Deeds, UMWA Region 4 director, told 300 miners and their supporters, "Some think things have changed from the early days when our ancestors fought for the eight-hour day and union recognition. But we face the same employers' attitudes that our brothers and sisters faced in Ludlow 79 years ago."

Rallies to support the UMWA strike are scheduled for July 14 in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania; July 15 in Pinkneville, Illinois; July 17 in Lick Creek, West Virginia; and July 18 in Homer City, Pennsylvania.

*Mary Zins in St. Louis; Bob Braxton in Yolyn, West Virginia; Cappy Kidd in Sullivan, Indiana; Bill Scheer in Pittsburgh; Richard Sorentino in Ava, Illinois; and Dave Salner in Ludlow, Colorado, contributed to this article.*



Bernard Evans (with beard), international organizer for UMWA District 17, talking to reporters after the Wolf Creek vote.

## Eastern Kentucky miners win union vote at Wolf Creek

BY CONNIE ALLEN

LOVELY, Kentucky — Seventy miners from Ziegler Holding Co.'s Wolf Creek mine in Martin County, Kentucky, poured out of the vote count for union representation June 28 shouting, "We're union, we did it." Asked how he felt, John Chapman, who helped lead the union drive, said, "It means the world to us. It's like being born again. We're all brothers now." The union was voted in by a 146-113 margin.

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) president Richard Trumka issued a statement following the victory. "We're proud that the miners of Wolf Creek have voted to join the UMW family," he said. "It is a tremendous statement of solidarity that they decided to take their stand with the UMW in the height of a national coal strike."

Wolf Creek Collieries is right across the Tug River from the Marrowbone mine complex in southern West Virginia, which is also owned by Ziegler. On May 27, miners there won a resounding victory when they voted

256-151 to join the UMWA. Ziegler has challenged that vote.

Joe Stanley, newly elected president of UMWA Local 93 at Marrowbone, attended the Wolf Creek celebration following the vote count. "Workers are going back to the union," Stanley said. "You know people are serious when we do it now."

### 'Organized labor on the move'

Miners from the nearby Pontiki Coal Co., where an organizing drive is underway, also came to show support for the Wolf Creek miners. One miner pointed out, "Pontiki people were an inspiration. Wolf Creek people will be there to help Pontiki."

Miners at Beech Fork Coal Co., another eastern Kentucky mine, are also signing union cards. The local owner, Jim Booth, has threatened to shut the mine if the union is voted in. "We're going to take on Beech Fork next," one Wolf Creek miner said. "They are going to give those boys the right to vote."

## Unionists rally in solidarity with locked-out Illinois Staley workers

BY CAPPY KIDD

DECATUR, Illinois — Nearly 800 production workers were locked out at the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co.'s huge corn-processing plant here June 27.

The company had imposed a concession contract on the workers, members of Allied Industrial Workers (AIW) Local 837, in October 1992. The management terms included abolishing seniority rights, combining and assigning jobs at the supervisors' discretion, and forcing workers to work 12-hour rotating shifts with no overtime pay. Union members had responded with an in-plant strategy that included a work-to-rule policy and a fight to enforce safety regulations.

Management locked out 780 employees the day after 4,000 unionists and others rallied in Decatur to support the AIW members, striking coal miners, and members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) at Caterpillar, who have been waging a struggle like their brothers and sisters at Staley.

"If we have to drag our employers into the future kicking and screaming all the way, then so be it," said Gary Butler, a representative of United Mine Workers of America District 12 at the rally. "But it will be done as long as we have solidarity."

Contingents of Firestone rubber workers, teachers, grain millers, railroad workers, as well as representatives of other unions, joined red-shirted Staley and Caterpillar workers and coal miners wearing camouflage at the rally.

The solidarity activities began with a human chain stretching three and a half miles from the Staley plant to the Caterpillar factory in town. Caterpillar also imposed a concession contract on its workers after the UAW ended a five-month strike against the company in April 1992.

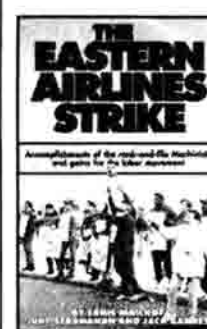
One of the best-received speakers at the rally was Gary Taylor, a rank-and-file AIW member who has worked at Staley 19 years. The company fired him for defending a

coworker on a safety issue. On June 16 the entire first and second shifts at the plant walked out to protest the firing. Taylor explained that this decisive action by fellow union members forced the company to reinstate him.

The day after the lockout 1,200 people rallied outside Staley's corporate headquarters to protest the company action. Pickets have also gone up at the plant gates to explain the lockout and ask truck drivers not to pick up or deliver materials. A contingent of hundreds of workers will be going to the state capitol in Springfield to demand workers be granted unemployment benefits.

*Cappy Kidd is a member of United Transportation Union Local 577 in Chicago.*

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# Political space opens for workers in Iran

BY GREG ROSENBERG

NEW YORK — The world economic and social crisis combined with the disintegration of the Soviet Union has led to broadening ferment and political discussions by working people in Iran and the central Asian republics. Ma'mud Shirvani told participants at a Militant Labor Forum here June 26. Shirvani recently returned from Iran where he attended the sixth international Tehran Book Fair. Three representatives of Pathfinder Press, the only publisher present from the United States, attended the fair. They later traveled to other cities in Iran and to Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Pathfinder publishes and distributes books on the history and struggles of working people, including the speeches and writings of revolutionary leaders such as Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Fidel Castro, Nelson Mandela, and Malcolm X.

"Over half a million people, from all walks of life, attended the book fair," said Shirvani. They ranged from workers to soldiers, and from students to Islamic clerics. The event was given national prominence, with coverage each evening on national TV. Youth from around the country came to visit the displays. The Iranian government subsidized 63 percent of book costs.

Sixty-thousand titles were presented for direct sale to those in attendance at the fair. Of these, 27,000 were in English, mainly focusing on scientific and technical texts.

According to Pathfinder sales director Rich Stuart, the publisher's sales in Tehran were the highest ever at a book fair.

## Pathfinder well received

"Are these books really published in the United States?" people at the book fair would ask in disbelief as they looked enthusiastically over the large selection of Pathfinder titles. "People just couldn't believe that books on the Cuban revolution and the fight for women's rights, or the *New Internationalist* with the article 'Washington's Assault On Iraq: The Opening Guns of World War III' could be published inside a country that plays such a reactionary role in the world," said Shirvani.

He likened this reaction to the disbelief that many working people in the United States had expressed on hearing that Pathfinder was planning to attend the book fair in Iran, a country many people identify solely with Islamic fundamentalism.

But Iran is a country with a long history of working-class struggle, explained Shirvani. In 1979, a powerful revolution mobilized millions of working people to topple the regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

This revolution began with a mass uprising in the city of Tabriz in 1978 and quickly spread across the country as millions came into action against the shah's dictatorship. Hundreds were killed as a result of the military repression. A working-class general strike, led by the oil workers, shut down the country's key industry for months and resulted in a mass insurrection that brought down one of the world's most heavily armed and brutal regimes.

Despite Iran's rich revolutionary heritage, the 1979 revolution did not lead to a workers and peasants government because of the crisis of working-class leadership, explained Shirvani. Stalinism had managed to kill Marxism in Russia and break the political and organizational continuity of the revolutionists in Iran with the Bolshevik-led Russian revolution. Instead, a section of Iran's capitalist class, although weakened, managed to take governmental power and hold on to it.

Today, under the impact of the crisis of the bureaucratic regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the world crisis of capitalism, new space for political discussion is once again opening up in Iran.

"Tabriz, the home of the 1978 uprising is now the first city in Iran to carry Pathfinder books," stated Shirvani. A lively slide show accompanying his presentation showed the Ark Tabriz bookstore with half a dozen Pathfinder books — including *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*, the *New Internationalist* on the Iraq war, Leon Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed*, and titles by Malcolm X — prominently displayed in the windows.

The book fair took place during the presidential election campaign in Iran, reported Shirvani. All four candidates in the June 11 elections were chosen by a council of clerics. "One hundred and fifty people applied to

run," noted Shirvani, "but they were ruled off the ballot. Clearly the authorities didn't want the elections to become an arena of politics where working people could discuss broader questions." President Hashemi Rafsanjani was reelected with 63 percent of the vote, although less than 60 percent of those eligible voted.

## Working people protest 'market reforms'

Rafsanjani's victory indicates that the government will deepen the course it's been on for the past several years of becoming more a part of the world capitalist system, said Shirvani. The bourgeoisie has pretty much consolidated its power over the petty bourgeois currents — the Islamic radicals, as they are sometimes called here.

The drive to integrate Iran more into the world capitalist market has included reductions in subsidies for food and other necessities,



Book fair participants at Pathfinder display. Many were surprised to see books on the Cuban revolution, Gulf War, and women's rights printed in the United States.

ties, and the privatization of many nationalized industries, said Shirvani. In some cases, the state-owned factories and nationalized plants are divided up and the identity of the new owners kept secret, leading to clashes between workers and the bosses.

Inflation is now at 40 percent and unemployment is growing, stated Shirvani. When the subsidy for milk was cut recently, prices increased from 7 cents a bottle to 12 cents. Working people across Iran were outraged. In Tabriz, a boycott was organized and in Isfahan demonstrations occurred. After only a few days, the government dropped the price down to 9 cents a bottle.

"There is also a tug of war over the land question," said Shirvani. During the 1979 revolution, peasants, including some who had recently arrived in the cities, took over plots of land in order to build houses. In recent years, however, landowners have demanded that these working people get off their property. "You don't have ownership," they say. But, said Shirvani, since people feel that the revolution has given them the right to a piece of land to build a house on, "this is provoking a struggle."

Last year, major riots shook Mashad and several other cities in opposition to the landowners' demands. Some buildings were burned down, and nine police were reported killed. In the absence of any working-class leadership, almost 24 percent of those voting cast ballots for Ahmad Tavakkoli in the presidential elections. Tavakkoli is a former labor minister who now edits the economic section of Tehran's right-wing daily *Resalat*. His campaign attacked Rafsanjani's "economic reform" measures.

"Tavakkoli is not a very popular person in Iran," explained Shirvani. "He was the minister of labor who presided over the dissolution of the shoras in the early 1980s." The shoras were the workers and peasants councils that came out of the 1979 revolution.

Events like these show that disaffection with the regime exists in spite of Rafsanjani's victory in the election.

Many people in Iran are also dissatisfied with the many restrictions imposed on women under Iranian law. At the book fair, said Shirvani, there were continuous announcements reminding women to "observe

the Islamic veil." This requires women to be covered from ankle to wrist and to cover their heads with a veil at all times when they are out in public. On June 22, more than 800 women were arrested for violations of the dress code.

In Iran, unlike in Saudi Arabia, women are allowed to hold all kinds of jobs from taxi driver to technician to head librarian. But two young women cannot go for a walk together to the beach.

The main thing to understand is that it is not a question of whether the veil is good or bad, said Shirvani. "It's about a woman's right to choose whether to wear it or not." Many women in Muslim families would still choose to wear the veil. During the shah's time, under a decree of "modernizing" Iran, women often had their veils forcibly stripped off in public by the police. After the revolution, the government tried to impose

attempts to win greater influence through increased trade and economic connections.

In fact, the Clinton administration has put new vigor into the campaign to isolate Iran. It is now trying to get the rulers in London, Tokyo, Paris, and Bonn to cut off loans, investments, and arms sales to the Tehran government, and is accusing the Iranian regime of secretly developing or buying nuclear weapons.

"In Baku," Shirvani reported, "Pathfinder representatives were able to find some important documents for the forthcoming book *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920 — First Congress of the Peoples of the East*." These documents had never before been made available.

The Baku Congress, organized by the revolutionary Communist International in 1920, "was the first meeting of the communist movement to include representatives of both the working-class vanguard from the capitalist countries and the oppressed of the East, many of whom lived in precapitalist societies," said Shirvani. "They met on the basis of equality and mapped out a program of struggle for the emancipation of all, not just the peoples of the East."

"Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin had argued that the awakening of the peoples of the East meant a giant new ally for the working class in Europe," continued Shirvani. One of the documents from the Baku Congress that was given to Pathfinder during the recent trip is a declaration entitled, "Workers of Armenia have Cemented an Alliance with Toiling Azerbaijan."

These documents, said Shirvani, are especially important today. The governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought a five-year war over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which sits within Azerbaijan's borders but whose population is majority Armenian.

In spite of the offensive being carried out by Armenian forces against some Azerbaijani towns, there was no war hysteria in Baku, said Shirvani. But there were also no clear expressions of solidarity with the toilers of Armenia.

The 1920 statement of the Armenian working people reads as living history. It shows the only way forward — the solidarity of workers and peasants — and it explains how the capitalist rulers will use the conflicts in the region to make further gains at the expense of the toilers.

The warm reception accorded Pathfinder included meetings at the Academy of Sciences, the State Library, and the country's main book distribution agency. Pathfinder representatives were surprised to learn that plans had been made for a two-volume book on the Baku Congress to be published in Azerbaijan. However it was shelved following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Those inside Azerbaijan who had been working on this project were amazed to learn of Pathfinder's plans.

"Things are opening up in Iran and throughout the region, both for trade and for political ideas," said Shirvani. This is not exceptional. The openness to communist ideas and the ability to get these ideas around has rapidly spread throughout the world.

One item in the Pathfinder visitors book reads simply, "Compliments! Your stall lives up to its name."

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# Sale gives workers, youth opportunity to buy Marxist classics

BY STEVE CLARK

This summer members of the Pathfinder Readers Club and readers of the *Militant* can take advantage of a special offer by Pathfinder Press on a range of books and pamphlets by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the founding leaders of the modern communist workers' movement. (See advertisement on facing page.)

Since many of these books are out of print or have been in short supply, substantial numbers were bought by the Socialist Workers Party in the mid-1980s and kept in reserve for use at future sessions of its leadership school. Now that most of the articles and letters in these books have been published over the past half decade in new volumes of the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels, the SWP is making these earlier books available to Pathfinder Press for sale.

The special offer is available only to members of the Pathfinder Readers Club. For a \$10 annual fee, Readers Club members receive a card that entitles them to a 15 percent discount on all Pathfinder titles bought at Pathfinder bookstores or by mail order, as well as even bigger discounts several times a year on particular titles.

Taking advantage of the current Marx and Engels package alone is reason enough to sign up for a Readers Club card. What's more, Pathfinder and all Pathfinder bookstores will extend a one-year renewal to any current Readers Club member who purchases \$100 or more of the books in this special offer.

## Leadership school

The SWP leadership school, whose next session will begin in early 1994, was re-established in 1980. Its aim is to facilitate the systematic communist political education of members of the Socialist Workers Party's elected leadership committee, of younger participants chosen in agreement with the leaderships of communist youth and trade unionists, and of members of leadership bodies of communist organizations in other countries.

Over a six-month period, workers at the school study the writings of Marx and Engels chronologically, from the early 1840s through the mid-1870s. Students at the school learn how Marx and Engels became revolutionary fighters and were won to the organized communist movement at that time by the example and efforts of experienced veterans of struggles of the workers' movement from several countries. Through these experiences, the revolutionists discovered in practice the scientific method of participating in politics from the standpoint of the

international working class and codified those lessons for all future generations of workers.

Plans for the Socialist Workers Party's first leadership school originated at the federal penitentiary in Sandstone, Minnesota. In the early 1940s, James P. Cannon, Farrell Dobbs, and other leaders of the SWP and of the Minneapolis-based Teamsters union local were railroaded to prison because of their outspoken opposition to Washington's course of dragging working people into the second world imperialist slaughter.

These working-class leaders organized to study collectively in prison. Cannon, in letters to the SWP leadership beyond the walls and bars, proposed on behalf of the jailed revolutionists that a party school be initiated to carry out intensive Marxist education on a nationwide basis. Following World War II, the party organized a school that held sessions throughout the 1950s and into the early 1960s.

The SWP decided to reinstitute the leadership school at a 1978 meeting of its National Committee (NC) that launched the effort to get the big majority of the party's members into jobs organized by major industrial unions. Commenting on these decisions at an NC meeting just prior to the first session of the leadership school, SWP national secretary Jack Barnes pointed out that the party's turn to the industrial working class and unions laid the basis to start up a school centered on the study of Marx and Engels's political works.

This was true, Barnes said, because Marxism is unique in a special way. "It is the totally self-conscious expression of the interests of a class. The more we are part of that class," its struggles, and its broader organizations, he said, the more Marxism becomes understandable, usable, internalized, and, most importantly, indispensable.

The school has directly equipped some 150 communist leaders from various countries to participate in politics and the class struggle—in their unions, communities, and various social protest movements against war, racism, and women's oppression—with a better understanding of the continuity of working-class program and strategy going back some 150 years. This understanding helps them work with others to forge the communist organizations, as part of an international revolutionary movement, that are so vital to fight effectively against capitalism.

## 'Collected Works'

The leadership school's study guide and library center on the writings in the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels.

So far, 43 of 50 volumes of the *Works* have been published. These include all of Marx and Engels's political articles, pamphlets, and books (volumes 1-27); all of their letters during Marx's lifetime (volumes 38-46); and Marx's economic notebooks and writings preparing *Capital* (volumes 28-34). Still to come off the press are the three volumes of *Capital* (volumes 35-37), as well as four volumes of Engels's letters from the 12 years he lived after Marx's death (volumes 47-50).

At the time of the first session of the school in 1980, only the first 14 volumes of the *Collected Works*—covering 1835 to mid-1856—were in print. None of the volumes containing Marx and Engels's collected letters were available for two more years, and the first of the volumes of Marx's economic writings did not appear until 1986. As a result, sessions of the school relied substantially on other books and pamphlets containing particular works by Marx and Engels, as well as a range of anthologies and selections that included articles, letters, and other materials from years not yet covered by the *Collected Works*.

Such books, pamphlets, and anthologies—on topics ranging from Ireland to the trade unions, from British colonialism in India to women and the family, from the peasant war in Germany of 1525 to the Civil



Militant/Doug Hord

Books by Marx and Engels in Moscow warehouse slated to be pulped. Pathfinder salvaged some 15,000 volumes of the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels in Russia last year and is working to ensure these valuable writings remain accessible to workers and young people around the world.

War in the United States of 1860-65—are invaluable tools for communist education. They are the best starting point for class-struggle-minded workers and revolutionary youth to read Marxist ideas and discuss them with others, in order to collectively bring the lessons to bear in their political activity.

But many of these books and pamphlets are now out of print.

Progress Publishers of Moscow ceased publishing them in 1990. The privileged bureaucrats in the former Soviet Union—who for more than half a century carried out a counterrevolutionary course directly opposite that charted by Marx and Engels—have given up even the pretense of communism behind which they had previously cloaked their anti-working-class policies. As a result, they no longer have any interest in keeping in print, let alone circulating, the works of Marx and Engels. They have also stopped publishing the writings of V. I. Lenin, the central leader of the Bolshevik Party that led the workers and peasants to power in Russia in October 1917.

## Changing needs

As work got under way earlier this year to prepare the next session of the leadership school, it became clear these shifts in the availability of Marx and Engels's writings have led to changes in the list of books each student must use. The school's library needed reorganization as well.

With the near-completion of the *Collected Works*, students no longer require many of the books and anthologies previously used at the school. While a single copy of many of these books remains useful, there is no longer a need for multiple copies.

Thus, many volumes bought by supporters of the school around the world and put in safekeeping for future sessions are now available for sale.

Pathfinder has sought to increase its stocks of these now hard-to-get titles by searching around the world for supplies that can be taken out of dusty warehouses and sold to people who want to read them and learn their lessons for today. Last year,

for example, Pathfinder salvaged some 15,000 volumes of the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels in Russia that had been sold to a paper-recycling mill by Progress Publishers. Those sets of the *Collected Works* are now part of Pathfinder's special sale featured in this issue of the *Militant*.

In addition, Pathfinder is working to collaborate with International Publishers, which has printed and distributed books by Marx and Engels for many years, to keep as many of their works available as possible. Pathfinder, like International and other publishers and distributors, has in stock varying numbers of each of the volumes of the *Collected Works* and other titles by Marx and Engels. Pathfinder is committed to do what it can to collaborate with International and other publishers to help fill out complete sets of the multivolume series and ensure that these political works get into the hands of those who need and want them.

Pathfinder is also helping to keep communist literature available in countries with the greatest concentration of revolutionary fighters today, such as South Africa and Cuba, as well as in parts of the world—from Azerbaijan to East Africa—where small groups of fighters are being attracted to communist perspectives.

By attending book fairs, participating in conferences, and in other ways, Pathfinder representatives are reaching out around the world to distribute the works of Marx and Engels, as well as those of other revolutionists and communists such as Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and other leaders of the Russian revolution and Communist International; Rosa Luxemburg, a revolutionary leader in Germany and Poland earlier in this century; leaders of the U.S. workers' movement such as Cannon, Dobbs, and Joseph Hansen; Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, central leaders of the Cuban revolution; and figures such as Malcolm X, Maurice Bishop of Grenada, Carlos Fonseca of Nicaragua, Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso, and Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

As part of the effort to begin preparing

Continued on Page 10

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## Appeal for out-of-print books

Below is a list of the out-of-print books needed to fill in gaps in the research library of Pathfinder Press, as well as the library of the Socialist Workers Party leadership school. Readers of the *Militant* who can donate any of these books—in cloth or paperback—are asked to send a list of those they can make available. Write to: Pathfinder Press Library Project, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

*Writings on the Paris Commune*, by Marx and Engels, edited by Hal Draper (Monthly Review Press);

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*On the First International*, by Marx, edited by Saul K. Padover (McGraw-Hill) [need cloth only];

*On History and People*, by Marx, edited by Saul K. Padover (McGraw-

Hill) [need cloth only];

*On Freedom of the Press and Censorship*, by Marx, edited by Saul K. Padover (McGraw-Hill) [need cloth only];

*On America and the Civil War*, by Marx, edited by Saul K. Padover (McGraw-Hill) [need cloth or paper];

*On Religion*, by Marx, edited by Saul K. Padover (McGraw-Hill) [need cloth or paper];

*Marx, Engels, Marxism*, by Lenin, cloth (Progress);

*Marx and Engels Through the Eyes of their Contemporaries* (Progress);

*Frederick Engels: A Biography*, by Gustav Mayer (either the 1969 Howard Fertig edition or the 1936 Alfred Knopf edition);

*Anarchism and Anarcho-syndicalism*, by Marx, Engels, and Lenin (Progress or International).



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# Mandela: support ANC election effort

Continued from front page held," said Mandela.

Nevertheless, de Klerk and his political party cannot be underestimated despite opinion polls showing they lag far behind the ANC, Mandela explained. The ruling party has won 14 general elections since 1948 and has been in power for 45 years. They have "considerable experience in fighting elections" and "vast resources" at their disposal.

The ANC has set a goal of raising \$43 million to carry out its election campaign. This will include sending thousands of volunteers to help organize voter education in rural areas, establishing regional offices throughout the country, and publishing literature in 11 languages.

"If we have this amount I can assure you that the forces of democracy led by the ANC will grasp victory despite all the obstacles," said Mandela. Trustees of the Bright Hope Baptist Church announced that they were donating \$25,000. Thousands more were raised in response to a fund pitch presented by Rev. William Gray.

Several days earlier, in a talk to more than 3,500 people at the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York, Mandela pointed out that "22 million people will vote in April 1994, 19 million for the first time in their lives." More than \$35,000 was raised for the ANC election campaign at that event.

At the half-hour joint news conference held by Mandela and de Klerk, the ANC president was asked when he would call for lifting economic sanctions against South Africa. "As a result of sanctions and the strug-

gle of our people, we have been able to push the democratic process of our country into a new stage," said Mandela, who argued that before sanctions are lifted a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) must be put in place that can "level the playing field" leading up to the elections.

The TEC must have real decision-making powers over such vital areas as control of the security forces and foreign affairs, and must be empowered by parliament, which is currently adjourned, stated Mandela.

"We want to make sure that before we lift sanctions nobody, including Mr. de Klerk, will have the authority to change the power of that council," Mandela said.

De Klerk, on the other hand, said he has been crusading for the lifting of sanctions ever since he became president, stating that it is the poor, hungry, and jobless who are paying the price.

## 'Apartheid destroyed our economy'

"Our economy is underperforming not only because of sanctions but primarily because of the policy of apartheid," responded Mandela. "It is the policy of apartheid that has destroyed our economy. Nevertheless, we are saying: let's forget the past, let's all work together to build a new South Africa."

"The ANC is a nonracial organization," he said. "It enjoys support from all population groups. The ANC has from its inception fought against all forms of ethnicity. We are the only organization in our country inside and outside Parliament that has made nation building our top priority."

The National Party, de Klerk claimed, has now "transformed itself into a fully nonracial party." He also described the Inkatha Freedom Party led by Mangosuthu Buthelezi as enjoying support "not just from Blacks."

The ceremony awarding the Liberty



Militant/Eric Simpson

A crowd of 3,500 people greeted Mandela June 30 in New York's Concord Baptist Church. The ANC raised \$35,000 for its election campaign at the meeting.

Medal to Mandela and de Klerk was also attended by U.S. president Bill Clinton. Earlier, some 600 people marched to the ceremony site to protest de Klerk receiving the medal.

In his talk Mandela quoted extensively from an 1852 Fourth of July speech given by African-American leader Frederick Douglass, who pointed out that the principles of freedom and justice embodied in the U.S. Constitution did not apply to enslaved Blacks at the time.

Relating these lessons to the current stage of the liberation struggle in South Africa, Mandela stated, "This is perhaps the greatest challenge we face as we struggle for the new birth of freedom."

## 'Our victory will be your victory'

"In the struggle for real change and a just peace, we will have to overcome the terrible heritage of the insult to human dignity, the inequalities, the conflicts and antagonisms that are the true expression of the apartheid system."

Speaking on behalf of "untold millions" living both inside and outside the United States, Mandela described their plight as being a "dream deferred — the multitudes that are hungry, homeless, and jobless; deprived of access to good health and knowledge; caught in the web of violence, drug abuse, and hopeless despair."

To those who have "stood with us as we fought for our political emancipation," Mandela said, "We urge you to stay the course until freedom is won."

At the evening Civic Center rally, attended by about 5,000 people, Mandela alluded to the ANC's many "new friends, some of whom only became our friends yesterday." To an enthusiastic response from supporters in the audience, Mandela stated, "We will never forget those people who were friends when hard times were knocking at our doors."

"What is going on in South Africa is your fight," he continued. "Our victory in South Africa will be your victory [and] we are about to win that battle."

## — CALENDAR —

### NEW YORK Manhattan

Come Celebrate the New York Send-Off of the Second U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan. Sat., July 17, 7 p.m. Riverside Church, Riverside Dr. at 120th St. For more information, call IFCO at (212) 926-5757.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

Send-Off Dinner for U.S.-Cuba Friendship. Sat., July 17, 6 p.m. Community of Reconciliation, 100 N. Bellefield (near Fifth Ave.) in Oakland. Donation: \$5-10. Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Cuba Coalition. For more information: (412) 563-0448.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

Grand Opening of New Pathfinder Bookstore — Celebrate Cuban Revolution. Sat., July 24, 7:30 p.m. 6969 Gulf Freeway, #250. Donation: \$5. Sponsored by Houston Pathfinder bookstore. For more information: (713) 644-9066.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Welcome the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment to Washington, D.C. Speakers: Marshall Garcia, retired vice-president of District 1199 Hospital and Health Care Workers Union; others: Entertainment. Sun., July 18, 7:30 p.m. Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 5301 North Capitol St., N.E. Sponsored by: U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment and D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition. For more information: (202) 319-1215. Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Moncada. Speakers: Leonor Fraga, Cuban Interests Section; others: Entertainment. Tues., July 27, 7:30 p.m. Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. (near Conn.) Sponsored by D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition. Donation: \$3. For more information: (202) 224-2000.

### BRITAIN

#### Manchester

Celebrate Publication of New Pathfinder Book 'The Truth about Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention.' Speakers: Jonathan Silberman, co-author of the book, member of Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union; Anne Howie, contributor to book; Prof. George Zis, Manchester Metropolitan University; speaker from Women's Aid for Peace in Former Yugoslavia. Thurs., July 15, 7 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Tel: 061-839 1766.

### CANADA

#### Montreal

Fund-raising Barbecue for Socialist Publications. Sat., July 17, 5:30 p.m. 6039 de Chateaubriand (between Bellechasse and Rosemont). For more information: (514) 273-2503.

# Aristide, coup leader sign agreement to return deposed president to Haiti

Continued from front page

assistance to many Haitian refugees. "Things can change in an instant, and then we're back where we started. That's why we have to wait and see."

Reactions inside Haiti were mixed. "What I've heard is good news," stated Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, one of Aristide's associates. "If all the component forces respect the words, then this is deliverance day and democracy is coming back to Haiti."

"The wrong guy is coming back," was the reaction of one man in Cité Soleil. "It is Aristide who should be returning, and Cédras the one having to remain behind in exile." Cité Soleil has been the scene of several recent pro-Aristide demonstrations.

## Maintain embargo

Some Haitians expressed anger that the agreement would result in lifting the oil embargo before Aristide returns to Haiti. "We want that embargo to remain until the moment Titid comes home," said one supporter, referring to the Haitian president by his nickname. "I think we can hold out for a few months more. But even if we have to die hungry, this is the only way to force the soldiers to keep their word."

In response to the agreement, the Pax Christi organization held a 24-hour vigil in front of the National Palace in Port-au-Prince July 4.

"An agreement is only a signed statement, a piece of paper," said Rev. Sebastian Muccilli, a member of the group who is from West Palm Beach, Florida. "We'll see what happens now. When Aristide comes back, then it will be time to celebrate."

Some supporters of Aristide have decided to organize several days of marches to take advantage of the political space they hope will be opened up by this agreement. According to the *New York Times*, the "marchers would carry posters with the image of the ousted President, an act the military and

the police have not tolerated in the past."

During the week of negotiations in New York, several demonstrations in support of Aristide did occur in Port-au-Prince. At a June 27 mass at the Church of Notre Dame — one of the largest churches in the Haitian capital — some parishioners pulled out posters supporting the president and began shouting, "Long live Aristide! Down with the army!" The police raided the church,

beating up a number of those gathered there and spraying tear gas. Some 800 people were attending the church service, which was televised nationally.

A 24-hour strike June 24 called by Aristide supporters succeeded in shutting down a number of businesses in Port-au-Prince and paralyzing public transportation. This action was organized by eight labor unions and a number of other political groups.

# Sale of books by Marx, Engels

Continued from Page 8

The next session of the leadership school, volunteers from New York and northern New Jersey spent two weeks in May and early June putting together 12 notebooks containing photocopies of prefaces, introductions, chronologies, bibliographies, biographical glossaries, editor's notes, and other material from various editions of Marx and Engels's writings that have been published in English.

These comprehensive notebooks will be used by those who organize sessions of the school to make available to students background material related to the writings of Marx and Engels. In this way, while the *Collected Works* will be the axis around which study is carried out at the school, communists will not lose the record of how various currents in the workers' movement organized and presented the writings of Marx and Engels over the course of this century.

In addition, the volunteers helped gather in a single notebook as much as possible of Engels's correspondence from 1883 to 1895 — material not yet available in the *Collected Works* — that has been translated into English in various books.

To help cover the costs of this project, supporters of the school in New York and in Newark, New Jersey, organized book sales. The sales items were drawn in large part from

used books generated by the reorganization of the leadership school library. Socialists young and old who built up their Marxist libraries at these sales can now take advantage of the special summer offer to members of the Pathfinder Readers Club as well.

## Appeal for libraries

Over the past 13 years, Pathfinder has cooperated with the organizers of the SWP leadership school to make sure their respective libraries are as complete as possible in areas of mutual interest.

Pathfinder's research and publishing library is used by its authors, editors, and staff members in preparing new books and pamphlets, upgrading reprints, and helping with the production of *New Internationalist* magazine (and its French- and Spanish-language sister publications, *Nouvelle Internationale* and *Nueva Internacional*), which Pathfinder distributes. SWP leaders who have attended the party's leadership school have worked with the New York-based publishing house to edit Pathfinder books, prepare introductions, and write articles for the magazine.

Pathfinder is currently appealing to *Militant* readers to help fill in important gaps in both the Pathfinder and leadership school libraries. The box on page 8 lists several out-of-print titles by Marx and Engels that are needed.



# Conference debates Cuba's socialist course

Continued from front page

Europe, combined with the U.S. embargo against the island, has led to other shortages of many basic foods, fuel, and other necessities.

Due to the lack of newsprint, for example, most daily papers are now almost impossible to find at newsstands and no new subscriptions are being taken.

In many neighborhoods water is distributed every third day because of lack of fuel for pumping. People must fill their water tanks to maintain a minimum supply during the other two days. In numerous areas, natural gas for cooking is available for only one or two hours in the early morning and late evening.

In response to the transportation crisis caused by the fuel shortage, the government has set up a system of traffic inspectors who are stationed outside entrances to major roadways. Travelers stand in line as the inspectors stop all vehicles to fill them with passengers. This efficient measure, which is very popular, has helped ease the transportation problem.

As the conference took place, thousands of Cuban students were pouring into the countryside, organized in voluntary work brigades. The youth are spending 15 days of their summer vacation working in citrus orchards and tobacco, coffee, and sugar plantations. They are also working in bicycle assembly plants and on docks and railroads. Almost 19,000 high school students have been mobilized so far.

## Discussion on 'market socialism'

The Holguín conference was organized around two topics: "Models of Socialism" and "Democracy and Social Justice." A few of the U.S. philosophers suggested that aspects of so-called market socialism — the use of capitalist market mechanisms in economic planning — or other mechanisms should be used in Cuba.

In his presentation, Nelson Labrada of the Higher Technical Institute of Holguín rejected reliance on market mechanisms to guide economic planning. "Unfortunately," he said, "we had copied certain Soviet experiences, which beginning in 1986 we tried to eliminate through the rectification process, seeking to revive the Cuban roots of our revolutionary process."

The rectification process was a working-class political reorientation in Cuba that was launched to reverse policies copied from the Soviet Union and implemented for more than a decade. The heart of rectification was the revival of voluntary labor on a mass scale, mobilizing working people to rely on their own strength to resolve the economic and political challenges facing the revolution and to combat the privileges and corruption of a growing layer of administrators and technocrats.

"The market cannot be a spontaneous regulator of development," Labrada stressed.

"Who would control that market?" asked Aldo Cruz of the Cuban Communist Party leadership school in Holguín province. "Building socialism requires conscious men and women and equitable distribution by the state."

Labrada and Aguilera both pointed out in their opening presentations that Ernesto Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban revolution in the 1960s, explained the need to transform the consciousness of working people in the fight for socialism.

"Che placed the actions of men and women at the center of building socialism," said David Aguilera of Holguín's teacher training institute. "Socialism is not a welfare state — it requires the transformation of consciousness."

"Che sharply criticized the use of market mechanisms in the socialist camp," he added, referring to the former Soviet Union



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Cuban volunteers loading cabbage near El Paraiso in Havana province, January 1993.

and Eastern Europe. Answering one U.S. professor who held up the Yugoslav economy in the 1960s and 1970s as a model, he pointed to Che's rejection of the capitalist economic methods used in Yugoslavia.

## Crumbling of Soviet regime

Many speakers referred to the crumbling of the bureaucratic regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Labrada noted that the roots of the Soviet crisis began not in recent years but at the beginning of the Joseph Stalin regime in the mid-1920s. "In the years following 1924, the Soviet model of socialism suffered from severe deformations under the influence of Stalinism," he said. Cruz added that "what was done in Eastern Europe in the name of market socialism only enriched a few; it did not build socialism."

Reynaldo Martínez said, "In contrast to the Eastern European Communist parties, where workers left those parties in large numbers" as the regimes there disintegrated in the late 1980s, "the Cuban Communist Party has been recruiting workers."

Underlining the strength of the Cuban revolution, Luis Aguilera said that in spite of the shortages facing the Cuban people today, "there have been no food riots as in

Venezuela."

Not all speakers were critical of the Soviet regime's policies. One Cuban professor argued that "socialist methods and mechanisms were not given enough of a chance to develop in the Soviet Union."

Pathfinder representative Martín Koppel remarked that the Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe had sought to integrate their economies into the world capitalist market system, which is now being wracked by an international depression. The recent metalworkers' strikes in eastern Germany "are proof that imperialism did not succeed in its attempt to crush the working class through the Stalinist bureaucracies," he said.

"The strength of the Cuban revolution can be seen in Washington's failure to bring Cuba to its knees with the embargo," Koppel continued, pointing to growing support in the United States for the new Friendship-solidarity caravan to Cuba.

At the end of the meeting Cliff DuRand, head of the delegation of U.S. philosophers, pledged that the group would work harder to end the U.S. embargo. A statement by 70 U.S. participants who attended the Havana session of the conference demanded that Washington lift its embargo. It received

prominent press coverage here.

During a break in the conference, a large group of participants crowded around a Pathfinder literature table, which had been announced earlier by conference organizers. The most popular books were the Spanish edition of Leon Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed*, a volume of *Nueva Internacional* magazine with the article "The Opening Guns of World War III," and *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks).

## Books for Cuba fund

It was also announced at the conclusion of the event that a donation of Pathfinder books was being made to the city's universities. This donation was made possible through contributions by workers in the United States to the Pathfinder Books for Cuba Fund.

Pathfinder has become better known in Cuba in recent months. Representatives of the publishing house met a number of people who had seen or heard of its publications in cities such as Havana, Bayamo, and Santiago. Many had seen a Cuban television documentary on the United States that included a segment on Pathfinder, as well as an interview in *Bohemia* magazine with Pathfinder president Mary-Alice Waters.

The response of Cuba's working people to the challenges facing the revolution was brought home on a visit by conference participants to the Blas Soler cooperative farm near Holguín. The 130 farmers there have fought to become self-sufficient in food, growing root vegetables, plantains, rice, grains, soy beans, and sugarcane, as well as raising cattle, poultry, pigs, and rabbits. Facing a shortage of fuel, they have replaced tractors with oxen and substituted biofertilizers for the previously imported chemical fertilizers. They have also begun to use certain insects and bacteria as natural pesticides.

One farmer, Zoila Gámez, explained that cooperative members devote at least one Sunday a month to voluntary work at the farm. They have drawn in student volunteers as well as family members, such as her husband, who works at a military canteen. Another cooperative member, Dania Pérez, when asked about Washington's hostility toward revolutionary Cuba, explained, "From the moment we plant the seed we begin defending the revolution."

# Campaign protests denial of visa to Cuban

BY TIM ELLIOT

LOS ANGELES — In a battle for academic freedom and civil liberties, a group of faculty and students on campuses across the United States has launched a campaign to get the U.S. State Department to reverse its decision to deny a visa to Elsa Agramonte Hernández, an Afro-Cuban attorney and social researcher specializing in women's affairs.

Some 150 professors and others invited Agramonte to speak on "Cuban Women Today" at more than 40 academic institutions. However, the lecture series, slated for Spring 1993, had to be canceled when the State Department denied Agramonte a visa. The purported reason for this action is that Agramonte has no direct university affiliation and works with the Federation of Cuban Women.

In a letter to U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher, Prof. Carlos Ugalde, coordinator of the Elsa Agramonte Faculty-Student Lectures Committee, stated, "We have been denied our basic right to hear the views of this distinguished colleague from Cuba. The visa denial cuts across the academic freedom that is the foundation of a genuine education for our youth and of a critical-minded faculty."

With respect to Agramonte's qualifications, Ugalde said, "It is precisely Agramonte's breadth of experience and knowledge that makes her a person with something valuable to say to the university community and others in the United States. It is not acceptable for the U.S. government to decide who from Cuba, or, for that matter, from any part of the world can address us concerning crucial contemporary issues."

As a member of the Union of Cuban Jurists, Agramonte has participated in a number of international conferences. Most recently she attended the Conference of Ministers of

the Nonaligned Countries on the Role of Women in Economic Development (1990), and the Fifth Congress of Cuban and U.S. Philosophers (1992), where she took part in the panel on Class, Race, and Gender. She has published numerous articles in Cuban scholarly and technical journals on themes related to women, and is currently working on a study on Black women in Cuba.

Forty-five people attended a barbecue held at the home of Carlos Ugalde June 20 to help raise thousands of dollars needed to wage the visa fight and organize a

tour in the fall.

The lectures committee is asking that letters to protest the visa denial be addressed to Secretary of State Warren Christopher and sent to the Elsa Agramonte Faculty-Student Lectures Committee c/o Prof. Carlos Ugalde, Ethnic Studies Dept., Glendale community College, 1500 N. Verdugo, Glendale, CA 91208. Phone: (818) 240-1000 ext. 5470. Fax: (818) 549-9436.

Donations to finance the campaign are also needed. They can be sent to the same address.

## Miami judge dismisses charges against student who punched usher at Cuba event

BY DAN FEIN

MIAMI — Judge Maxine Cohen Lando dismissed battery charges against Marcel Felipe June 15. Felipe, a Cuban-American student at Florida International University (FIU), punched student usher Anthony Thomas at the end of a campus meeting for two youth leaders from Cuba last year.

Thomas pressed battery charges with then-State Attorney Janet Reno's office October 5. Six months later, after a public campaign urging the state to prosecute, Felipe was indicted for battery.

Meanwhile, FIU conducted its own hearings, found Felipe guilty of attacking Thomas without cause, and suspended him from school. Felipe appealed this decision and the next administrative hearing reaffirmed his guilt, but revoked the suspension.

More than 40 of Thomas's supporters packed the tiny Metropolitan Justice Building courtroom the morning of June 15, many to offer testimony on the battery charge.

The big majority were members of the

Alliance of Workers in the Community (ATC), a Cuban-American organization that opposes the U.S. embargo of Cuba. But the trial never happened.

Judge Lando dismissed the charges without hearing a single witness. It turned out that the state attorney's office had neglected to turn over to the defense the lists of witnesses, videotapes of the October 1 meeting, and other evidence that Thomas and other witnesses had submitted. This material must — by law — be made available to the defense attorney. Lando called this violation of the law "willful and substantial," and said it made it impossible for Felipe to prepare an adequate defense.

After the dismissal, Thomas told his supporters and the news media, "The state attorney's office consciously sabotaged prosecution of this case because it did not want to stand up against violence by a minority of right-wingers in the Cuban-American community."

The state attorney's office has said they will appeal the ruling.

## 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.



# Washington steps up assaults on Iraq

Continued from front page

of workers and farmers in Iraq. Prices on such staples as wheat, rice, oil, and milk are 30 to 70 times higher now than before the war.

UN nuclear expert Bob Kelley said sanctions on Iraq should not be maintained on the basis of the need to dismantle its nuclear program. After a five-day visit to Iraq as head of an International Atomic Energy Agency inspection team, Kelley revealed Iraq's nuclear program has "been pounded into the ground by bombs, by inspections, by disruptions." But Washington continues to portray Iraq as a military and nuclear threat. A report issued by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee three days after the bombing said Iraq appears to have rebuilt much of its conventional weapons complex,

which was destroyed in the Gulf War.

Under the guise of retaliating for an alleged plot by the Iraqi government to assassinate former president George Bush while he was visiting Kuwait in April, U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea fired 23 cruise missiles into downtown Baghdad June 26. Three of the missiles landed in residential neighborhoods, demolishing homes and leaving craters 30 feet deep. Other warheads severely damaged the Iraqi government's intelligence headquarters. Clinton announced the alleged plot against Bush's life was "an attack by the government of Iraq on the United States." Eleven Iraqis and three Kuwaitis were arrested and jailed in Kuwait for the alleged plot and are currently on trial. The bombing occurred before any

verdict came down in the trial.

"It was a complete surprise. We were sleeping in peace. We heard the sirens and started thinking, are we going to die or live? This is what crosses everybody's mind," said Maher Hisham Maher, a 19-year-old medical student in Baghdad.

Washington scrambled to justify the bombing at an unusual Sunday session of the UN Security Council. Madeleine Albright, the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, presented "evidence," including photos of printed circuit boards she called bomb components, to support Clinton's claims that Iraq authorized the alleged plot.

Albright declared the U.S. bombing was in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which provides for self-defense against armed attacks.

The bombing won broad backing from Democrats and Republicans in Congress. Clinton himself said, "I feel quite good about what transpired, and I think the American people should feel good about it." Many capitalist politicians and commentators criticized the bombing, arguing it was not brutal enough. Right-wing columnist William Safire, for example, proposed destroying Iraq's electrical and oil-producing facilities.

Others among U.S. ruling circles, however, expressed doubts. A June 28 *New York Times* editorial said the evidence for the alleged assassination plot was not compelling enough. "Let's hear the evidence, rather than assertions of officials who say they have it," the *Times* editors wrote.

Administration officials who asked to remain anonymous told the *Washington Post* that an exhaustive investigation by U.S. intelligence agencies turned up no direct evidence that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was involved in ordering or planning the alleged assassination plot. A White House statement, which said the plot had been authorized "at the highest levels" of the Iraqi government, was based on inference, not proof, the officials indicated.

After a round of phone calls to the other four permanent members of the Security Council, Albright won lukewarm support from French officials. The governments of

Germany and Britain gave stronger backing to Washington. German chancellor Helmut Kohl called the attack a "justified reaction" to a "deplorable attempted act of terrorism."

Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations Nizar Hamdoun accused the Kuwaiti government of "totally fabricating" the evidence against Iraq, saying it was similar to false stories circulated about Iraqi soldiers taking babies from incubators during Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in 1991.

## Cuba condemns bombing

Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina condemned the U.S. bombing. He told *Prensa Latina*, "I do not think mankind should have to go to bed every night, restless and insecure, knowing that they may be awakened by being bombed by someone's decision, regardless of that person's power or importance. This is unthinkable."

The Kuwaiti regime was the only Arab government that supported the attack. The governments of Iran, Libya and Jordan as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization strongly condemned the bombing.

## Debate on N.Y. school curriculum

Continued from Page 14

have made to the development of humankind, as well as to perpetuate racist stereotypes and prejudice against gays. These fights also contribute to the self-confidence of the working class.

Working people have also fought against efforts by the right wing and others to censor textbooks or ban books from school libraries because their content is deemed "obscene" or "anti-family." Working people should also be opposed to attempts by groups on campus to censor or confiscate newspapers or other materials they deem racist or sexist.

Courses on sex education, information on how AIDS is transmitted as well as on ways to minimize the possibility of contracting HIV, and access to contraception for young people — and all people — do represent advances for the working class. As all three readers point out, these are important questions facing young people today.

Support for courses on sex education, or for Black and women's studies departments, however, is not identical to support for the content of a particular curriculum, or for the substance of what is often taught in the name of "multicultural education." Contrary to what Scalera, Ryan, and Russell Hall suggest, many of these programs do little to advance the fight against racist, sexist, and antigay discrimination, but instead point away from the unity in struggle that is essential for the working class to defend its interests in the face of the rulers' attacks.

An extreme example is Leonard Jeffries, a professor of Black studies at the City University of New York, who has distributed booklets that say the skin pigment melanin gives Blacks intellectual superiority. Jeffries, who was part of a New York state committee that came up with a proposal on what was called a "Curriculum of Inclusion" in 1987, has called people of European descent "ice people" who are greedy and materialistic as opposed to "sun people" — those of African descent he calls humanistic and communal.

Other "Afrocentrists" attempt to rewrite history by arguing that philosophy did not have its origins in the cities of ancient Greece and Asia Minor but was stolen from Egypt. These unscientific and false portrayals of history promote ignorance and disarm working people and youth.

I also disagree with Scalera and Ryan that the quote cited in the *Militant* article from a pamphlet encouraging condom use simply provides factual and necessary information on these questions. "For anal intercourse, lube up the receptive partner's anus (asshole)," said the pamphlet. "Do it! (Have fun!)" It does promote a certain lifestyle.

Working people should not advocate promiscuity but responsibility on sexual matters.

Distribution of condoms is not the main solution to the AIDS crisis even though condoms can be effective as a preventive measure. An educational campaign to get out the truth about AIDS and fight for measures to aid those most victimized must be done as part of an effort to combat prejudice against gays and those addicted to drugs. Prejudice has been used by the ruling class to win acceptance for treating AIDS as a crime and those who are infected as criminals.

The political content of a lot of the literature pushing general use of condoms as the solution advances the false notion that AIDS is "really" only a problem if people who

aren't gay or drug addicts start to get it.

The government should provide massive funding for AIDS research and free care for victims.

"Every time I hear about a gay-bashing... I feel the schools are partly responsible because we haven't taught tolerance to our children," Fernandez has said. But racist, sexist, and antigay discrimination and violence are not a result of "intolerant" children — or even adults. Rather as the June 7 *Militant* explained, discrimination against gays, women, and oppressed nationalities stems from "the social division of sexes and race prejudice, perpetuated by conditions of life under capitalism."

This is why teaching "tolerance" to children will not end racism any more than teaching "sensitivity" to cops will end police brutality.

Only through the fight of the working class to defend its interests, which can ultimately lead to a society that has no interest in the denigration of any human being, will culture and education advance. On the way, through struggles, working people can make some gains, including reforms in school programs.

## — MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**A Working-Class Perspective on NAFTA.** Speaker: Dave Salner, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 17, 7 p.m., 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

### BRITAIN

#### London

**Why Is Struggle of United Mine Workers of America Important for Working People**

## — IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP —

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**CALIFORNIA:** Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

**CONNECTICUT:** New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516. Tel: (203) 688-5418.

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

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

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: 141 Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**Around the World?** Speaker: Robert Higley, Communist League, member National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers. Sat., July 17, 6 p.m., 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-401-2409.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**The Philippines and the Fight against the Third World Debt.** Speaker: Renato Constantino, youth leader from Philippines. Sat., July 17, 7 p.m., La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

**NEW YORK:** New York: 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 727-8421; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

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

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Tel: 071-928-7993.

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

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### CANADA

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### SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.



**Economy-class air** — In older passenger planes, fresh air is circulated every three minutes. In newer ones, as a money-saver, it's a 50-50



Harry Ring

mix of fresh and stale air every six minutes or more. Flight attendants and passengers complain this is causing varied health problems, including a possible spread of TB. The feds say they're checking it out.

**But he left in a huff** — During

his several days as top dog in Guatemala, President Jorge Serrano denied he made the power grab to block a probe of his assets. "It's true that I bought a Mercedes-Benz," he conceded. "It's not a crime. It's not the first Mercedes-Benz I have had. It's like the sixth or seventh Mercedes-Benz."

**Leave it to the market** — At a federal trial in Indiana, Michael Walton was charged with repackaging used, surgically removed pacemakers and peddling them as new. In mid-trial he copped a plea and will do six years max. He'll be barred from executive positions in medical device companies but not from working as a salesman.

**Spiritual** — Riding a wave of "New Age spirituality," Anglo arts and crafts dealers in Boulder, Colorado, are doing a brisk business in Indian-type products. One outfit expects to gross \$800,000 this year on "Navajo-like" dolls retailing for up to \$500 apiece. The owner concedes she doesn't have any Native employees. She says she did hire some in the past, but they were "too transient."

**And that's just the illegal stuff** — The Los Angeles FBI said that as of March 31 it had 1,003 criminal fraud cases pending involving potential losses of \$5.6 billion. An official observed that the total take in U.S. bank robberies last year amounted to 3 percent of the \$2.6

billion lost in the looting of a single area savings and loan.

**Apropos** — If memory serves, it was a character in Bertold Brecht's "Three-Penny Opera" who posed the question: Who's the bigger crook, the bank robber or the bank president?

**Take that, sir!** — An Orange County, California, school district official who stole at least \$3.5 million from the district was given a six-year sentence and should be back in the street in about two and a half years. Prison officials did not indicate if he will be permitted to use the fur-lined bathrobe which was among the quality items he

purchased with school money.

**Try running late for work** — "I like my own hair to look like I just got up in the morning. It has to be cut a certain way to do that." — Fashion designer Calvin Klein.

**Thought for the week** — "Certainly the worst offenders in the Tailhook affair should have their hands slapped. But... the kind of heavy penalties that appear to await some of the Tailhook participants are unwise. We must tolerate a certain amount of antisocial behavior if we wish to have the most effective fighting forces." — James White, law professor and former Air Force pilot.

## U.S. gov't uses terrorism charges to curb rights

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Capitalist politicians and the big-business media have used the recent arrests of nine people by the FBI, on charges they were preparing to bomb the United Nations and other targets in New York City, to whip up a campaign to restrict democratic rights, particularly of immigrant workers.

Dozens of heavily armed FBI agents and New York City police arrested five men June 24 in a raid at a garage in Queens, where they were allegedly making chemical explosives. Three others were arrested at their homes in the metropolitan area a few hours later. A ninth man was picked up in Philadelphia June 30.

Five of the accused are U.S. residents from Sudan, three are U.S. citizens, and one is a Palestinian from Jordan. Charged with conspiracy and in some cases attempted bombing, the nine men face up to 15 years in jail if convicted.

FBI officials say they obtained information on the alleged plot, which included bombing the building housing the FBI and two tunnels linking New York and New Jersey, through Emad Salem, an informant who is a former Egyptian military officer.

Most reports in the press have accused the men, branded as "radical Muslim fundamentalists," with planning to kill UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, U.S. senator Alfonse D'Amato, and New York state assemblyman Dov Hikind. The official charges, however, did not include plotting assassinations and New York FBI chief James Fox would not confirm such reports.

Government officials also claim that Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali, one of those arrested, was involved in the bombing of the World Trade Center. The explosion that ripped through the complex February 26 killed 6 people and injured 1,000 others.

Five men have been charged with the bombing on flimsy evidence. Following the World Trade Center blast, federal cops launched a nationwide campaign of spying and harassment against a wide range of legal political organizations, especially Palestinian groups in the United States. Arab-American and Muslim organizations protested the government's anti-immigrant campaign, which smeared them as terrorists, in the aftermath of the February bombing.

The day after the June 24 arrests, a column in the *Wall Street Journal* by Steven Emerson said that "all militant radical fundamentalists are potential members of this loose federation of terrorists," which he says includes the governments of Sudan and Iran.

Emerson called for ending "the traditional immunity given to religious institutions," and for expanding government spying operations through the creation of "an international data base, which... would allow all countries to keep tabs on potential terrorists."

Republican senator D'Amato called for tougher immigration laws, instituting the death penalty for "terrorist acts," and military strikes against "terrorist nations."

"In view of the arrests," responded American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) president Albert Mokhiber in a June 25 statement, the ADC "reiterates its opposition to all forms of violence and terrorism."

Likewise, Mokhiber added, his organization stands for the presumption of inno-

cence. "Whether these individuals are ultimately proved guilty or innocent of these charges, ADC strongly objects to and will challenge any attempts by public officials, the media, or others to implicate or indict the entire Arab-American or Muslim communities when such events occur."

**'Every time Muslims are accused'**

"Every time something is happening, the Muslims are accused," said a worshiper coming out of the Jersey City mosque led by Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman after the recent arrests.

Government authorities and the media have attempted to portray the Muslim cleric, who leads mosques in Jersey City and Brooklyn, as being at the center of an international terrorist conspiracy. Attorney General Janet Reno ordered Abdel Rahman detained July 1 even though authorities admit they have no evidence linking him to the alleged bombing plot.

He has been imprisoned in upstate New York since July 2, after the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) revoked his parole status, which permitted him to stay free while appealing a deportation order. The INS justified its action by saying the 55-year-old Egyptian cleric, a blind man who has been a legal U.S. resident since 1990, "was a danger to the community."

"Feds link sheik to top terror groups," was the blazing headline in the *New York Post* July 6. The *Post* branded Abdel Rahman as the "spiritual leader of most of the suspects arrested for the World Trade Center explosion and the plot to blow up landmarks and transportation arteries in New York City."

"All you say is lies," Walid Abolshahba, an Egyptian-American high school student, told the *Washington Post* responding to these charges. "You say he preaches terrorism to kill people. He doesn't do that."

A day earlier the Egyptian government formally requested the extradition of Abdel Rahman, to be retried on charges of inciting antigovernment disturbances in 1989. He was acquitted of these charges in 1990.

Under Egypt's state of emergency laws, in force for a dozen years, the government can order such retrials. The Egyptian regime has been rocked by protests recently amidst a severe economic and social crisis.

**Accusations against Iran, Sudan**

In the wake of the recent arrests Washington has taken steps to place Sudan on a list of "terrorist" countries that includes Iraq, Iran, Libya, and North Korea.

The Sudanese government denies supporting terrorist acts, and no evidence has been found linking the alleged bombing plot or any other incidents to Khartoum.

State Department spokesman Michael McMurray added the same day that he was "very disturbed by the close relationship" between the governments of Iran and Sudan.

What these accusations could mean for the people of Sudan, Iran, and other Arab countries became apparent when an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on the June 26 bombing of Baghdad by U.S. cruise missiles pointed to Iran and Libya as "other possible targets of Clinton's toughness." Eight Iraqi civilians were killed and 12 wounded in that bombing attack.

The front page of the July 5 issue of *Time* magazine conveyed a similar message. "Hitting Back at Terrorists," screamed the headline, with "Clinton Strikes Saddam" and "The FBI Busts an



Militant/Stu Singer

**March 1993 protest against attacks on Jersey City mosque on third floor. U.S. government uses charges of terrorism to attack democratic rights.**

Islamic Bomb Ring," as the accompanying subheads.

A column by Douglas Jehl in the July 4 *New York Times* applauded the bombing of Baghdad but complained that Clinton

wasn't giving "similar attention to counterterrorism at home."

"America is better equipped to bomb Baghdad than to thwart attacks on its own soil," Jehl wrote.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People  
July 26, 1968 Price 10c

Black Panther leader Huey P. Newton is on trial for his life in Oakland, Calif. He is charged with the murder of an Oakland policeman last October — but this is not what the trial is really about.

Newton is the founder of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, an independent black political party fighting for black control of the black community and the liberation of black people.

One of the first activities of the party was to organize patrols to check on the activities of the Oakland police in the black community. The police resented black people exercising even this limited form of control over the police and launched a campaign of continuous, brutal and illegal harassment of the Black Panthers, which included the outright murder of one young Panther member.

The charges against Newton stem from just such an instance of harassment. Early one morning the cops, who have a general policy of keeping watch on the movements of the Panthers, swooped down on the car Newton was driving on a deserted street. The cops shot Newton in the stomach, wounding him seriously. In the struggle, one of the cops was killed.

The Black Panther Party has pointed out that Newton cannot be given a fair trial in the courts of Oakland. Newton has demanded a jury and judge composed of his peers — black working people.

The purpose of the trial is to "get" Newton. This trial cannot dispense justice; it can

only result in another injustice against black people. Huey Newton must be freed.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE CENTS

July 24, 1943

The Roosevelt-Churchill message of July 16 is ostensibly addressed to the Italian people. If the message "urges revolution," as some newspapers here headlined it, then it is a palace revolution which would not displace the real forces of reaction in Italy, who are merely being asked to change sides in the war.

None of the pillars of the fascist regime during its bestial 22-year-rule — the monarchy, the army officer caste, the church hierarchy, the capitalists and landlords — are mentioned in the message. It does not even promise the Italian people a democratic government.

Among the leading figures in the governments of the "democracies" today there is not one who can claim to have recorded his disapproval of Italian fascism in the years that it was brutally consolidating its power, nor afterwards. On the contrary, it is a matter of record that in those years Churchill declared he would be a fascist if he were an Italian. Wall Street and the City of London hastened to bolster Mussolini with loans.

The Italian anti-fascists could not even get space in the "democratic" press, including the *[New York] Times*, to tell their terrible story. Only after Mussolini joined the other side in the war for re-division of the world did the *Times* and those it speaks for claim they had at last "learned to hate fascism."

The "democracies" want no revolution in Italy, only a switch in war-partners.



# U.S. hands off Iraq!

The following is a statement by James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president in 1992, released June 29, 1993.

Working people and youth around the world should condemn the latest vicious assault on the people of Iraq by Clinton's White House and the continued assaults and threats since the June 26 bombing.

The roots of these attacks lie in the fact that the U.S. government broke its teeth during the Gulf War. Unable to achieve its aim of installing a subservient regime in Iraq, Washington was left with an increasingly unstable world, marked by more conflicts with capitalist regimes in the Middle East and its imperialist rivals in Bonn, Tokyo, Paris, and throughout the capitalist world.

In the context of a world economic depression, this intense competition leads to trade wars and shooting wars. Under these pressures, the rulers of the United States more and more turn to their massive military arsenal to defend their interests, including to punish working people anywhere in the world who stand in their way.

The June 26 bombing of Iraq won broad backing from both Democrats and Republicans in Congress. President Clinton bragged, "I feel quite good about what transpired, and I think the American people should feel good about it." This is the same arrogant triumphalism the warlords in Washington displayed after U.S. armed forces slaughtered tens of thousands of fleeing Iraqi soldiers and civilians on the road from Kuwait City to Basra in February 1991.

The U.S. government has carried out other recent bombing raids against Iraq including during Clinton's inauguration this January.

An ongoing economic embargo is creating near-starvation conditions for millions of workers and farmers in Iraq. And U.S. warplanes continue to enforce "no-fly zones" over much of the country. While such attacks are usually couched in terms of "humanitarian" actions against brutal dictators, their real target is always working people. In fact, Washington and the other imperialist masters need repressive capitalist regimes like the one in Baghdad, as long as they obey Uncle Sam. The *New York Times* spelled it out in a news story June 28: "While officials will never say so publicly," the article said, "it has always been American policy that the iron-fisted

Mr. Hussein plays a useful role in holding Iraq together. In cold-hearted terms, officials say, the United States is better off with a unified Iraq than with seeing it broken into Kurdish, Shiite, and Sunni Muslim states, which could destabilize Turkey and Saudi Arabia and invite a landgrab by Iran."

The same rulers in Washington who cold-bloodedly play with the lives of the Iraqi people ordered six days of bombing in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in mid-June. That attack set the stage for United Nations "peacekeeping" troops there to slaughter dozens of people who protested.

The pretext used by the Clinton administration to justify the assault on Baghdad — alleged Iraqi involvement in a plot to assassinate former U.S. president George Bush — reeks of hypocrisy. During the Gulf War, U.S. officials openly discussed the pros and cons of assassinating Iraqi president Hussein. A few years earlier, in 1986, the Ronald Reagan administration bombed Libya, again under the guise of fighting terrorism, targeting Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi and killing scores of civilians there.

The U.S. rulers openly admit that their latest deadly attack was aimed not only at Baghdad but also at the working people of Iran, Libya, the Sudan, and elsewhere. An article in the June 28 *Wall Street Journal*, for example, pointed to Iran and Libya as "other possible tests of Clinton's toughness."

The bombing of Iraq goes hand in hand with the anti-Arab fervor the police and media are trying to whip up around the arrest of eight people accused of planning to bomb several locations in New York City. Through this "antiterrorist" campaign, the government seeks to further legitimize its war moves abroad while hacking away at democratic rights of working people in the United States.

Workers, farmers, and young people around the world need to speak out against Washington's attack on our brothers and sisters in Iraq. Socialist Workers Party candidates for state and local offices around the United States are using their election campaigns to condemn this murderous assault and other attacks on the rights and living standards of working people worldwide. We urge you to join us in demanding:

- U.S. hands off Iraq!
- End the embargo now!

# Economic crisis fuels trade wars

Clinton's recent aggressive protectionist stance against Japan highlights once again the growing rift between Washington and Tokyo. As the summit of the seven industrialized powers opened July 7 in Japan, the increasing conflicts among the imperialist powers are the underlying assumption behind the "low expectations" of any trade agreements being consummated.

For its part the Japanese government has begun acting as a military and economic power in Asia and the Pacific as well as the semicolonial world. Government officials from Japan have been crisscrossing Asia to rally support against Washington's demands for a guaranteed share of Japanese markets. Japanese troops are now deployed in Cambodia and Mozambique.

Tokyo is paying a significant domestic price for these moves, especially since the killing of two Japanese soldiers in Cambodia. But Japan's rulers are determined to absorb this price in order to strengthen their position as a world military power.

Ultimately, this is not simply a political or a military question; it's an economic question. The rulers in Tokyo are determined to never again be in a position to fork over \$10 billion dollars — as they did after the Persian Gulf War — to help their rivals in Washington strengthen their domination over

oil resources in the Middle East. They also remember how the Roosevelt administration put an embargo on oil sales to Japan in 1940. (And the U.S. Navy remembers Tokyo's rejoinder: the Dec. 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor.) These facts mean the world has become more volatile and unstable. The developing U.S.-Japanese trade war is but the harbinger of more frictions and shooting wars to come.

The capitalist rulers in Washington, Tokyo, Bonn, and other imperialist countries — squeezed by a world economic depression — increasingly quarrel over control of shrinking world markets. In the process they try to rally working people in each country behind their protectionist measures. These measures — sometimes explicitly protectionist, other times masquerading in "free-trade" clothing — go hand in hand with attempts to scapegoat immigrant workers for the economic downturn and to impose additional restrictions on travel and immigration.

Working people in the United States, Japan, and around the world share a common interest in opposing the billionaire ruling families who — in the interest of shoring up their slipping profits — might lead us to another world slaughter. The labor movement should oppose all protectionist measures against Japan, as well as any restrictions on trade, travel across borders, and immigration.

# Defend abortion rights!

Working people should demand Congress reverse its June 30 vote upholding the Hyde amendment, which bans federal funds for abortions. Although the Hyde amendment was modified to allow Medicaid funding for abortions in cases of rape and incest, it denies millions of women — mainly working-class women — their right to decide when and whether to have children.

The right to choose abortion became legal in the early 1970s through the struggles of women and men who took to the streets in protest. It was the byproduct of the massive influx of women into the work force following World War II, as well as of the civil rights and the anti-Vietnam War movement. Affirmative action, abortion rights, and increased access to birth control, won through these massive social movements, helped to unify and strengthen the working class by allowing women to participate on a more equal footing in the work force and in social and political life. Fighting to unify working people across race and sex barriers is essential in the struggle against the employers' offensive today.

Since the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion in 1973, there has been a bipartisan assault on abortion rights. The government has whittled away at this right, hitting working women and youth the hardest.

Rep. Henry Hyde, the bill's author, argued in Congress that allowing federal funding was like saying, "We'll give

you a free abortion because there are too many of you people and we want to, kinda refine, refine the breed." But defense of abortion rights has nothing to do with population control schemes. It has to do with defending a woman's right to control her own body.

During the debates that led to a 1920 law that legalized abortion in the Soviet Union, the Bolshevik leader V. I. Lenin emphatically rejected linking reactionary population-control policies with the progressive demand for legalizing abortion and access to birth control.

In Cuba, sex education and family planning programs in Cuba do not have a goal of either raising or lowering the population rate. If Cuba were to link birth control, abortion, and maternity care to population policy, this would undermine the right of women to freely choose whether to bear children, a right which is being advanced by the social measures the revolutionary government has instituted.

The battle over abortion rights and the fight to keep clinics open will continue to be decided in the streets and in front of the clinics themselves. Thousands of abortion rights activists have been preparing to confront Operation Rescue's planned assaults on abortion clinics and their staff in seven U.S. cities July 9–18. These mobilizations point the way forward in defending abortion rights and in the fight to repealing the Hyde amendment as well.

# Does N.Y. school curriculum point way to fight antigay prejudice?

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Letters from several readers are printed on the opposite page this week, raising objections to the article, "Behind debate on N.Y. school curriculum: Rightists seize initiative to push bipartisan assault on public education," which appeared in the June 7 issue of the *Militant*.

This article took up the debate around a first-grade educational curriculum proposed by former New York City school chancellor Joseph Fernandez called "Children of the Rainbow."

Supporters of this program claim it can help boost the self-esteem and reduce the alienation of children, and raise

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

a new generation of people less inclined to engage in racist attacks or attacks on immigrants, women, and gays.

Right-wing forces like the Christian Coalition, television preacher Pat Robertson, and columnist Patrick Buchanan seized the initiative in this debate to further promote the rulers' bipartisan assault on public education. Their aim is to push a broader right-wing agenda — in the schools and throughout society — that includes mandatory school prayer, banning abortion, proscribing homosexuality, censoring reading material, and requiring that creationism be taught in schools. They also oppose the distribution of condoms and courses on sex education in the schools.

### Attacks on education

As Diana Scalera notes in her letter, the capitalist rulers in the United States — both liberal and conservative — continue to carry out assaults on public education.

Between 1970 and 1992, spending on public education was reduced from 3.2 percent to below 1 percent of the U.S. budget. State governments have also slashed funds in recent years, leading to big tuition hikes; layoffs of teachers, professors, and other staff; and cutbacks in programs. The State University of New York, the country's second-largest public college system, has cut 5,000 of 26,000 faculty and staff since the mid-1970s. Similar cutbacks have taken place in high schools and elementary schools.

Scalera is correct when she says that working people must respond to this assault by fighting for "universal, lifetime, education free of charge."

Working people should be the biggest proponents of public education. They should resist any attempts to bring back religion to the classrooms, and oppose schemes to privatize education, whether under "school choice" or "voucher" programs promoted in different states. But fighting to increase funding for public education, in and of itself, will not change or improve the content of education.

As Johanna Ryan points out in her letter, schools under capitalism will never be "transmitters of objective facts." Rather, they are class institutions and will be as long as capitalism exists. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, founders of scientific socialism, explained this in the *Communist Manifesto*. Bourgeois culture, they wrote, "is, for the enormous majority, a mere training to act as a machine."

"The bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about the hallowed co-relation of parent and child," they continued, "becomes all the more disgusting, the more, by the action of modern industry, all family ties among the proletarians are torn asunder, and their children transformed into simple articles of commerce and instruments of labor."

In the United States today, educational institutions reflect and promote above all values, norms, attitudes, and a system of obedience necessary to reproduce capitalist economic and social relations. This is true all the way from what is presented in curricula to the increased presence of police in schools. "I don't know of any public school system in the country that doesn't have a strong values-clarification curriculum, whether it's rooted in religious teachings or not," says Fernandez, who promotes these "family values" programs in his autobiography *Tales Out of School*.

### Gains won in struggle

Social gains working people have won through struggle, however, do have an impact on education. The fight for abortion rights, for affirmative action, against antigay prejudice, and for school desegregation, for example, can and have produced some advances in education.

Socialists and other working-class fighters have championed struggles by Black students and others to change school programs and establish Afro-American, women's studies, and other such departments in schools. One recent such struggle, and a successful one, was the fight to establish a Chicano studies department at the University of California in Los Angeles.

These battles are an important part of the fight against those who seek to stamp out of history books many of the contributions women or people of oppressed nationalities

Continued on Page 12



# Timex strikers offer solidarity to other workers

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles.

hoses, and robotic welders.

The company is demanding big concessions including an across-the-board wage cut of \$1.50 an hour, elimination of one week of vacation, copayments for medical coverage, and forced overtime.

Unionists, including steelworkers from Trinity Industries in nearby Bessemer who just ended an eight-

## ON THE PICKET LINE

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.

Workers at the Timex factory in Dundee, Scotland, continue to strike in spite of a company threat to close the plant by Christmas. The 343 workers, who were locked out by management over four months ago when they resisted arbitrary layoffs, organized a day of action July 1. Johnny Kidd, convener of the strike committee, said actions took place in Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London.

The Timex workers are also anxious to share the lessons of their battle with other workers and to offer solidarity with other union fights. Timex striker Ann Low reports, "We guarantee to send a busload of Timex workers to any picket line in Britain. Fifty workers will join the picket line at Middlebrook Mushrooms," where workers have been on strike for eight months. "We also want to go to the United States to talk to the coal miners on strike there."

### Alabama steelworkers reject concessions

One hundred ninety members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 15015 struck the National-Standard Co. in Columbiana, Alabama, June 1. National-Standard produces high carbon steel wire for use in tires, pneumatic

and-a-half-month strike, have stopped by the picket line to show support. Local merchants have donated food and soda to the strikers.

### Frigidaire workers strike Iowa plant

Members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 442 at the Frigidaire Co. plant in Webster City, Iowa, set up picket lines on June 13 for the first time in 24 years. By a 76 percent margin, the 1,100 union members rejected a contract proposal that had been endorsed by the UAW officials.

The contract would have increased insurance copayments by 300 percent, raised the yearly deductible tenfold, and weakened seniority rights.

Picket shifts are being maintained around the clock and the union hall has become a center for organizing strike activities — including a kitchen to feed pickets and a distribution center for support signs.

### Canada postal workers aid Yellowknife miners

Following an appeal from representatives of striking miners at the Royal Oak gold mines in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, delegates to the national convention of the 40,000-member Canadian Union of Postal Workers — held in Toronto June 13-17 — voted unanimously to recommend



Fifty workers, members of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 122, are on strike against Carla Gay Dress Co. in Atlanta. Workers are demanding retention of the retirement plan and a successorship clause to maintain the union if the plant is sold.

that its incoming executive board donate \$20,000 to the strikers.

To cheers and standing ovations, Fred Couch, vice-president of Local 4 of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers Union, told the story of the 240 strikers who have been fighting for more than 13 months to save their union from the union-busting drive of Royal Oak.

### Swedish workers vote down new schedule

Auto workers at the Scania truck and bus plant near Stockholm rejected for a second time a plan that would have tied the length of their workweek to the production needs of the bosses. The vote came in spite of the fact that union officials urged a "yes" vote and the company threatened to fire 500 workers. More than 100 workers were fired following the last "no" vote.

The company is demanding the

right to schedule anywhere from 35 to 45 hours of work each week, for 40 hours' pay. The difference in hours would be put in a "time bank" and balanced out at the end of the year. If, because of low production, the workers owed hours at the end of the accounting period, they would be forced to pay them back by working Saturdays, without extra pay.

### Garment workers demand insurance

Twenty-seven members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) are back at work in Miami after being locked out by the owners of J.K. Dawson, a manufacturer of men's dress shirts. Workers at the plant are from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Ecuador, as well as from the United States.

The workers were locked out after protesting the company's refusal

to make payments toward their medical insurance plan.

More than 20 of the workers set up a picket line outside the factory. The pickets included several workers who just one week earlier had refused to join the protests against the company. After only a day and a half J.K. Dawson called the workers back and agreed to begin making the insurance payments.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Ann Fiander, member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union in Manchester, England; Tim Mailhot, member of USWA Local 1057 in Birmingham, Alabama; Shirley Peña, member of UAW Local 442 in Des Moines, Iowa; John Steele in Toronto; Birgitta Isacson, member of the Metalworkers union in Södertälje, Sweden; Seth Galinsky and Francisco Picado, members of ACTWU in Miami; and Miesha Zarate, member of USWA Local 122 in Atlanta.

## LETTERS

### Rainbow curriculum I

Your June 7 article on the debate over the New York school curriculum scoffs at the notion that issues affecting homosexuals need to be addressed in elementary schools.

As a former elementary school teacher, I can assure you that without specific curricular guidelines, gay-specific issues will never be addressed by school staff in a proactive way. Our teachers held a seminar on combating AIDS as part of the health and sexuality curriculum, and not once was the word gay or homosexual ever mentioned.

While I agree that humanistic teachings will not solve social conflicts under capitalism — and indeed further a denial of the class struggle — I think it's time we recognize that homophobia is truly a destructive force to our class and within it. Fernandez should be supported for refusing to play the game of omission that so often is used against homosexuals, socialists, and others who know that acknowledgment of the struggle being waged is the first step in the battle.

Russell Hall  
Chicago, Illinois

### Rainbow curriculum II

The *Militant's* article "Behind debate on N.Y. school curriculum" presents important information about the rightist campaign to control public education. However, it mistakenly brands New York City's condom distribution plan, the Rainbow curriculum, and multicultural education as "social engineering" of the liberal capitalist class. To do this shows a lack of understanding of how these things came about and

the importance of these gains to working people and their children. Moreover, the systematic dismantling of public education and attacks on teachers' working conditions by both liberals and rightists continues to go unaddressed.

The condom distribution plan, for example, is not the brainchild of New York City schools chancellor Joseph Fernandez. It began as a demand brought to the board by gay rights activists and high school students.

Since we now live in a society where having sex can kill you, it seems hard to argue that sex education can be started too early. Before the Rainbow curriculum, sex education was limited to one semester in the senior year of high school. This was too little, too late. This curriculum is not about educating the "new human being"; it is about saving lives. Teaching a child how to protect himself/herself from contracting AIDS during anal intercourse is necessary information.

Multicultural education has been used to define everything from food feasts to curricula that try to reflect the culture of the children it attempts to teach, in addition to exposing students to the cultural riches of the world. Teachers, however, are able to use the political space won by this broad definition of multicultural education to teach the writings of Malcolm X, Fidel Castro, and other revolutionaries in their classrooms, in addition to other cultural and artistic visionaries who didn't have their roots in Europe or white America and would have otherwise gone unmentioned.

As the *Militant* states, working

people need to fight for quality "universal, lifetime education free of charge." Neither the liberals nor the rightists support this idea. They have cynically used their disagreement over "morals" to cover up the fact that they are in complete agreement on how and to what extent public education should be dismantled. That is what should be attacked, not the political space working people and their children have won through struggle to teach information necessary for survival, a more accurate view of how people actually live, who participated in our history, and who created our art.

Diana Scaleria  
New York, New York

### Rainbow curriculum III

The June 7 article by Derek Bracey and Argyris Malapanis on the New York City schools presented the view that working people should take no part in defending the "Rainbow curriculum," which they characterized as no better than the "traditional values" education schemes pushed by conservatives. In my opinion, this conclusion was not backed up by adequate evidence, with the result that *Militant* readers weren't offered any perspective other than neutrality in the face of a significant offensive by the ultraright.

The main argument advanced by Bracey and Malapanis is that capitalism — not the prejudices of individual workers and their children — is responsible for racism and bigotry. Therefore, any attempt to teach youth that racism is wrong and that "whites can understand Blacks, men can under-



stand women, and native born can understand immigrants" is reactionary.

It's certainly true that the root cause of racism is the profit drive of the billionaire ruling families. However, racism wouldn't be a very useful weapon for the rulers if they couldn't foster mass acceptance of it — including among workers. That's why their fight to justify racist and sexist oppression goes on every day — in the mass media, on the job, in the streets, and in the schools. There's nothing illegitimate about trying to promote the view in the schools that Blacks and immigrants are not inferior, or that gays don't deserve harassment. True, as long as class society exists, schools will never be simply transmitters of "objective facts," because the contending classes will never agree on what the facts are.

Bracey and Malapanis also claim that the Rainbow curriculum imposes judgments on youth about certain lifestyles and sexual practices. As evidence they give a brief quote from a pamphlet on condom use that's available to New York City youth, which explains how to use lubricants during anal intercourse. What they miss is that the use of such lubricants is not just a cute trick to increase sexual enjoyment, but a vital weapon in the fight against AIDS.

Johanna Ryan  
Chicago, Illinois

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 prepares for Cuba trip

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Opponents of Washington's economic embargo against Cuba are getting ready to send off the second U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan. Activists around the country are preparing public meetings, press conferences, rallies, and other events to get the vehicles and drivers on their way to Tampico, Mexico, where their cargo of material aid to Cuba will be loaded onto ships.

Departing July 13-18 from a dozen cities in the United States and Canada, 12 convoys of cars, vans, trucks, buses, motor homes, and tractor trailers will carry some 100 tons of material aid to Cuba in a historic challenge to the 33-year-old embargo.

"We have received over 325 applications to participate in the caravan," said Lucius Walker during a recent phone interview here. "We can only take 300 at most."

Walker is the executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) and a leader of Pastors for Peace, the IFCO project that is sponsoring the caravan to Cuba.

"The second U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment," states a Pastors for Peace press release, "will challenge the morality and legality of the U.S. trade embargo by delivering 100 tons of humanitarian aid to the churches of Cuba without applying for nor accepting a license under the terms of the embargo."

The volunteers "represent a cross section of America," said Walker. "Housewives, executives, teachers, factory workers, students, religious workers, church members and non church members, African-Americans, Cuban-Americans, Euro-Americans; they are all of us, they are the melting pot." Sixty-five Cuban-Americans, mainly from Miami and New Jersey, will take part in the caravan.

Activists in New York report their send-off celebration will be held at Riverside Church in Manhattan July 17. They will hold a public meeting and volunteers will help load the vehicles. They will be joined by activists who have made their way from Portland, Maine, collecting aid, drivers, and cars and holding meetings along the way. The Maine drivers will be leaving Portland July 13 after a send-off event at Monument Square.

"We will be taking powdered milk, wheelchairs, bicycles and parts, good truck tires, and medicines," said Steve Burke, a caravan driver from the Let Cuba Live solidarity group in Maine. "The Cubans have also asked that musical instruments be included on the donations list."

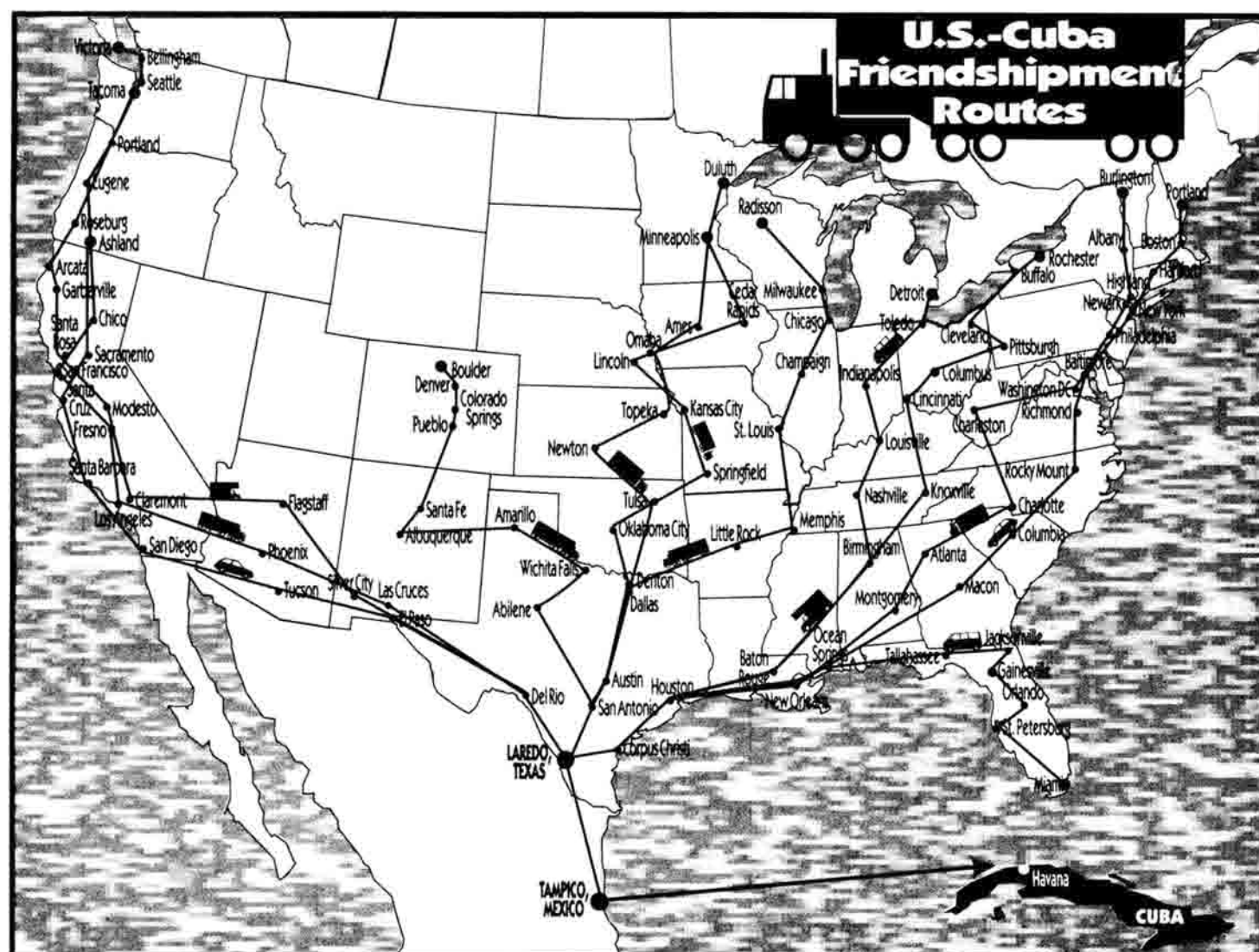
Activists in Seattle who will not be able to participate in the entire caravan, plan to join the convoy as it passes through their area, stopping at the send-offs and other events in the region. "We will at least be at the Tacoma, Washington; Seattle; and the Portland, Oregon, events, and see where we go from there," said Chris Hoepfner, a Seattle Friendshipment activist. The Seattle caravan will originate in Victoria, British Columbia.

The convoys will make stops in approximately 120 cities in the United States, as well as cities in Mexico. At each stop, volunteers will make "presentations in places such as community and worship centers," said Walker. "They will be doing press interviews and speaking on radio talk shows. We will present our perspective that the time has long come and gone for the U.S. to end the embargo, and that we should be rethinking our relations with our neighbor to the south," Walker said.

The caravans will all converge in Laredo, Texas, where volunteers will spend two days reviewing and packaging the material aid, repairing the vehicles for the last leg of the trip to the port of Tampico and discussing how to handle the border crossing. "We have to be prepared because there is always a possibility of government interference," Walker noted.

From Tampico the drivers will fly to Cuba, where they will help distribute the aid.

Selva Nebbia is a Friendshipment activist in New York and will be a driver in the caravan.



Militant map/Susie Winsten

Over 250 drivers from 120 U.S. cities are delivering material aid and solidarity to Cuba, in opposition to the U.S. embargo.

## Mexican workers, peasants, and youth join fight against U.S. gov't embargo of Cuba

BY HILDA CUZCO

NEW YORK — "The U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan to Cuba is strategic," said Tatiana Coll from the Mexico City-based Promotora de Solidaridad "Va por Cuba" in a recent interview here. Coll was in the United States after attending the June 19-20 National Network on Cuba meeting in Chicago. The Network promotes activities by national and local organizations opposed to Washington's policies toward Cuba.

"Pastors for Peace may have only taken 15 tons of aid to Cuba during the caravan last fall," Coll said, "while Promotora will be taking 350 tons in our campaign. But those 15 tons have more political meaning than our 350. Your solidarity," she pointed out, "comes from the belly of the beast."

In November of last year, when the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan made its first trip to Cuba, Promotora was a part of the successful U.S.-Mexico border crossing. This year they are planning to send a welcoming caravan to the border when the second aid convoy arrives.

Activists in Mexico will organize publicity for the caravan as well as help with many of the logistics of the border crossing; the trip down to Tampico, Mexico; and loading the aid onto boats for the trip to Cuba. "We will be organizing a press conference to get the Mexican media to the border for the crossing of the caravan," explained Coll. "We will also help get the proper permits and other such tasks to facilitate the work of the Friendshipment."

"In case there is a problem at the border, such as any arrests, we will be ready to organize a broad response in Mexico as well," she added. "In other words, we will

do all we can to help out because we think this solidarity campaign is crucial today."

Promotora involves a variety of political parties; church organizations; community groups; peasant organizations; students; and

Promotora, she explained, wanted to find "something that would be a symbol, that would help to break the blockade and prevent the paralyzation of Cuba, while at the same time not pretending to solve all of Cuba's problems, which we cannot do." So Promotora launched a campaign to buy oil for Cuba. The group's two shipments — one in April 1992 and the second in May 1993 — delivered a total of 190 tons of oil to Cuba.

"Peasant organizations have donated funds that enabled us to purchase 175 tons of fertilizer so that peasants in Cuba can plant and harvest food crops," Coll reported. "This is something new, because the peasants are the poorest sector of Mexican society. They only make around \$1 a day."

"Defense of the Cuban revolution is part of defending the sovereignty and reality of peasants in Mexico," Coll explained. "This is why the peasants responded to the campaign for fertilizer. Now we are planning to raise money for machetes."

In total, Promotora has sent hundreds of tons of aid to Cuba. The shipments included 30 tons of powdered milk and flour. "I did not want to see any more powdered milk. It took us 15 days to pack and box it," Coll remembered with a smile. "One peasant organization donated 15 tons of rice, others gave 15 tons of beans. It was an explosion of tremendous solidarity. It was incredible," she said.

Promotora is now continuing to raise funds to purchase petroleum for Cuba, Coll said. Well-known Mexican artists have already donated 378 paintings that are worth \$100,000. The sale of these works will enable Promotora to send a third shipment of oil to Cuba soon.



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

Tatiana Coll, a leader of the Mexico City-based Promotora de Solidaridad, being interviewed by Militant staff writer Martin Koppel. Activists in Mexico will be aiding the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan.

some unions, such as the electricians and university workers.

All the organizations that form the Promotora are united by three political demands: the immediate lifting of the embargo; respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of the Cuban people, and the departure of the U.S. Naval Base from Guantánamo Bay.

"Cuba has the capacity to solve its own problems because it has developed an infrastructure," Coll said, explaining why the Cuban people need solidarity, not charity. "But Cuba does not have oil, and this is being used to paralyze it."