

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Behind U.S. hypocrisy
on human rights in China

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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May 9, 1994

Caterpillar workers hold one-day strike in Illinois

BY PETER THIERJUNG

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — Fed up with Caterpillar Inc.'s relentless assault on their rights and union, more than 3,300 workers struck the company's Decatur and Aurora, Illinois, facilities April 26. The walkout lasted only a day and was provoked when management at the Decatur plant suspended a third-shift union steward's privileges for 30 days. The suspension meant the company would not allow the steward to represent members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 751.

This blatant interference in the union's affairs and denial of the members' rights to select their representatives angered workers.

"I received a call at 4 a.m. from workers at the plant. They told me to get to the union hall and unlock it because they were walking out," Larry Solomon, president of UAW Local 751, said in a phone interview. Workers made signs at the hall and then headed back to the plant to form a picket line. When day shift arrived, some 1,000 workers joined the line.

The unionists returned to work that night after the company agreed to negotiate the issue and indicated there was "room to work it out," Solomon said. Recent company provocations have nearly triggered walkouts at other Caterpillar plants. Tensions on the shop floor throughout the earthmoving equipment giant's chain are escalating.

UAW members have been working without a contract for two years. In April 1992 Caterpillar workers were ordered back to work by top union officials after a bitter

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Clinton sticks to forcing refugees back to Haiti

"I am appalled by the decision . . . to pick up fleeing Haitians on the high seas and forcibly return them to Haiti before considering their claim to political asylum." — Bill Clinton on May 27, 1992, as a candidate for U.S. president.

"I fear that boat departures in the near future would result in further tragic losses of life. For this reason, the practice of returning those who flee Haiti by boat will continue for the time being, after I become president." — Clinton on Jan. 14, 1993, right before his inauguration.

"They were just killing people, burning people. We had to go." — Bruno Saintilus, one of 414 Haitian refugees picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard 4.3 miles off the Florida coast on April 20.

BY SETH GALINSKY

MIAMI — Despite allowing a boat crammed with 414 Haitians to land in Miami April 22, the Clinton administration has vowed to continue its policy of forcibly repatriating Haitian refugees.

At an all-night meeting administration officials debated whether they should send these refugees, who managed to get within 4.3 miles of the Florida coast, back to Haiti.

Hoping to quell criticism of Clinton's

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South African elections mark 'dawn of freedom'

BY GREG ROSENBERG

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — "Today is a day like no other before it," said African National Congress president Nelson Mandela at a press conference here on April 26, the first of three days of voting. "Voting in our first free and fair election has begun. Today marks the dawn of our freedom."

As this country's first democratic elections opened here, millions of working people celebrated the accomplishments of the decades-long battle led by the ANC to rid South Africa of white-minority rule, and prepared for a democratic nonracial government to assume power.

The first two days of voting here took on the character of a mass political action, as millions of people, determined to bury the old regime, refused to let a wave of indiscriminate bombings deter them from the polls.

At midnight April 26, the reviled apartheid constitution was replaced with an interim constitution outlawing racial discrimination in South Africa.

From the streets of the Black townships to vast mining compounds, people are counting the hours to the installation of a new government, which will mark the end of the former white regime once and for all. The country is awash in

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Militant/Greg Rosenberg

80,000 people participate in final ANC campaign rally at FNB stadium in Johannesburg April 23

Havana hosts meeting with Cuban emigrés

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

MIAMI — "For those of us who have experienced pressures, threats and aggression for three decades, it is easy to understand the personal effort on the part of many [present here] and the merits of their decision not to be pushed back by those who made threats and applied pressures aimed at preventing this event [from taking place]," said Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina. He was addressing a conference of representatives of the Cuban diaspora in Havana.

The international gathering took place at the Conventions Palace April 23-24. More than 200 Cuban emigrés from 29 countries attended. They came from places as far away as Jordan. Several came from Latin America. But the overwhelming majority were Cuban-

Americans from Florida, New Jersey, and elsewhere in the United States.

"We interpret your presence here," stated Robaina "as a token of your affinity and identification with the Cuban nation. . . ."

"The fact that you and we are within this room is not a miracle," he continued. "It is the product of maturity, strength, and independence."

Among the main stated goals of the meeting were establishing closer links between the government in Havana and Cubans abroad who are opposed to the U.S. embargo, as well as setting guidelines to facilitate travel and repatriation of Cuban immigrants.

Although most participants from the United States were opponents of Washington's embargo against Cuba, there was a diverse spectrum of political points of view represented. It included one-time officials of the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, such as Luis Tornes and Luis Manuel Martínez, as well as some former members of the infamous 2506 Brigade, which carried out the U.S.-organized Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961.

Also present was Francisco González Aruca, the owner of the Miami-Cuba travel agency Marazul Charters. Aruca is well-known for his political commentary against Washington's policy of aggression against Cuba on the popular Radio Progreso in Miami. He left Cuba in the 1960s after admittedly conspiring against the revolutionary government. Others included Juan Manuel Rodríguez, a deserter of the revolutionary army in 1960 and currently a businessman in Costa Rica, and Luis Ortega, a well-known Miami-based columnist of New York's Spanish daily *El Diario/La Prensa*.

There were also delegations from some

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Editors of Marxist magazine appeal to readers for funds

April 26, 1994

Dear Friend,

We are appealing to you to give a generous contribution to make possible the publication of three new issues of the Marxist journal of politics and theory *New International* and seven more issues of its sister magazines in Spanish, French, and Swedish. The goal of the New International Fund is to raise \$100,000 by the end of June.

As political weapons for the working class and other fighters, these issues of *New International* come at a crucial time.

Capitalism has entered a worldwide depression. Competition and trade wars between capitalist rivals are intensifying. Bosses are driving ruthlessly to downsize and cut costs, slash workers' wages and benefits, expand overtime work, speed up production, and drive down basic working conditions. As political polarization increases, ultrarightist currents are raising their heads from the United

States to Europe and Asia. For the first time since World War II, a major war is being fought in Europe. Washington, with its bombing of Bosnia, has now directly intervened.

As we approach the 21st century, the prospect that a fascist or Bonapartist regime could triumph in a major industrialized country in Europe, North America, or elsewhere underscores the reality that the capitalist classes are marching toward another interimperialist world war — something that was not even remotely on the agenda for nearly half a century.

Amid today's depression conditions, the current upswing in the capitalist business cycle in the United States and several other imperialist countries is bringing a fresh new generation of workers into the factories, mines, and mills. The employers are seeking strong muscles and bones capable of working under brutally intensified conditions. But these young workers, free from the demoral-

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Coalition gov't cracks in Japan

One day after Tsutomu Hata took office as Japan's new prime minister, his coalition government lost its parliamentary majority. The Socialist Party bolted from the ruling alliance April 26. This move by the largest party in the ruling coalition left Hata, the country's former foreign minister, heading Japan's first minority government in four decades. Hata had been selected to replace Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his resignation from the post of prime minister April 8 amid revelations of financial improprieties.

S. Korean prime minister resigns

After just five months in office, South Korean prime minister Lee Hoi-Chang resigned April 22, reportedly angered at being left out of important decisions affecting relations with North Korea. President Kim Young-Sam promptly replaced him with Lee Young-Duk, who was serving as unification minister. A week earlier Seoul had dropped its demand for an exchange of envoys with North Korea as a condition for the resumption of negotiations.

U.S. defense secretary William Perry toured U.S. defense forces in South Korea April 20-21. His visit coincided with the arrival of six batteries of U.S. Patriot missiles recently shipped by Washington to Seoul.

Khmer Rouge retake key town

A senior government official in Cambodia announced April 20 that the opposition Khmer Rouge forces had retaken the strategic town of Pailin from the Cambodian army, though fighting continues there. A Khmer Rouge official claimed that 3,000 of its soldiers had taken part in the attack.

Pailin, a gem-mining and timber town near the Thailand border, was captured by government troops March 19. The town had been the headquarters and main source of income for the Khmer Rouge, who have waged a guerrilla war since being ousted from power in 1979.

Coal miners strike in Poland

A strike by 20,000 coal miners at four pits in Poland cut deliveries to plants that produce 40 percent of the country's energy at the end of April. The Solidarity trade union organized the protest against a government plan to divide the country's mining and energy sector into several dozen loosely as-



U.S. troops setting up Patriot missile system near South Korean capital of Seoul.

sociated companies.

IMF grants Russia loan

After months of delay the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$1.5 billion loan to the Russian government. The loan is the second installment of a \$3 billion aid package that the fund promised to Russia more than a year ago. IMF officials recently praised Moscow for holding down its inflation rate to 7 percent a month. Last year, inflation in Russia soared to 950 percent. Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, visited Russia in March to demand that the government significantly reduce inflation, privatize more factories, and slash subsidies to state-owned enterprises.

U.S.-Canada fight on wheat trade

The Clinton administration set July 1 as the deadline for Ottawa to restrict wheat and barley exports to the United States or face heavy tariffs on these products. Canadian officials have vowed to retaliate. They've drawn up a list of possible U.S. targets that include chicken, wine, bourbon, whiskey, canned fruits, canned tomato products, bakery products, and pasta.

Washington claims that Ottawa exports too much wheat and other grains to the United States and provides excessive subsidies to farmers in Canada. Canadian wheat shipments to the United States are projected to be 2.5 million tons this crop year, compared with an average of about 1 million tons annually over the previous five years. U.S. government officials are demanding Canada cut these exports to 1.5 million tons a year.

This dispute between the two largest trading partners in the world occurs soon after the adoption of the North American Free Trade Agreement last December and the recently signed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Clinton: warrantless cop searches

U.S. president Bill Clinton announced he will continue to seek increased police sweeps in public housing projects even after his plan for such warrantless searches was

blocked in federal court. Clinton said instead of trying to reverse the court's decision he would urge housing authorities to make tenants sign leases authorizing searches of their apartments. His proposal would also allow cops to enter homes in public housing projects without warrants under what they considered emergency circumstances.

Veterans win free-speech fight

The U.S. Army agreed to pay \$79,000 to antiwar veterans thrown out of a 1991 Armed Forces Day parade at the Presidio military base in San Francisco. The army and the city's Chamber of Commerce organized the action to support U.S. troops that served during the Gulf War. About 15 members of the Veterans Speakers Alliance, a Bay Area-based group that speaks out against war at schools and other events, carried placards and banners in the parade reading "Veterans Say No To War" and "Wage Peace."

Military police threw seven of the veterans against a fence, handcuffed them, held them in custody for several hours, and barred them from returning to the base. "Even on a military base, the government is not free to suppress speech solely because of the message — the political viewpoint," American Civil Liberties Union attorney Alan Schlosser said.

Rightist wins Salvador election

Armando Calderón Sol of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, or Arena, was elected president of El Salvador in an April 24 runoff election. Winning 70 percent of the vote, he soundly defeated Rubén Zamora, who headed a coalition that included leaders of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Voting irregularities marked the election. A senior United Nations official in El Salvador said, "Before the voting there was widespread mistrust of the electoral system; now there is even more." Sol's victory further consolidated Arena's firm hold on power. The governing party had also swept local and parliamentary elections held in March.

Auto industry booming in Brazil

The automobile industry in Brazil is undergoing a \$12 billion modernization program intended to put Brazilian-made cars on streets around the world by the end of the decade. Production has jumped by 52 percent since 1990. Last year, Brazil produced a record 1.4 million cars, moving past Italy and Mexico to become the world's 10th-largest car maker. General Motors and a Ford-Volkswagen consortium called Autolatina have each invested \$5 billion in automobile production in Brazil; Fiat is spending \$2 billion. Booming wine exports by the Cooperativa Vinícola Aurora especially of the Marcus James label, have turned Brazilian companies into the fastest growing exporters of wine to the U.S. market.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

*News and analysis
on fight against racism, cop brutality*

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U.S. gov't increasingly calls shots in Bosnia

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Using the fig leaf of NATO once again, Washington has adopted a military plan for Bosnia that, if acted upon, could lead to a massive escalation of the first war in Europe in nearly four decades.

At an April 22 emergency meeting in Brussels, NATO issued an ultimatum calling for the unleashing of massive air strikes against rightist Serb forces unless they immediately pulled back their troops and weaponry from the east Bosnian town of Gorazde.

This decision was announced after forces led by Radovan Karadzic and aided by Belgrade besieged Gorazde for several weeks. Karadzic's troops had virtually seized control of Gorazde, a city of 65,000 people, killing some 700 residents and wounding nearly 2,000 through incessant shelling.

While vowing they would comply with the NATO ultimatum, Karadzic's commanders continued to pummel this majority Muslim city with artillery shells until the last possible moment. Targets hit included the city's main hospital and the Red Cross refugee center. As the rightist Serb troops pulled back, they burned the homes of Muslims and blew up the town's water treatment plant. At the same time a Bosnia army mortar hit the town's arms factory.

The NATO ultimatum demanded that Serb troops be withdrawn at least 1.9 miles from the center of Gorazde by 2:00 a.m. April 24 and that their heavy weaponry be placed beyond a 12-mile radius from the city center within the following three days. In addition, U.S. military officials vowed to bomb rightist Serb forces after April 27 if they attack or mass heavy weapons inside a 12-mile radius of four other cities — Tuzla,



U.S. Air Force F-16 attack plane preparing for bombing run in Bosnia. Washington is leading charge for deeper imperialist military intervention in the conflict.

Zepa, Bihac, and Srebrenica. The United Nations Security Council had declared those Bosnian towns as "safe areas" last year.

By April 26, rightist Serb forces had withdrawn for the most part beyond the 12-mile radius from the center of Gorazde.

Washington seeks broad mandate

Washington, which is more and more leading the charge toward deeper imperialist military intervention in the conflict, wanted NATO to have the latitude to conduct air strikes anywhere in Bosnia. But Paris and London, which have thousands of ground troops in Bosnia as part of the 13,500 member UN force, objected. Washington then agreed to a more limited bombing campaign, focused in the vicinity of the specifically designated "safe areas."

As Serb troops continued shelling Gorazde in violation of the first NATO-declared deadline, Adm. Leighton Smith, the U.S. Navy officer who commands NATO's southern flank, called for immediate air strikes. UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi, however, opposed an immediate NATO bombardment, saying Karadzic's troops should be given more time to carry out their cease-fire pledge. U.S. representative to the United Nations Madeleine Albright sharply rebuked Akashi April 26 for criticizing

Washington's refusal to send troops to join the UN force.

While endorsing the NATO ultimatum, Paris refused to send any of its troops from Sarajevo to Gorazde as part of a UN force to monitor the cease-fire, claiming it would be too dangerous.

The Greek government, which has backed the Serbian regime in the conflict, disassociated itself from the NATO decision on Gorazde, but did not attempt to block it. Moscow, which has also maintained strong ties with Belgrade, characterized the air strikes threatened by the NATO ultimatum as an "adequate response." But Russian defense minister Pavel Grachev stated April 25 he strongly opposed NATO air strikes in Bosnia, adding that Belgrade-backed forces should not be blamed "one-sidedly" for shelling Gorazde.

Meanwhile, Italian parliamentary deputy Mirko Tremaglia from the fascist National Alliance, publicly declared parts of the former Yugoslavia as "historically Italian." His group is part of the rightist coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi that won recent elections and is expected to form a new government soon. Tremaglia called Istria, on the northern rim of the Adriatic Sea that is currently part of Croatia, as well as the city of Rijeka and the Dalmatian coast as "occupied territo-

ries." Gianfranco Fini, head of the National Alliance, defended Tremaglia when the deputy came under criticism by some capitalist politicians. Livio Caputo, a senator from Berlusconi's Forza Italia, said that the new government should block entry of Slovenia and Croatia to the European Union until they agree to pay reparations for Italian property seized after World War II.

Washington's plan for escalated air strikes will supposedly be aimed at ammunition dumps, command bunkers, and supply routes. But the scope of the attack being planned will inevitably entail a large number of civilian casualties, as bombs will be launched against mobile targets in heavily forested, mountainous terrain.

"The plan is to bomb the crap out of them," stated one unnamed military official. "Such an intense and protracted bombing campaign, which could last several days," stated an article in the April 25 *Washington Post*, "would mark a dramatic escalation from the tit-for-tat attacks launched on April 10-11 in support of besieged UN observers in Gorazde."

Nearly 200 combat planes and support aircraft are available for this operation at bases in Italy, France, Germany, and Britain, and aboard three carriers in the Adriatic that can be called upon to conduct this operation. In recent months, this air fleet has been beefed up even further with the addition of U.S. Air Force F-15E attack jets and other warplanes capable of dropping laser-guided bombs like those used against Iraq in 1991.

Bombing to 'vindicate U.S. leadership'

In testimony before Congress April 21, U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher asserted that stronger military action is needed in Bosnia to "vindicate United States leadership" and maintain U.S. military credibility.

Attempting to cover his administration's planned military onslaught under a humanitarian mantle, U.S. president Bill Clinton said, "We are determined to save innocent lives . . . and help bring the parties back for a negotiated settlement."

"The last guy who tried that just died," said one NATO officer, referring to former president Richard Nixon, who argued along similar lines in defense of the massive bombardment of North Vietnam in the early 1970s.

Democrat Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, described Clinton's military plan as "slow escalation." He said Washington must be willing to take all-out military action against Serbia. The *Wall Street Journal* editors weighed in with a similar point. "Forget air strikes against the Bosnia Serbs," they wrote April 21. "Instead, select military targets in Serbia itself."

In a rather candid remark April 22, German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel said that the "only true solution that would quickly get results" in Bosnia would require the deployment of hundreds of thousands of ground troops. He was quick to admit, however, that the political climate does not exist in Europe or in the United States for such a vast undertaking.

Inflation, labor strife worry Beijing

BY PAT SMITH

China's gross domestic product (GDP) continues to grow at a rapid pace, as millions of peasants are being compelled to move from the countryside into the industrial centers. But a surge in inflation and growing resistance by working people to deteriorating living and working conditions worries some Chinese Communist Party officials. After two straight years of 13 percent growth in the GDP, inflation is running at nearly 25 percent in China's largest cities and wages are not keeping up.

In Shanghai, for example, prices rose by 38 percent in the first three months of this year. In addition, some shopkeepers tell customers they have no products at the government-set rates, but offer to come up with them for a much higher amount.

In February, the price of vegetables was 54 percent higher than a year earlier, the cost of staple grains rose by 40 percent, and workers paid a third more for meat. If the trend continues, overall inflation could accelerate to an annual rate of more than 50 percent by the end of the year.

Inflation in major cities has driven national price indexes up. Current statistics suggest inflation has also spread to the countryside where more than two-thirds of China's 1.2 billion people live. "If inflation keeps rising, the whole thing could explode," John Wong of Singapore's Institute of East Asian Political Economy said.

Vice Premier Li Lanqing warned members of the National People's Congress that "if prices cannot be controlled, popular feelings and stability will be affected and reform cannot be carried out." At the same meeting, Hunan province party official Hou Zhenting told delegates that the government had not paid millions of teachers. Authorities also issued promissory notes to farmers for their

grain, instead of cash.

State industries "are in the red," he said, "and workers' basic pay cannot be guaranteed while, on the other hand, factory directors and managers travel." These administrators use government funds for their forays abroad and give lavish parties for their cronies. "How can the masses be satisfied with this?" Hou asked.

Discontent grows

The depth of discontent is hard to measure. But a secret government report leaked to *Chengming*, a Hong Kong newspaper, in April reported that more than 6,000 illegal strikes occurred in China last year. Many were protests against layoffs and unpaid wages from state-run industries.

A Hong Kong magazine said 800 underground unions have been formed in Guangdong, China's most industrialized province. The *Globe and Mail* of Canada reported these trade unions function like secret societies and lack formal rules, but are feared by employers and the government. Tens of thousands of peasants and rural workers have protested nonpayment of wages throughout China's central and southwestern provinces as well.

Workers are also fighting against deteriorating working conditions. Industrial accidents more than doubled in 1993, killing or maiming tens of thousands of workers. Many workers charge foreign investors with running factories under sweatshop conditions.

The Chinese magazine *Outlook*, for example, reported workers at a joint venture in Shanghai were given one five-minute bathroom break a day. The magazine detailed other abuses including no overtime pay, arbitrary fines on workers, and one case of a woman locked in a dog cage for dis-

cipline. In Guangdong province, 500,000 children are estimated to be among the 8 million transient laborers in the workforce.

China's labor minister, Li Boyong, said the country faces "unprecedented challenges in deploying all the jobless," who are traveling into cities from the countryside in search of work. This mobile population of surplus labor is estimated to exceed 100 million.

"The rise in unemployment rather than inflation would pose a greater threat to China," Li Yining, a senior government economist said. Beijing has begun to lay off large numbers of workers in many state industries deemed not profitable. Ye Zhen, of China's State Statistical Bureau, told the *Wall Street Journal* that in the first quarter of this year more than half of all state factories lost money, and the government shelled out \$1.8 billion in subsidies.

According to London's *Economist*, output at state-run industries grew by less than 2 percent compared to private businesses, whose output grew at an annual rate of 30 percent in the final quarter of 1993. In April, a state-owned company filed for bankruptcy for the first time ever.

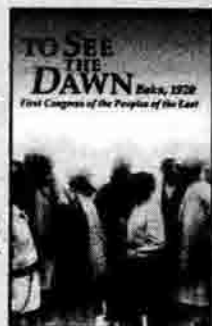
Beijing had announced plans to break up China's 11,000 large state-owned industries and sell them off, closing the biggest "money losers" and finding private managers for those deemed most profitable. Late last year, the government announced that it would pick 100 large state enterprises to be run like capitalist corporations. Almost halfway through 1994, however, the names of the 100 companies have yet to be made public.

"One of the jokes you hear is that if they select 100 enterprises a year for reform, in 100 years they will have solved the problem," an unnamed diplomat told the *New York Times*.

From Pathfinder

To See the Dawn BAKU, 1920—FIRST CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE EAST

How can peasants and workers in the colonial world achieve freedom from imperialist exploitation? How can working people overcome the divisions incited by their national ruling classes and act together for common class interests? These questions were addressed by 2,000 delegates to the Baku congress, representing two dozen peoples of Asia. They met at a time when the young workers and peasants republic in Russia gave hope of a new dawn for the world's toilers. The latest volume in the series *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*, edited by John Riddell. \$19.95



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Campaign with next issue!

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Militant distributors in Birmingham, Alabama, sold 25 subscriptions to the socialist paper during the April 16-24 sales target week, nearly doubling their total. Sarah Harris wrote that the week's highlights included "two subscriptions sold in coal mining areas; four to political activists, including three abortion clinic defenders; and seven to industrial workers on the job."

"One new subscriber who began reading the paper at work is interested in picking up *New Internationalist* no. 7, 'The Opening Guns of World War III,' because of his experience as a GI in the Middle East during the Gulf War," Harris said.

This is the kind of momentum that is needed in every city in order to meet the goals of the international circulation drive. With three weeks left, sales of the *Militant*, its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* are lagging significantly behind schedule. As supporters of the socialist press in Birmingham found, however, this can be rapidly turned around. To focus on this, the *Militant* is calling a second target week for May 7-15, the final week of the drive.

Developments in world politics and the class struggle make this an excellent time to reach out to workers and youth with the socialist publications. This was vividly demonstrated when hundreds of South Africans turned out to vote at a Chicago office building April 26. Johanna Ryan and Dennis Chambers report that 50 striking Teamsters showed up at the same building to support unionists fighting for their first contract from Pony Express by picketing a corporate board meeting being held there.



Sales at anti-Klan demonstration in Lansing, Michigan, April 23.

"As many young South Africans came out after voting, they danced in celebration. Some of the Teamsters joined them in dancing to show solidarity," wrote Ryan. *Militant* supporters staffing an all-day table outside the polling station sold 35 *Militant* singles, 4 subscriptions, and 7 copies of the Pathfinder book *Nelson Mandela Speaks*. One of the subscriptions was sold to a Teamster.

Distributors in Boston, Miami, Greece, and elsewhere report similar responses among South African voters and at events to celebrate the first nonracial, democratic elections

in that country.

A week-long team of readers from as far away as San Francisco travelled through central Illinois during the target week introducing workers and students to the socialist press. Altogether they sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions and more than 100 single copies, including 80 singles and three subscriptions to workers at Caterpillar Inc.

At one plant gate, a worker driving out recognized the *Militant* and yelled, "That's a great paper." He immediately pulled over and bought a subscription.

'Militant' will feature introduction to 'Changing Face of U.S. Politics'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Next week's *Militant* will feature the introduction to the expanded edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes.

This new tool in the arsenal of Marxist literature is a handbook for the generations of workers coming into industrial and other jobs in the last half of the 1990s — workers who will react to the brutal speed up, grinding life, and unending tumult that will accompany the dawn of the twenty-first century.

Pathfinder Press has announced that the book will be available for distribution in mid-May.

To take advantage of this exciting development, and to help launch broad promotion and sales

of the book, the *Militant* has set May 7-15 as a target week for its international circulation campaign.

The issue of the paper on sale that week will contain the introduction to the *Changing Face* in the May *International Socialist Review*. In addition, the *Militant* will offer the book, along with a 12-week introductory subscription, for the special price of \$25 during the last week of its circulation campaign.

The publication of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* grows out of the experience of the working class over the last 20 years. Much in its pages was discussed and adopted by conventions of the SWP in the United States. The book shows why only the working class can lead humanity out of the capitalist-caused social crisis, and why the industrial workers and their primary defen-

sive organizations, the trade unions, have the potential to be the most powerful detachments of that class.

It also shows how through daily involvement and political work on the job, in the unions, and in movements of social protest today, as well as the much wider class battles of tomorrow, strong communist parties can be built. These organizations aim, as stated in the constitution of the SWP, "to educate and organize the working class in order to establish a workers and farmers government, which will abolish capitalism... and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism."

The new edition of this book has been prepared at an important time. A small but growing layer of young workers and students are repelled by the inhumanity of capitalism. Many are attracted to socialism and the communist movement. At the same time, there is significant hiring in basic industry — including many workers in their teens and twenties — for the first time in at least half a decade in the United States and other imperialist countries.

Together, these two facts point to new opportunities to build revolutionary parties of industrial workers. *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* is for those who want to be part of meeting this challenge.

The *Militant* urges all its supporters to order bigger bundles for the next issue and map ambitious plans for the target week — organizing ahead of time to use the May *International Socialist Review* to introduce as many people as possible to the *Militant* and the new Pathfinder book.

WHERE WE STAND end of week seven

58% SOLD 1,747 **70% SHOULD BE 2,100**

	MILITANT		%	Perspectiva Mundial		%	NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL		SOLD	GOAL		SOLD	GOAL
ICELAND	9	12	75%	0	1	0%	0	6
NEW ZEALAND								
Auckland	65	85	76%	4	6	67%	26	40
Christchurch	32	45	71%	1	2	50%	13	20
N.Z. Total	97	130	75%	5	8	63%	39	60
AUSTRALIA	18	25	72%	6	8	75%	16	27
GREECE	7	10	70%	0	1	0%	6	5
BRITAIN								
Manchester	44	50	88%	0	5	0%	22	30
London	37	60	62%	0	2	0%	19	40
Sheffield	19	35	54%	1	2	50%	19	20
Britain Total	100	145	69%	1	9	11%	60	90
SWEDEN	26	40	65%	11	18	61%	13	30
CANADA								
Vancouver	59	75	79%	8	10	80%	20	45
Toronto	43	80	54%	11	15	73%	3	40
Montreal	40	75	53%	20	20	100%	35	70
Canada Total	142	230	62%	39	45	87%	58	155
UNITED STATES								
Albany, NY	4	5	80%	1	1	100%	0	4
Greensboro, NC	40	50	80%	2	5	40%	13	22
Houston	49	65	75%	8	12	67%	20	27
Detroit	65	90	72%	4	10	40%	24	40
Salt Lake City, UT	64	90	71%	3	15	20%	23	55
Birmingham, AL	52	75	69%	2	5	40%	4	35
Miami	83	120	69%	29	50	58%	77	95
Los Angeles	135	200	68%	61	95	64%	70	90
San Francisco	88	135	65%	30	40	75%	79	105
Atlanta	50	80	63%	11	13	85%	24	35
Washington, D.C.	46	75	61%	18	25	72%	28	40
Albuquerque, NM	3	5	60%	2	1	200%	1	3
Chicago	78	130	60%	19	30	63%	61	75
Boston	71	120	59%	25	40	63%	35	80
Philadelphia	67	115	58%	17	30	57%	60	65
St. Louis	40	70	57%	5	8	63%	22	35
Twin Cities, MN	62	110	56%	10	17	59%	46	65
Des Moines, IA	45	80	56%	14	35	40%	31	55
Seattle	41	75	55%	6	12	50%	30	35
Cincinnati, OH	8	15	53%	3	2	150%	5	8
New Haven, CT	7	15	47%	1	3	33%	3	10
Pittsburgh	44	100	44%	8	10	80%	26	40
Denver	4	10	40%	2	2	100%	3	3
Newark, NJ	51	130	39%	8	35	23%	34	75
New York	52	135	39%	13	35	37%	76	110
Brooklyn	50	130	38%	19	35	54%	59	110
Cleveland	26	85	31%	4	10	40%	15	30
Morgantown, WV	13	50	26%	0	2	0%	14	30
Edinboro, PA	2	10	20%	1	0	100%	0	3
Portland, OR	1	6	17%	0	0	0%	0	2
U.S. Total	1,341	2,376	56%	326	578	56%	883	1,382
GERMANY	4	10	40%	1	4	25%	18	25
BELGIUM	1	3	33%	2	4	50%	2	5
FRANCE	2	10	20%	4	2	200%	2	12
PUERTO RICO	0	2	0%	6	8	75%	6	12
TOTAL	1,747	2,993	58%	401	686	58%	1,103	1,809
SHOULD BE	2,100	3,000	70%	455	650	70%	1,260	1,800

IN THE UNIONS

NEW ZEALAND							
UFBGWU	5	6	83%	0	—	1	1
EU	6	9	67%	1	—	0	2
MWU	1	4	25%	0	2	0	2
N.Z. Total	11	15	73%	1	—	1	3
CANADA							
CAW	6	9	67%	4	5	4	4
IAM	11	19	58%	3	2	1	6
ACTWU	2	4	50%	1	2	2	2
USWA	2	11	18%	1	2	2	10
Canada Total	21	43	49%	9	11	7	22
UNITED STATES							
ILGWU	11	12	92%	10	24	2	8
UTU	44	72	61%	3	3	2	22
IAM	44	80	55%	3	3	15	25
OCAW	35	70	50%	0	5	8	25
USWA	31	70	44%	1	8	6	21
ACTWU	10	23	43%	6	8	3	10
UAW	51	125	41%	8	8	14	30
UFCW	14	35	40%	11	20	3	15
UMWA	7	20	35%	0	—	0	—
U.S. Total	247	507	49%	42	93	43	156
SWEDEN							
Food workers	1	3	33%	1	—	1	2
Metal workers	0	1	0%	0	2	0	2
Transport workers	0	2	0%	0	—	0	1
Sweden Total	1	6	17%	1	2	1	5
AUSTRALIA							
AMEU	0	4	0%	0	—	1	3
FPU	0	2	0%	0	—	0	2
NUW	0	2	0%	0	—	0	1
Australia Total	0	8	0%	0	—	1	6
BRITAIN							
AEEU	1	—	—	0	—	0	—
NUM	1	—	—	0	—	0	—
RMT	17	—	—	1	—	1	—
TGWU	5	7	71%	0	—	0	—
Britain Total	23	—	—	1	—	1	—

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AFMEU — Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; FPU — Food Preservers' Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; NUW — National Union of Workers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

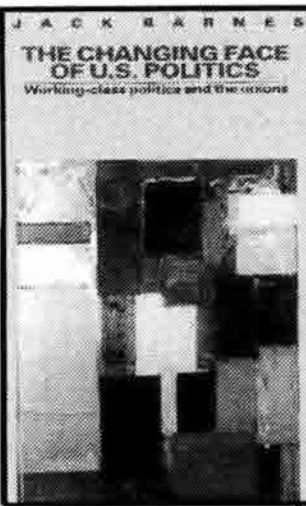
FROM PATHFINDER

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

JACK BARNES

Building a revolutionary workers party in a world of capitalist economic depression, trade conflicts, wars, antiunion assaults, and increasing pressure on workers' rights and individual liberties.



AVAILABLE FROM BOOKSTORES, INCLUDING THOSE LISTED ON PAGE 12, OR FROM PATHFINDER, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014. FAX (212) 727-0150. IF ORDERING BY MAIL PLEASE INCLUDE \$3.00 TO COVER POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

Appeal to our readers

Continued from front page
ization of past setbacks, will more readily move into struggle against assaults on their standards of life and work, forging important links with more experienced workers from other generations.

At the same time, the collapse of Stalinist apparatuses in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe weakens what for decades was the biggest obstacle to the working-class movement and to new advances of the world socialist revolution. This creates bigger openings to take literature presenting a communist perspective to workers and youth the world over, including to those on the front lines of battle in countries such as Cuba and South Africa.

Working-class understanding of politics

New International provides a working-class understanding of these political developments and their place in the 150-year-long continuity of the modern communist workers movement. The next two issues describe the evolution of the world since the 1987 stock market crash and the crumbling of the Stalinist apparatuses in Eastern Europe in 1989 and 1990. Issue no. 10 contains articles such as "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold," "How U.S. Imperialism Lost the Cold War," and "The Communist Strategy of Party Building Today."

Issue no. 11 includes four talks by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes that follow world events through the mid-1990s. The titles indicate some of the important themes covered: "Capitalism's March toward Fascism and War," "Imperialism's Deadly World Disorder," "The Vote for Ross Perot and Patrick Buchanan's 'Cultural Wars': The Real Meaning of the 1992 U.S. Elections," and "Youth and the Communist Movement."

Issue no. 9 of *New International*, just published, traces the lessons fighters everywhere can learn from the rise and decline of the workers and farmers government that came to power in Nicaragua in 1979 and transformed prospects for revolutionary struggles in the Americas. These lessons are vital to understanding the challenges facing revolutionists in Cuba as they fight under difficult economic conditions to defend the foundations of the socialist revolution there.

The articles in these three issues will be translated into Spanish for issues 3-5 of *Nueva Internacional*. The next two issues of the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale* will have the same contents as issues 10 and 11 of the English-language magazine. Work has also begun on an issue devoted to the communist contributions of Ernesto Che Guevara to building socialism in Cuba. *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 3 has just been reprinted with a handsome new cover design.

The second issue of *Ny International* will offer in Swedish the same articles as *New International* no. 10 on world politics since the late 1980s.

These new issues of *New International*, together with the previous eight, are the most complete presentation available of the political conquests and historic line of march of the world communist movement today.

Decades of revolutionary continuity

New International stands on decades of revolutionary continuity. Its political roots extend back to the working-class fighters in the left wing of the Socialist Party in the United States during World War I who published the *International Socialist Review*. They opposed the war and championed the Russian revolution as a way to end such slaughters by taking power out of the hands of the imperialist warmakers. These revolutionary fighters were among those who went on to found the communist movement in North America.

Communists in the United States and Canada who fought to continue the course charted by V.I. Lenin and the Bolshevik party, after Joseph Stalin had triumphed over the revolutionary forces by the late 1920s, launched the magazine *New International* in 1934.

"The fact that you have established a theoretical organ, I consider as a festive occasion," wrote communist leader Leon Trotsky at the time. "Its name, *The New International*, is a program of an entire epoch. I am convinced that your magazine will serve as an invaluable weapon in the establishment of the new International on the foundations laid by the great masons of the future: Marx, Engels, and Lenin."

Today, *New International* still stands on

that foundation. It was relaunched in 1983 by communists in the United States and Canada. This was in response to the growing opportunities for political work within the working class, as well as the triumph of the revolutions in Nicaragua and Grenada, other advances in Central America and the Caribbean, and the consequent strengthening of the Cuban revolution. In 1985 the first issue of *Nouvelle Internationale* appeared, followed by the launching of *Nueva Internacional* in 1991 and *Ny International* in 1993.

Today a single board of contributing editors — leaders of communist leagues in Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Iran, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States — takes joint responsibility for all four magazines. These publications serve as irreplaceable political tools to equip the new generation of fighters who are entering politics and are attracted to the revolutionary working-class movement.

Funds needed

The production, distribution, and promotion of these valuable weapons requires a big international effort — including money. This is where you can help.

Printing costs — such as film, plates, paper, ink, cover lamination and color separation — will amount to more than \$35,000. Warehousing will cost more than \$6,000 and promotional work almost \$10,000.

Dozens of volunteers have contributed and will continue to contribute their labor for most of the editorial, design, and production work. Without the efforts of 10 volunteer translators in eight cities around the United States, for example, it would not be possible to publish the upcoming issue of *Nueva Internacional* on the Nicaraguan revolution. A similar team of 15 translators in four countries and seven cities is currently working on the next issues of *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Financial contributions are urgently needed to allow a couple of volunteers in the United States and Canada to work full-time as translators and editors for a few months in order to produce the next issues of *Nueva Internacional* and *Nouvelle Internationale* in a timely way.

Communist workers in Sweden donated many hours of hard work to translate, edit, and copyedit the inaugural issue of *Ny International* featuring the article "The Opening Guns of World War III." These volunteers also collated each copy by hand in preparation for binding. The second issue will require similar work.

Even with all the volunteer labor, however, costs of production for these high-quality magazines are great. Without contributions from friends and supporters, the cover price would be prohibitive. That is why your contribution will make a big difference in this ambitious international effort

BY BARRY FATLAND

LOS ANGELES, California — Simultaneous protests will take place May 28 throughout California in response to escalating attacks on immigrant workers. Marches are planned for Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, and Santa Maria.

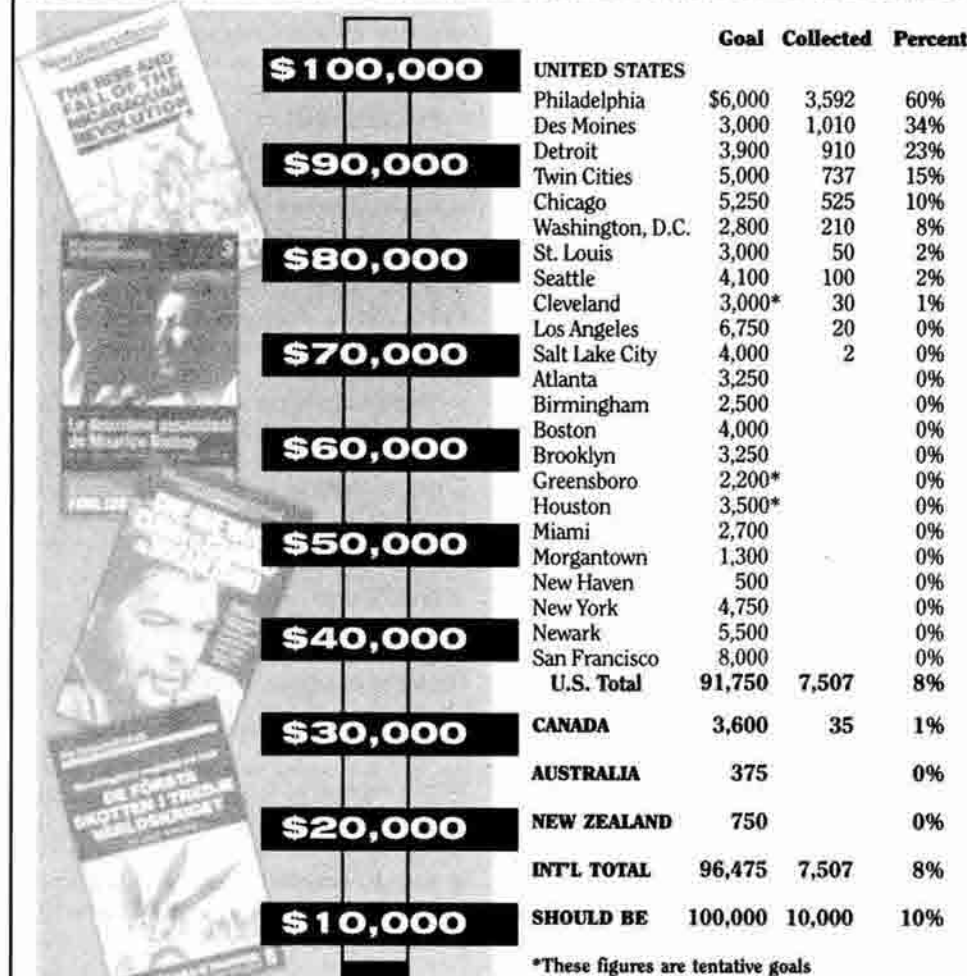
Leaders of Latino organizations from across the state met in Sacramento February 21-22 to map out the plan of action to demand a halt to the scapegoating of immigrants.

Each week new anti-immigrant campaigns are launched by local, state, and federal agencies and politicians of both parties. All told, there are more than 30 laws pending in the California State Legislature that attack immigrants' rights.

Already some anti-immigrant measures have gone into effect. Beginning March 1, proof of citizenship or legal residency is required to get a state drivers license or official ID card. This law affects the ability of hundreds of thousands of workers to drive legally, get a job, open a bank account, or cash their paychecks. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors passed legislation denying all but emergency care to those who can't prove legal residency.

According to press reports here, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has been investigating the immigration sta-

New International FUND



*These figures are tentative goals

Contribute to \$100,000 Fund for Marxist Magazine

New International, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, has launched a \$100,000 fund to print a series of new issues of the journal, which will appear in English, Spanish, French, and Swedish.

The successful completion of this fund, which ends June 28, will enable these important publications to reach thousands of working-class fighters around the globe.

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I pledge ☐ Enclosed is ☐ (check one)
☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
COUNTRY _____ TELEPHONE _____
ORGANIZATION (for identification only) _____

to publish the 10 new magazines in four languages over the coming months.

Supporters of *New International* are taking financial goals and raising money in their areas. They will be holding public meetings to discuss the political questions addressed in this communist magazine and raise funds for it. We invite you to attend and help publicize these meetings in your area. The *Militant* will report every week on progress made toward local goals.

Please make a generous donation now. Checks can be made out to New Interna-

tional Fund and mailed to 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. The fund campaign runs through June 28.

Fraternally,

s/

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International*

Michel Prairie, editor of *Nouvelle Internationale*

Martin Koppel, editor of *Nueva Internacional*

Carl-Erik Isacson, editor of *Ny International*

Immigrant rights activists prepare for statewide demonstrations in California

tus of drywall workers in Southern California since last December. These mainly Latino workers waged a successful unionization campaign in 1992. More than 46 companies that employed more than 3,000 drywallers last year are involved.

"We're certain that these investigations weren't by accident," José de Paz, executive director of the California Immigrant Workers Association affiliated with the AFL-CIO, told *La Opinion*, the largest Spanish-language daily in the United States. "Immigration authorities have decided to investigate the drywallers because of the tremendous fight they carried out in 1992 to put an end to the exploitation they were subject to. These investigations are intended to intimidate not just these workers but all immigrants so they won't unionize themselves." De Paz is the coordinator of the outreach committee for the Los Angeles May 28 march.

This assault has provoked a response. On March 21, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, adopted a resolution defending immigrant workers' rights and urging member unions to "participate in demonstrations in defense of immigrants."

Planning meetings for the May 28 march in Los Angeles are organized every week at the offices of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). Repre-

sentatives of numerous student and church organizations, social service agencies, unions, immigrant rights groups, and the mass media attend the meetings and are building the march. More than 100,000 leaflets will be printed and tens of thousands have already been distributed.

For instance, Laura Anderson, of the recently formed Socialist Youth Organizing Committee, participated in an immigrant rights march in Santa Barbara April 19 and helped leaflet for the May 28 march in Los Angeles. Alvaro Maldonado, a leader of the Pro-Immigrant Mobilization Coalition, has been invited to speak at many local campus meetings.

California governor Pete "Wilson doesn't realize it yet, but his anti-immigrant campaign is going to backfire on him," said Cristina Vázquez, political education director of the ILGWU in Los Angeles.

For more information about the marches, the California Latino Civil Rights Network number is (510) 251-2600. For Los Angeles, the information number is (213) 353-9721.

William Jungers and Virginia Garza contributed to this article. All three are active in Southern California in the fight for immigrant rights.

Cop wins second acquittal in murder of Montreal youth

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Former Montreal cop Allan Gosset was acquitted for a second time on April 8 for shooting Anthony Griffin, a 19 year-old Black man, in this city in 1987. Gosset was found not guilty on a charge of manslaughter after the judge, in his charge to the jury, all but instructed jurors to acquit the killer.

Gosset and another officer arrested Anthony Griffin at 7 a.m. on November 11, 1987, allegedly for nonpayment of a taxi fare. Shortly after, the youth was shot in the forehead by Gosset in the parking lot of Police Station 15. He was unarmed.

According to the cops' version of events, Griffin tried to flee when the police vehicle carrying him and the two cops arrived in the parking lot. The youth stopped and turned to face the two arresting officers when ordered to do so. Gosset said he became nervous by the way Griffin began to shift his feet. He admits shooting the youth, but says it was an accident.

The cop acknowledged that Griffin's hands were at his side and open during the entire confrontation. He said he neither searched nor handcuffed Griffin at the time of the arrest since he believed the youth to be unarmed. Griffin was polite and cooperative on the way to the police station, Gosset said.

Family members and spokespeople for organizations of Black people in Montreal expressed anger but not surprise with the decision. "There is no justice in this system," said Gloria Augustus, Griffin's mother, after the verdict.

"Justice wasn't done," said Oberth Griffin, the victim's father. "We all know here that Gosset did something wrong. Gosset has murdered my son."

Gosset was first found not guilty of manslaughter in a February 1988 trial.

Authorities were under immense pressure to take some action against the cop. Ten days

after the shooting, more than 2,000 people demonstrated in the streets of Montreal, demanding Gosset be charged with murder. Many of the marchers had come from Toronto and other cities.

Protest actions continued, including following the trial. Police officials were forced to fire Gosset in July 1988, citing professional misconduct in the Griffin killing.

A Quebec Department of Labor arbitration board reinstated Gosset a year later. He was assigned to an office job and prohibited from carrying a weapon on the job. Several months after his reinstatement he took an early retirement.

There were no protests demanding Gosset's conviction leading up to the second trial, which was ordered by the Quebec Court of Appeal in May 1991. The court ruled that the judge had erred in his instruction to the jury when he said that the prosecution had to prove criminal intent in order to find Gosset guilty of manslaughter.

The Supreme Court agreed. All the prosecution needed to prove, it said, was that Gosset was negligent in the performance of his duties.

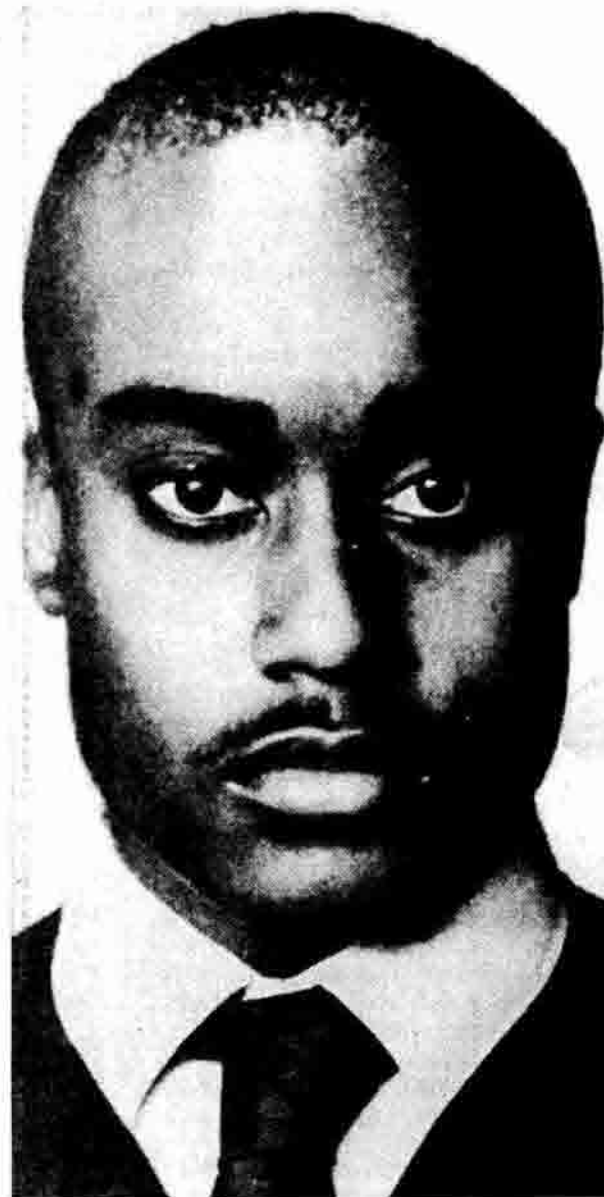
Gosset had been disciplined by the Quebec Police Commission for an earlier assault in 1981 when he severely beat and called Daniel Otchere a "nigger." A lawsuit against the police for this incident was settled out of court for \$40,000. However, this evidence was never presented to either jury at Gosset's trials.

In his charge to the second jury, the judge said that the prosecution had not proved negligence on Gosset's part. He also argued that hypothetical situations enacted by Gosset's lawyer during the trial were possible reasons for acquittal. The lawyer had sought to show that police guns can easily discharge accidentally and he enacted hypothetical dramas where Griffin was carrying a concealed weapon.

Dan Philip, leader of the Black Coalition of Quebec, blamed the judge's charge for the acquittal. He told the *Militant*, "The only thing the judge didn't say is 'Go in there and come back and give me a not-guilty verdict.' From the time he delivered his charge, I believed the case to be lost," Philip stated.

The government prosecutor has 30 days to decide whether to file an appeal. He told reporters following the trial, "I have the feeling that justice has been done — even if the verdict was not guilty."

Meanwhile, Gloria Augustus, Griffin's mother, has been pursuing a \$2 million civil lawsuit against the Montreal police for the shooting of her son.



Anthony Griffin was killed by Montreal cop

Jury awards Rodney King \$3.8 million

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The jury award of \$3.8 million to Rodney King was a slap in the face to city officials. Their lawyers had asked the jury to award King \$800,000.

King's lawyer said the victim of police violence had hoped for more, but was "somewhat pleased" with the award.

The damages are intended to compensate King for lost earnings and physical and psychological damage he suffered in the 1991 police gangup against him.

King's federal suit also names 15 present and former members of the Los Angeles police department, 14 of whom were on the scene and participated in the beating or stood by and did not report it. Also included is Daryl Gates, then chief of police. Only two of the cops — Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell were convicted in the assault and are now serving 30-month sentences.

At the outset, the city council voted to concede responsibility for the damages suffered by King and to let a jury determine the amount to be awarded. This was not intended as an expression of remorse. It was

a legal strategy designed to avoid putting the police department on trial and to once again try to turn King into the criminal.

King was grilled about his personal life, his conviction on a robbery charge, and his four arrests after the beating.

No charges were lodged in three of these arrests. On one — driving under the influence of liquor — he was ordered to do a 60-day live-in recovery program.

Responding to questions about his earlier robbery conviction, King testified that he had pleaded guilty because he could not afford a lawyer to fight the charge.

An economist, testifying for the city, argued that King, now 29, would have earned not more than \$500,000 over the rest of his working life — less than \$300 a week. King is a former construction worker.

Other city experts asserted that King's earning capacity was limited by an allegedly low IQ and limited reading skills.

Meanwhile, another defense witness testified that King would suffer no permanent psychological trauma. He said King "was raised as a child to be very strong mentally and not to give in."

In the police assault, King suffered more than a dozen facial fractures, including a fractured eye socket, as well as a broken leg.

His primary care physician, Charles Aronberg, chief of ophthalmology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, described King's injuries to the jury. "I was surprised that Mr. King had withstood this and was still alive," he testified, "and the other doctors thought so too."

Describing his experience, King told the jury, "I felt like I had lost half my face. . . . I could hear my bones crunching every time the baton hit me."

He also heard the verbal abuse and laughter of the cops who were beating and kicking him. "I had the feeling," King added, "that this happens all the time."

Corroborating King's charge that the cops had called him "nigger," an acoustical expert played an enhanced version of the audio portion of the famous videotape of the beating. He said that after helicopter noise was filtered out, the phrase "Nigger, hands behind your back!" appears on the recording.

He played the filtered tape and, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, "many in the courtroom said they heard the epithet."

The second stage of the trial is now under way. In this, the jury will decide how much punitive damage the individual cops will pay.



Montreal cop Allan Gosset

Detroit cops found not guilty in killing of immigrant worker

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

DETROIT — Two Detroit cops were acquitted April 12 of second-degree murder in the killing almost one year ago of José Iturralde, a homeless Cuban immigrant.

Iturralde was shot seven times at point-blank range by officers Ira Todd and Rico Hardy in April 1992 on a sidewalk in southwest Detroit. The cops claimed they fired in self-defense after Iturralde reached into his jacket. Iturralde, who witnesses said had been shouting at the cops in English and Spanish, was unarmed.

The cops, both eight-year veterans, initially lied about the shooting and refused to cooperate with the police department's internal investigation. After the shooting, Hardy told a supervisor at the scene that he had not fired his gun. But a medical examiner and ballistics experts found a bullet from Hardy's gun in Iturralde's body. During the trial, witnesses testified that Todd and Hardy, both in plainclothes the night of Iturralde's murder, never identified themselves as police and that they had accosted Iturralde and others on the street that night. The jury acquitted both after only three

hours of deliberations.

The cops were not suspended and charged until July, three months after the shooting. At that time, fired police officers Larry Nevers, Walter Budzyn, and Robert Lessnau were on trial for the vicious beating that killed Malice Green. Nevers and Budzyn, notorious among working people for their brutality, were convicted of second-degree murder and are in prison.

Todd and Hardy were both cleared of wrongdoing by a police board the day the trial began. Todd, who retired that day, said he would go to law school and become a criminal defense attorney so he could defend other cops in court.

The night the two cops were acquitted, about 40 people gathered on the corner of West Vernor and Morrell, near where the cops shot Iturralde, and chanted in English and Spanish, "No justice, no peace."

The criminal charges against the cops were sought by Larry Alcantar of the Detroit Latino Agenda and Coalition. Alcantar had no comment on whether he would seek further charges.

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Canada's economic recovery produces new wave of hiring

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — The bad case of the jitters that struck stock markets from New York to Tokyo and Toronto the last two weeks of March did more than show the fundamental weakness of all capitalist economies. The financial jolt revealed fault lines among rivals of the U.S. rulers.

One such example is the Canadian economy. The Canadian dollar, which has been falling against the U.S. currency for more than two years, accelerated its decline in those two weeks. It fell to a seven-year low of U.S.\$0.73.

The slide reflected the greater loss of confidence among capitalist investors in Canadian economic prospects in general and in profit rates in particular compared to those in the United States.

The loss of confidence is only relative, however. Unlike continued recessions in Japan, France, and Germany, Canada's economic upswing has been underway for more than a year, much like the U.S. economic upturn.

But the Canadian recovery is less robust than that in the United States. The U.S. economy grew by 2.9 percent last year. The annual growth rate during the last quarter of 1993 was a bustling 7.5 percent. In comparison, Canada's gross domestic product in-

creased 2.4 percent in 1993 and had a 3.8 percent annual growth rate in the final quarter.

The most vigorous sector of the country's economy is industry producing goods for export, primarily to the United States, which absorbs more than three-quarters of Canadian exports. The devaluation of the Canadian dollar is part of the reason why Canadian companies that export can maintain or increase market share in the United States.

As a result, hiring in basic manufacturing is on the rise. After falling overall for the first six months of 1993, as it had for nearly three years, the level of employment in manufacturing in Canada began to rise steadily after July of last year, finishing 2.2 percent higher in 1993 than in 1992. Hiring accelerated in the early months of this year, with 53,000 new job openings in manufacturing in February alone. Young workers are part of the wave of new employees, often in large plants that have not hired for years.

At the same time as the Canadian currency weakened against the U.S. dollar, Canadian interest rates jumped much higher than comparable U.S. rates. During February and March, three-month treasury bills — a short-term loan to the govern-



Auto plant in Ontario. New manufacturing jobs are opening up in Canada as bosses drive to take advantage of economic upturn and compete better with U.S. rivals.

ment — rose 0.5 percent in the United States versus 1.5 percent in Canada. Taking relative inflation rates into account, real interest rates are about 3 percentage points higher in Canada. This represents a kind of extra rent or premium that Canadian borrowers, including corporations and the government, must pay as a penalty for profit prospects that are not as rosy in Canada as in the United States.

Capitalist rulers here know they lag behind their U.S. competitors in extracting more profits from the exploitation of the labor power of the working class. U.S. em-

ployers have made greater progress over the past decade in depressing working conditions and wages and cutting social programs.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, hourly wages increased 37.5 percent in Canada between 1982 and 1990, compared to 27.7 percent in the United States. During the same period, output per hour of labor rose 33.3 percent in the United States, but only 18 percent in Canada.

Bourgeois commentators and capitalist politicians are beating the drums louder for deeper cuts in social programs here. "The issue for Canada is the high level of public debt," said David Hale, chief economist at Kemper Financial of Chicago, during a March 30 address to a University of Toronto conference on economic issues.

The federal Liberal government of Jean Chrétien failed to establish credibility with international investors with its first budget in February, said Hale. He called for more cuts in spending for social programs to minimize government deficits and borrowing.

On March 10, a parliamentary committee charged with making proposals to revamp Canada's unemployment insurance and social welfare programs held hearings in Ottawa. Addressing the participants, the chief economist of the Canadian Manufacturers Association called for "substantial cuts in program spending."

"The costs involved in funding our social programs are now part of the problem," he said. "They are themselves a major obstacle to economic recovery."

Official unemployment in Canada dipped below 11 percent in March for the first time in years. But joblessness is substantially higher than in the United States where it hovers around 6.5 percent.

Canadian bosses know that to compete better against their capitalist rivals south of the border they have to force working people into greater competition with each other for jobs, reduce wages, and worsen working conditions.

One line of attack is to cut unemployment insurance. In the United States, jobless benefits last no more than six months and on average replace only about one-third of a worker's earnings.

At the end of the 1970s unemployment insurance (UI) in Canada paid 67 percent of previous earnings and lasted for 52 weeks. The previous Conservative government of Brian Mulroney twice cut UI benefits, first to 60 percent reimbursement of previous earnings, and then to 57 percent.

As part of its recent budget, Chrétien's government cut UI benefits to 55 percent and shortened the period workers can receive them.

The *Globe and Mail* reported on April 8 that the parliamentary task force on unemployment is going to recommend that UI be overhauled. The plan would have employers, who currently pay more than 55 percent of the taxes that go directly to the federal unemployment insurance funds, pay no such taxes at all. Benefits to jobless workers would last no longer than 26 weeks.

Finance Minister Paul Martin defended these proposals by claiming that Ottawa's goal must be to achieve the lowest payroll taxes of any industrialized country. "What you have got to do is make damn sure that you don't have job-killing taxes at the same level as anybody else," he said.

British bosses restructure industry, causing turmoil for working people

Communist League candidates present socialist alternative at London rally

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — "We're going through turbulent times," said Paul Galloway, a member of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Communist League candidate for the May 5 elections in Doncaster, Yorkshire. He pointed to moves among miners to unite against the unrelenting assault on their working conditions.

Galloway was addressing a Communist League election campaign rally held here April 23 as part of a socialist educational weekend. Some 60 people attended the rally whose central theme was "Fight for a socialist alternative to war, racism, and economic depression."

"The bosses are using the current economic upturn to try to recover their profits through a massive restructuring of industry," he said. "It's a similar story wherever you work." The communist candidate explained that the coal industry is not being closed down as some would think. "Redundancies [layoffs] take place one day and then jobs are recreated the next day with worse conditions; three mines that were closed by British Coal in the last year have been reopened with private owners."

British Coal now has 15 deep mines employing 10,000 miners, down from 170 at the time of the year-long miners strike of 1984-85. A statement by the government released April 13 announced that these 15 working mines, and another 17 pits that are currently closed, would be offered for sale. Private owners might reopen these mines by the end of the year.

Galloway reported that a meeting of 150 angry miners took place at Thoresby mine in Nottinghamshire where he works, in response to threatened redundancies. The majority of employees there are members of the Union of Democratic Miners (UDM), formed by miners who continued working in defiance of the NUM-led strike in 1984-85. "UDM miners successfully demanded that all miners be able to attend the meeting with equal rights to speak and vote," Galloway said. "When it came to deciding what to do, a clear majority voted for a one-day strike."

Since that meeting all miners have received a package of proposals by British Coal. The company wants miners to agree to 12-hour shifts and weekend work in re-

turn for a one-shot cash bonus of £4000 (£1=U.S.\$1.49). Galloway reported 92 percent of UDM members rejected this package in a vote. "However, the union leaders are proposing to British Coal that they lay us all off to be rehired by the private employers at new rates," he said.

"The crucial opportunity and challenge for communists," said rail worker and Communist League leader Helen Warnock in another talk, "is to reach towards the new generation of younger workers forced to work under these conditions. They will be capitalism's gravediggers."

Row over D-Day

"The rulers are trying to beat the war drums to get an edge over their rivals and get us to think we have a common interest with them," Marcella Fitzgerald, a communist candidate in Southwark, London, told the rally. She pointed to the massive row that has broken out over D-Day in Britain. "The government is calling for street parties to take place throughout Britain on June 6 to mark the U.S.-British-led invasion of Normandy, France, in 1944," she said. "One minute they are telling us that this day heralded the libera-

tion of Europe from the Nazis, the next minute they're attacking the French for being so ungrateful."

The truth is D-Day was a massive military move to steal a march on working people in France who, through the resistance movement, were dealing massive blows to the Nazis and their collaborators in the Vichy government." Fitzgerald argued that the dispute that has been at the center of media attention in Britain "is fueled by the fact that their attempt to whip up national unity is falling flat, people are not in the mood to celebrate what many know was a massive carnage — 35,000 Allied troops alone were killed in the invasion."

"Something far more important was taking place by June 1944," Fitzgerald said. "Working people were breaking through the rulers' national unity scam to fight for their rights. Hundreds of thousands of coal miners were on strike calling for nationalization of the mines, women teachers were demanding equal pay, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill was threatening to resign if these union actions were not rolled back. It's looking to ourselves, to working people and our strength to fight that we have to turn to every time, whether it's back in history to World War II or for solutions to the slaughter in the former Yugoslavia today."

"It's this warmongering and nationalism that is boosting the rightists," Martin Marriott, a communist candidate in Lambeth, London, stated pointing to the support that the British National Party (BNP) had gained in the past year. The BNP is standing 15 candidates in London, and opinion polls predict it will win a few seats.

Enthusiastic applause broke out after Jean-Louis Salfati, an auto worker from Paris, told the campaign rally about the hundreds of thousands of young people who mobilized in France and prevented the government from imposing a subminimum wage. "It was not an election or a parliamentary party of the left, but a street movement that forced the government to give up," he said. "A few days later Paris witnessed one of the largest transportation strikes in 20 years. Through these events we got a taste of the future."

Pete Clifford is a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union in London.

Communist League Election Candidates

London

Joyce Fairchild — Southwark, Chaucer.
Marcella Fitzgerald — Southwark, Cathedral ward.
Martin Marriott — Lambeth, Bishops ward.

Manchester

Chris Morris — Manchester, Bradford ward.
Ann Fiander — Manchester, Fallowfield ward.
Tim Rigby — Manchester, Longsight ward.

Yorkshire

Paul Galloway — Doncaster, Central ward.
Tony Hunt — Sheffield, Burngreave ward.

S. Africa vote marks 'dawn of freedom'

Continued from front page

a sea of campaign posters, flags, stickers, and advertisements. When asked who they plan to vote for, most people smile and answer "Nelson Mandela."

"I was sure this day would come," said Gladys Themba, whose husband has worked underground at the DeBeers diamond mine in Cullinan, east of Pretoria, for 26 years. Themba joined about 1,000 miners and some family members as they lined up to vote early April 27 at the mine site. "I am finally going to be free. I know everything now is going to be in order. We have fought for many years. There are no jobs for our brothers and sisters. We are not going to sleep today!"

Rightist defenders of the old apartheid order launched a desperate last-ditch effort to forestall the demise of white-minority rule. Within the course of 36 hours, they carried out a dozen bombing assaults aimed at creating a climate of fear and chaos. At least 21 people died and 179 were injured as a result of the blasts between April 24 and 26.

"Years of imprisonment could not stamp out our determination to be free. Years of intimidation and violence could not stop us. And we will not be stopped now," said Mandela at the April 26 press conference. Addressing his message to "all South Africans," he urged listeners to stand together. "Let us send a message loud and clear: we will not let a handful of killers steal our democracy."

ANC reaches out to Coloureds, Indians

Out of an estimated population of 40.4 million people, some 22.7 million South Africans, age 18 and older, are eligible to vote. Under apartheid rule, only whites were eligible to vote, with a mid-1980s figleaf that allowed those classified by Pretoria as Coloured and Indian to vote for candidates in a segregated tri-cameral parliament.

The ANC is expected to win a clear majority in most of South Africa's provinces. In the Western Cape region the ANC faces its most difficult electoral challenge and may come in second place in voting. President F.W. de Klerk's National Party, which legislated the apartheid system, has mounted a campaign to win Coloureds to its banner, playing on fears of mounting violence, employment insecurity, and implying that an ANC victory would result in the confiscation of houses and other property by Africans.

After April 24, all campaign activity before polls opened was prohibited by law. The ANC held two massive victory rallies, drawing some 75,000 in Johannesburg on April 23 and more than 100,000 in the Natal province port city of Durban April 24.

At Johannesburg's FNB stadium, a jubilant crowd held up banners, sang, danced, and cheered throughout an afternoon of speeches and entertainment. A mock coffin, symbolizing the death of white-minority rule, made its way through the crowd of youthful participants. The biggest applause of the day was reserved for "our next state



Militant/Greg Rosenberg
ANC press conference at PWV regional headquarters April 24. Carl Niehaus from ANC Department of Information and Publicity seated left. Tokyo Sexwale, ANC candidate for premiership of PWV province, next to him.

president, Nelson Mandela." The audience roared.

Mandela used his speech to address basic concerns about a future ANC-led government. "The ANC," Mandela told an overwhelmingly Black audience, "has never advocated black majority rule. In the Rivonia trial, the case where Walter Sisulu here and I were sentenced to life in prison, I said in my speech from the dock that I have fought against white-minority rule, as I have fought against black-majority rule. We are not fighting in this country for black majority rule. We are satisfied with a democratic majority government, even if it is all African, or if it is all white, as long as it should be left to the democratic process. We are satisfied with that."

The ANC president said that "on this day I would like to make a special appeal to our Coloured and Indian brothers and sisters. We are aware of your fears, ... insecurities about the future. They are worried about violence, especially the Indian community. ... They are worried about the future of their religion, culture, security of their houses, and employment."

"One of the things that deepened that concern was the statement made by Mr. de Klerk in the course of our [television] debate, when he said that South Africa is a Christian country," Mandela stated. "That is a half-truth. South Africa is a country of many religions: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and the Jewish religion. We don't agree with the religious intolerance of the National Party. All these religions must be treated equally."

"We have stood firmly in the belief that all our religions, languages, cultures, must be regarded as one of the treasures of the country."

As the election date neared, rightists

launched an indiscriminate bombing campaign aimed at making up for in physical terror what they lost on the political battleground. Over the course of the last three months, a coalition of white ultrarightists and Black Bantustan rulers was shattered by mass mobilizations of working people led by the ANC. This process forced all Bantustan heads to either leave office or submit to allowing democratic elections to take place. Only a handful of ultraright paramilitary outfits, most prominent among them Eugene TerreBlanche's Afrikaner Resistance Movement, boycotted the elections and threatened disruption at the polls.

Downtown Johannesburg shook Sunday morning, April 24, as a powerful car bomb detonated midway between the ANC's national and regional offices and near the headquarters of the Pan Africanist Congress.

Among the nine killed was Susan Keane, 37, an ANC leader in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) region and a candidate for the regional parliament. Several bodies lay near the scene, so cut and charred from flames to be unrecognizable. More than 100 were wounded.

The blast shattered windows as far away as five blocks from the scene of the explosion and crushed roofs and building facades. Throughout downtown, broken glass littered the streets.

Troops from the South African Defence Forces (SADF) rapidly deployed in the downtown area and enclosed several city blocks in razor wire.

At a news conference several hours later at the ANC's PWV regional office, where the floors were still covered with broken glass, ANC candidate for premier of the PWV, To-

kyo Sexwale, pointed out that "we have less than 48 hours to go before the elections."

"We are convinced this is an attack on the democratization process," he said. Sexwale made a call for "all people, especially our own members: there must be maximum restraint and no forms of retaliation. Leave this in the hands of the police. We think that those responsible, whoever they are, should note that you are fighting against too many people. As we have said before, we will not allow a civil war. The election must proceed."

New blasts followed on April 25. Ten people died in Germiston, southeast of Johannesburg, when a bomb went off at a taxi stand near the subregional offices of the ANC and Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Two more died when three white men wearing balaclavas drove past a restaurant in Pretoria and threw an explosive device inside. The attack came in an area of Pretoria frequented by Black commuters.

Another bomb exploded in the international arrivals terminal of Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport April 27, leaving 13 injured.

Deputy Law and Order minister Gert Myburg said more than 100,000 police would be deployed to guard voting stations.

Thirty-one rightists were arrested April 27 in connection with the bombings.

Visiting victims at Hillbrow Hospital, Mandela said that "they must pay for it. Whoever they are, whatever position in society they hold, they are going to be dealt with very harshly. We will leave no stone unturned to bring every one of them to book."

Nineteen parties contest elections

A total of 19 parties appeared on the national ballot. The ANC is expected to win a majority of seats in the incoming national assembly and most regional legislatures. Opinion polls indicate the National Party will emerge in second place.

A host of full-page advertisements appear in the newspapers here daily. The National Party urges a vote for itself, against "the ANC and Communism." The party says that it is the voice of "experience," with ads claiming the ANC will "double your taxes, double your VAT [Value Added Tax] and double your petrol tax."

The Democratic Party, supported by many longtime white liberals, claims it will "protect [people] from the abuse of power" by the ANC-led government.

The Freedom Front, led by Gen. Constand Viljoen, says, "If you want to vote against the ANC and the communists, you no longer have to support the Nats." The Freedom Front adds, "If you believe that a Volkstaat, like an autonomous Kingdom of KwaZulu, is part of the solution, then support the Freedom Front."

An accord signed by the ANC and Freedom Front April 23 says, in part, that "the parties agree to address through a process

Voter education winds up successfully

BY MARIA HAMBERG
AND PATRICIA O'BEIRNE

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — On April 25, one day before the first-ever democratic elections in South Africa, we visited an Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) voter education booth at a shopping mall in central Johannesburg.

The IEC booth was staffed by volunteers all day and was set up as an actual voting station. People were guided through the whole process of voting, beginning with meeting an IEC volunteer who checked their ID or temporary voter registration card.

Teboho Mokoena, an IEC volunteer, said the next step is to ensure that people have not already voted elsewhere. Hands are to be stained with an invisible ink to prevent double voting. Voters will then be issued a ballot paper for the National Assembly where they place an "X" or a checkmark for the candidates they choose. Those eligible will cast another ballot in a separate box for the provincial assemblies.

Voters will choose between 19 different political parties in the nationwide vote. The ballot order was chosen by lottery with parties listed as follows: the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Sports Organisation for Collective Contributions and Equal Rights

(SOCCER), the Keep it Straight and Simple Party (KISS), Freedom Front, Women's Rights Peace Party, Workers' List Party, Ximoko Progressive Party, Africa Muslim Party, African Christian Democratic Party, African Democratic Movement, African Moderates Congress Party, African National Congress, Democratic Party, Dikwankwella Party of South Africa, Federal Party, Luso-South Africa Party, Minority Front, National Party, Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Because Inkatha joined the electoral process only last week, every ballot will have a sticker attached for the IFP candidates.

In remote areas mobile units provide voter education. Volunteers at booths across the country distributed informational material in five different languages, including Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, and English.

Crowds milled around the booth the entire afternoon. Dozens of mostly young Black men, some as young as 14, read pamphlets and used a video monitor. The video featured statements by leaders of all the political parties taking part in the elections as well as from some who are not.

A young man from Soweto said, "Our great hope is that the ANC will win a majority and bring democracy to this country."


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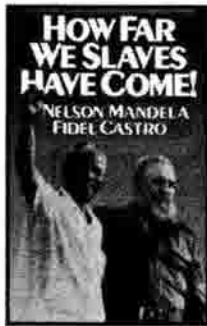
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of negotiations the idea of Afrikaner self-determination, including the concept of a volkstaat." It continues, "The government/ National Party and the ANC have agreed that votes cast for the Freedom Front in this week's election will be regarded as reflecting a desire for self-determination."

Inkatha, led by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister of the former KwaZulu Bantustan, advances what it calls a "policy of federalism," where no group of people "feel that they are dominated by any other." This is a justification for maintaining the privilege and wealth of Buthelezi and the administrative layers around him.

Inkatha thugs assaulted ANC campaigners in Ulundi, a major town in the Bantustan, on April 23. Three campaign activists were killed, one of them shot in the back in a police station where they had sought refuge. An ANC statement said that "all of [this] happened within full sight of the KwaZulu police, prov[ing] that the force can no longer be permitted to operate without responsible independent control."

Another party contesting the national poll is the Workers' List Party, a coalition of the Workers Organization for Socialist Action and the Independent Socialist Movement. It calls for building a "mass workers' party." One of the main demands advanced by this group is "don't pay the apartheid debt," which stands at 186 billion rand (US\$53 billion).

ANC leader Pallo Jordan answered a criticism directed against the ANC for not calling for the cancellation of the debt on a radio program broadcast here April 25. Jordan explained that if a new government announced it was not going to pay back old loans, international investment would be cut off in a heartbeat and the South African government would come under enormous international pressure from Washington and its allies.

ANC campaign

The ANC program, the Freedom Charter, which was drawn up by some 3,000 delegates at Kliptown in 1955, embodies the democratic demands of the revolution. It is the document on which it has based its election platform.

Chief among the immediate demands the ANC says it will fight to implement in leading a new government are building 1 million homes in five years, a national public works program to employ 2.5 million people over the next 10 years, providing electrification to 2.5 million rural and urban homes, beginning a land reform, and ending the violence that is plaguing the country.

Most big-business newspapers throughout the country have accepted the fact that the ANC will lead the next government.

The liberal Johannesburg *Weekend Star* wrote in an April 23 editorial, "The ANC has earned its place as the major party in a government of national unity." It said that Nelson Mandela "is the only man with the stature to hold us together and set us firmly on the new road."

The editors of *The Citizen*, which reflects the views of the National Party, said April 26, "For the Whites, seeing power being transferred to the Black majority, this is a traumatic election. . . . Yet they must know too, that the changes were inevitable, even if the speed with which they have been undertaken was not. The election is not a chance for Whites to halt or reverse the process. That is impossible." It went on to say, "At least the Blacks know where they are going; it is the Whites who are floundering at this dramatic point in the country's history."

At the final election rally in Durban, Mandela said, "Nothing is going to happen to the property of any family, black or white. We're taking precautions because we want a South Africa of national reconciliation, peace and unity."

Problems at the polls

After two days of voting, it became clear that there were major problems in various parts of the country. In the Transkei, Natal, the Orange Free State, and even some areas close to Johannesburg, ballots never showed up and stations stayed closed as thousands waited in line.

The ANC entered into discussions with the Independent Electoral Commission, proposing that April 28 be declared another public holiday to facilitate people casting their ballots.



Soldier patrolling downtown Johannesburg street following bomb explosion April 24

Reports of preelection intimidation are widespread. Farmworkers in Ventersdorp were told by their employers that they could not vote. Farmworkers Research and Resource Project coordinator Abie Dithake said that agricultural workers in the southeastern Transvaal were forced to attend an Inkatha Freedom Party rally.

Jan Human, a leader of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, which represents white capitalist landowners, said these farmers had the right to refuse voter education and access by political organizations to their land.

The ANC reported 106 incidents of violent attacks on its campaign workers in the PWV region alone from March 1 to April 22. The ANC regional office also reported that through campaigning, they had reached 75 percent of potential voters in the region. More than 1 million people were visited at their homes.

Voters are electing a national assembly, which will have 400 members. They will also fill seats in nine new provincial assemblies. A Senate of 90 will be constituted of 10 members from each of the provinces.

7,500 platinum miners strike in S. Africa

BY JAMES WARREN
AND MARIA HAMBERG

NORTHAM, South Africa — "Our strike is 100 percent effective, our members are determined to make the company meet our most important demands," stated Joseph Molohe, branch chairman of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) at the Gold Fields Northam Platinum mine near Rustenburg.

The 7,500 miners here have been on strike since April 21. They are demanding an immediate wage increase of 3 percent, which was originally due in July 1993; recognition of the NUM; checkoff facilities where the union can sign up new members; and no company reprisals against the strikers. As of April 27, Gold Fields (GFS) had not agreed to any of the demands. At a negotiating session that day they presented an ultimatum to the miners: return to work or face massive firings.

On March 25, more than 5,000 Northam miners marched to the company offices with a memorandum listing a dozen demands. They gave the company seven days to respond. "We were willing to set aside some of our demands for later discussion if the company had seriously addressed the four most burning issues," Molohe said. The company refused and the workers went on strike a month later.

Kenneth Dlamini, NUM branch committee member, reports that this is the first strike ever by workers at the Northam Platinum mine. "Our members tried all other possibilities before we went out on strike," he said.

Since the NUM started to organize the Northam miners in the early 1990s, the union has carried out two successful actions. Workers boycotted the company store, forcing management to lower the prices. They also conducted a boycott against the company buses that take the miners to their villages on the weekends. As a result, the company was forced to lower fares. At the time of these battles, the NUM had only 2,000 members in Northam.

The strike at the GFS Northam mine is the latest in a series of strikes and protests at Gold Fields mines since late last year that

They will be elected by the members of the provincial parliaments by May 15. An estimated 260,000 South Africans were estimated to be voting abroad.

The Transitional Executive Council (TEC), composed of representatives of various parties, including the ANC, has assumed growing power over government functions. It will cease to exist when the new administration is formed.

The TEC earlier this month called for a moratorium on strike action by public servants until after the election. This proposal won support from many leaders of the democratic movement in order to minimize a climate of instability and chaos leading up to the vote. In an April 13 statement, COSATU said that it would "not in principle support any call for a general moratorium on strike action, even for a limited period. This would be unacceptable interference with a fundamental right of workers, the right to strike, as recognized by the interim constitution."

Another statement by the union federation on April 20 said that it had "been making an all-out effort to help resolve the public

have involved more than 40,000 mine workers. These actions have included a march of 15,000 mine workers at Gold Fields's West Driefontein gold mine and two three-day strikes of 17,000 miners at their Kloof mine near Carletonville.

A labor appeals court also ordered the company to pay 6 million South African rand (1 R=US\$0.35) in back pay plus interest to 2,000 NUM members who were fired in a November 1991 strike called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions and to reinstate the workers over time.

Gold Fields has a reputation as a union-busting company. It boasts of a massive private security network, which imposes company rules at mine sites. The company has refused to recognize the NUM at Northam, even while being forced to negotiate with the union. The company insists that before it will agree to a dues checkoff, and to allow the NUM the right to represent its members on the job, the union must prove that it has 50 percent plus one of the workers behind it. The NUM argues that more than 80 percent of the workforce has already signed up with the union.

S. African edition of 'Nelson Mandela Speaks' to be published in Cape Town

Following are excerpts from an announcement Pathfinder Press released to the media April 29.

A South African edition of *Nelson Mandela Speaks* is being rushed into print to coincide with that country's April 26-28 elections.

The South African edition is being produced by David Philip Publishers of Cape Town, in association with Mayibuye Books, based at the University of the Western Cape, and Pathfinder. "The publication in South Africa of *Nelson Mandela Speaks* at the time of the country's first democratic elections is surely a major event, for the book tells in Nelson Mandela's own words the story of the struggle

sector strikes which have been sweeping the country." It continued, "We would do all in our power to negotiate a resolution" to the walkouts.

On April 16, members of the Bathlaping community arrived in Schmidtsdrift, a town in the Orange Free State, to reclaim land they were kicked out of 26 years ago. South African police arrested 119 of them and set a court date for May 25. A few weeks earlier, the government Commission for Land Allocation offered the community less than 5 percent of its original land. The community rejected these recommendations. It has been fighting a legal battle since 1990 when the apartheid Land Act was scuttled.

The National Peace Keeping Force, which brought together members of the SADF, homeland armies, and Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's military wing, to protect the polls, collapsed when it was sent into Tokoza, an East Rand township, and came under fire. Township residents demanded its removal. It has now been assigned "nonaggressive" duties.

Meanwhile, the old army, with the addition of Umkhonto we Sizwe and homeland army units, has a new name — the South African National Defence Forces. The majority of the old officer corps remains in place as do old units. The day after the Johannesburg bombing, all-white SADF units patrolled the streets.

Despite a host of challenges the revolution faces, workers who had lined up at the DeBeers diamond mine for five hours and longer waiting their turn to vote were undeterred.

"This is South African history today," said Rufus Mashaba, a miner since 1985. "Everyone hopes we'll have a new government elected by the South African people as a whole that will deliver the goods. We must be able to create work and support the people."

"My vote is not secret," said 29-year-old Abel Debeila, a student at nearby Witwatersrand University. "Mandela — he's the people's choice — he's my choice. I'm surviving to witness it. This is the day!"

The NUM newsletter and other union material is banned from the mine sites. Since the miners live in hostels on company property most of the year, this makes it difficult for the union to organize its members. The NUM even needs company permission to organize union meetings at the mine site.

Dlamini said that the workers were insisting on holding out until their demands were met. "They say they are willing to lose their jobs, if that is what is necessary."

Dlamini added that he was concerned that a massive firing of the strikers might be blamed on a new ANC-led government. "We will explain to the workers that we should end our strike short of a mass firing," he said. "We will try to convince them that we should go back to work and continue to present our demands to the company. But we cannot and will not try to force the workers back to work."

In spite of the company-enforced isolation, the South African elections are very much a part of the miners' fight at Northam. A polling booth has now been installed at the mine and ANC stickers, illegal according to company rules, are prominent among the miners.

over the past four years to achieve this major transforming and liberating moment," states publisher David Philip.

"Pathfinder is glad to take part in making available to readers in South Africa this book that just four years ago would have been banned in the land of apartheid," said Steve Clark, editor of the book.

Nelson Mandela Speaks contains speeches given to audiences in South Africa and around the world, from the United States to Cuba, Britain, Uganda, and Sweden. Mandela explains the deep-going transformation of political, economic, and social conditions under way in South Africa.

A second printing of the U.S. edition is also in preparation.

Cuban youth meets mushroom pickers

BY NANCY BOYASKO

KENNETT SQUARE, Pennsylvania — Cuban youth leader Pável Díaz Hernández, met with a dozen mushroom workers here April 14. The workers had taken part in a two-month-long strike last year to gain union recognition at Kaolin Mushroom Farms. The meeting was held at the recently opened union office.

Díaz kicked off the discussion by explaining that he had been on a speaking tour on U.S. campuses in dozens of cities. Besides addressing more than 2,000 students the Cuban youth also had the chance to meet and exchange views with workers. "It is important for me as a young Cuban to hear about your struggles," Díaz said.

Luis Tlaseca, a worker who was fired during the walkout and is now on staff for the Farmworkers Support Committee (CATA), said that the mushroom pickers struck as a result of job combinations and a wage cut imposed by the company of 50 to 70 cents per hour. Nearly the entire workforce, 98 percent, comes from Latin America. The majority are Mexican workers.

Tlaseca described job conditions. Injuries from cutting mushrooms, such as back strains from the low beds and falls from the high beds, are very common, he said. Often, the company applies pesticides while workers are in the area. Tlaseca showed Díaz a picture of a worker whose upper torso was completely covered with a rash from exposure to the chemicals. Kaolin management fired the worker after his injury. This is common company practice, Tlaseca said. Many workers pay the companies \$15-20 per week to live in the attics of the mushroom buildings. Since mushrooms are grown in a dark atmosphere, these rooms are windowless and temperatures can reach up to 150°F.

Currently, the company is refusing to negotiate a contract with the Kaolin Workers Union. Mushroom pickers formed the union as a result of the strike. Several workers explained that since the strike there has been an easing up of the horrendous working conditions, but there is still a long way to go. Many of the pickers who took part in the strike have returned to Mexico or gotten other jobs. They are being replaced with younger people, many of whom are undocumented. The older workers explain that the working conditions improved because of the strike and this is why a union is needed. The union has several court cases pending since the walkout.

Díaz responded that working people in Cuba made a revolution to get rid of the capitalist system that forces workers to live and toil like the mushroom pickers do. While most Cubans face very difficult economic conditions today access to free health care, education, and social security for all provides a more equitable distribution of the resources that are available.

Before the 1959 revolution, Díaz said, most Blacks in Cuba were illiterate. Many Afro-Cubans were unemployed and home-

less or had jobs like shining shoes on the streets. Today, institutionalized racism has been eliminated.

Díaz explained that he is often asked if he is a communist or socialist. Pointing to the gains of the revolution and its internationalist example, the Cuban youth said, "If this is communism, yes, I am a communist."

"The conditions you face, remind me of the conditions meatpackers I met in Detroit and wheat farmers in Iowa described to me," Díaz said. He stated that while Cubans are well informed on U.S. foreign policy toward their country, they know very little of the struggles of workers in the United States.

In the course of his tour, Díaz was able to meet with steelworkers on strike against Allegheny Ludlum in Pittsburgh and Caterpillar workers in Illinois. He also visited the picket lines of workers at a corn processing plant in Decatur, Illinois, who have been locked out by A. E. Staley Corp. for more than a year. Unionists there, members of the Allied Industrial Workers, invited the Cuban youth to address a meeting of 250 workers. Díaz said he did not expect to see so many struggles taking place. The



Mushroom pickers show Pável Díaz (right) photos of their fight for union recognition

Cuban youth leader told the mushroom pickers it was important to continue to reach out for support and solidarity and pledged to tell their story wherever he traveled.

"Consider us a part of your struggle also," responded one of the mushroom pickers.

Cuban diplomat tours New Zealand

BY JOAN SHIELDS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — "The real Cuba is the Cuba that is surviving, resisting, and developing," Marcelino Fajardo, Cuba's consul-general to Australia, told students at Canterbury University April 11.

Fajardo spent three days in Christchurch as part of a speaking tour organized by the New Zealand-Cuba Friendship Society. While here he spoke at public meetings at the university and in Christchurch city, and was a guest lecturer for three university courses. All told, he spoke to nearly 400 people during his stay, most of them young.

At these meetings, Fajardo outlined the history of the struggle waged by the Cuban people for national liberation and socialism and the aggressive policy of successive U.S. administrations toward the Cuban revolution. He also spoke about the economic measures the Cuban government has adopted to deal with a severe economic crisis, triggered by the end of aid from the former Soviet Union.

"What happens when Fidel dies?" a student asked. U.S. intelligence agencies have made at least 25 attempts to assassinate Castro, Fajardo responded. "They think that killing Fidel will make the revolution disappear," he said. "But revolutionary ideas never die. And today the young generation is sharing the power with the Moncada generation [the founding leaders of the Cuban revolution] and my generation."

Fajardo described the round of meetings called workers parliaments being held in workplaces throughout Cuba to discuss the country's economic problems and express

opinions on measures under consideration by the National Assembly, Cuba's parliament.

"We are in a difficult economic situation," the Cuban consul said. "We could have done what many governments do, and simply legislated in parliament. But Cuba is a state of workers. We handed it over to the working class to discuss solutions to the problems." As a result, he said, "thousands of suggestions are being sent to the National Assembly."

One consensus that has emerged is the importance of fighting to preserve the historic gains of the revolution, such as free public health and education, he added.

"Cuba is not a paradise or a utopia," Fajardo stressed. "We are human, and have had failures and made mistakes."

Some of these mistakes arose because Cuba adopted methods of planning and management borrowed from the former Soviet Union. In 1986, the Cuban Communist Party launched a rectification campaign to begin reversing this course.

"We forecast in the mid-1980s what would happen in the Soviet Union," Fajardo commented. "We realized that there were a lot of things they were doing very badly and they were not going to build socialism that way."

Fajardo described the economic embargo imposed against Cuba by the U.S. government as "unjust and criminal." It was "like an octopus," he said, with Washington attempting to stop other countries from trading with Cuba.

Despite this, Cuba is not alone, Fajardo stated. Relations have been normalized with many Latin American countries that in the 1960s turned their backs on Cuba. There is growing support in the United States itself, including within the Cuban-American community, for lifting the embargo.

"Millions of people around the world show solidarity with Cuba," Fajardo said. During an interview with the *Press*, Christchurch's daily newspaper, he pointed to the example of workers in Spain and Italy donating their labor to repair secondhand buses that are then shipped to Cuba to help restore the public transportation system.

While in Christchurch, Fajardo also took part in four radio interviews.

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — "Cuba is a symbol, an idea, and a light that we will not permit to go out," said Marcelino Fajardo at a public meeting here April 13. "What you are doing now is for the future. If the Cuban revolution is destroyed you can't imagine what will happen in Latin America."

Close to 200 people turned out to hear the Cuban diplomat during his visit to Auckland. Earlier in the day, Fiona Taler, an Auckland University lecturer, had opened her Spanish class to others to hear him. Introducing him to some 100 people, she explained how Fajardo,

an Afro-Cuban from a working-class family, had interrupted his studies to join the revolutionary army in the late 1950s and had become a student and union leader.

After a brief sketch of the Cuban people's struggle against Spanish and U.S. imperialism, Fajardo explained how he gained first-hand experience of the activities of the counterrevolution when he participated in the literacy brigades in the early 1960s. Two of his fellow literacy teachers were killed by bandits operating in the mountains at the time, while the mother of another was burned alive in a sabotage attack on a shopping center.

Fajardo suggested to the campus audience that a good source of information on the workers assemblies taking place in Cuba is an article in the April 11 *Militant* [titled, "Cuban workers debate how to move revolution forward"].

While in Auckland, Fajardo was interviewed by the campus radio and newspaper and also addressed a meeting at the Tamaki campus of Auckland University.

BY CHRISTINE BERESFORD

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Forty people attended a public meeting April 14 to hear Marcelino Fajardo discuss Cuba and its place in the world today. The meeting was organized by the Wellington Latin America Committee.

A lively discussion period followed his talk. In response to a question about why Cuba is seeking investment by capitalists from abroad today, Fajardo explained that the measure is intended to bring in much needed hard currency to deal with the specific economic difficulties Cuba is now facing. Cuba does not intend to move towards a capitalist economy, he stated.

The purpose of the economic measures adopted in the last few years, he said, is to keep alive the basic conquests of socialism. If the revolutionary government falls, he stated, not only will the Cuban revolution be destroyed but Cuba's example as an independent nation showing the way forward for the Third World and especially Latin America will also disappear.

"This explains," Fajardo added, "the U.S. government's obsession with Cuba. They want to destroy the example, kill the idea of socialism, and show the rest of Latin America and the world that the U.S. is all-powerful and there is no way but theirs."

Towards the end of the discussion, a participant asked Fajardo if he saw anything about the world today that showed that there was hope for socialism. "I strongly believe that change will come," Fajardo replied, "because the conditions and contradictions of capitalism itself mean that sooner or later people have no choice but to resist, just as Cuba has no choice but to resist."

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Teamsters keep trucking bosses shut tight

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SEATTLE — As the nationwide Teamsters walkout enters its fourth week, the 70,000 drivers, loading dock workers, and office workers on strike are keeping 20 trucking companies shut down tight. Yellow Freight, one of the largest trucking firms, is losing \$10 million a day in business. Strikers at Consolidated Freightways here report the company has laid off some management personnel and cut the hours and salaries of others.

"Shipping Delays Begin to Take Toll On Firms as Teamsters Strike Continues," declared the April 22 *Wall Street Journal*. This big-business paper detailed the problems

As we go to press Teamsters union officials announced they are near a tentative settlement with the trucking companies

many companies face. Some shipments remain in freight terminals closed by the strike and others have been delayed or misplaced, as the remaining trucking companies scramble to try to fill the void left by the nationwide walkout.

Big companies are often able to find alternate shippers, but at a price. The Kenworth truck plant in Seattle, for instance, is paying premium airfreight rates to try to get parts on time, but some trucks are still rolling off the assembly line missing rear axles, alternators, and other components.

The strike was sparked by management demands to be allowed to hire thousands of part-time workers at lower wages and benefits, to weaken the grievance procedure, and to widen the gap between wages of new hires and current employees. The employers also want to expand their use of nonunion subsidiaries.

Teamster locals continue to organize meetings and rallies across the country to build support for the strike. Several hundred strikers and their families participated in a solidarity rally and picnic organized by Teamsters locals 728 and 528 in Atlanta April 23.

Chanting "no part-timers!" some 250 strikers and supporters rallied at the Statue of Liberty in New York April 25. Delegations of Teamsters from Boston, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and upstate New York joined local strikers for the protest. In St. Louis, 500 strikers rallied at the Yellow Freight terminal and another 200 joined a demonstration downtown last week.

On April 22, a group of garment workers joined Teamster picket lines in Los Angeles, chanting and singing union songs. These workers, many of them immigrants, had been fired by the Uni Hosiery Co. for trying to win recognition for their union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. "It was important to us that the garment workers came down," a Teamster steward from Consolidated Freightways said. "They gave the line a lot of spirit."

A day earlier, three coal miners from Southern Illinois joined picket lines in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. They were interested to learn that the owners of Consolidated and other unionized freight com-



Militant/Harvey McArthur
Striking Teamsters picket ABF Freight in Kent, Washington, April 23.

panies had set up large nonunion subsidiaries — a practice known as double breasting that aims at undermining unions and increasing competition among workers. "Coal companies do the same thing," Jerry Kellerman of United Mine Workers of America Local 1392 told the Teamsters. "Our strike lasted seven months, but we held out and forced the companies to agree to offer union miners 60 percent of the jobs in their non-union mines. Now we're in a better position to go ahead and organize these mines."

Negotiations between Teamster officials and the trucking bosses resumed April 17 for the first time since the strike began. The Clinton administration stepped in April 22, citing the economic disruption caused by the strike, and appointed a federal mediator to join the talks.

Arthur Bunte, negotiator for Trucking Management Inc., continued to demand "flexibility" and "lower wage and benefit costs" from the workers. Teamster spokesperson Bernard Mulligan reported that the

company had presented proposals that were "far worse than their previous offers."

The issue of part-timers is a key one for many strikers around the country.

"We've learned that part-time is no good for anyone," said Roger White, a driver for Roadway Express at the solidarity rally in Atlanta. "I don't live in a part-time house, eat part-time, or have a part-time family."

A shop steward from Local 692 told the *Militant* in Los Angeles, "if the companies can hire people part time, there will never be another regular job available."

The dispute over part-time jobs has also become a focal point of public differences among the union officialdom. On April 26 National Public Radio reported that some Teamster officials had announced plans to hold a press conference opposing union president Ron Carey's course in waging the strike, and stating that it was not worth fighting over the issue of part-timers.

On April 19 a rally of 2,000 was held in front of the Teamster headquarters in Washington, D.C., to protest Carey's proposal to dismantle the union's regional conferences. These are intermediate bodies between Teamster locals and the national officers. Regional officers have long wielded powerful influence within the union.

Harvey McArthur is a member of IAM Local 289 in Seattle. Also contributing were Mark Gilsdorf from New York, Susan Lamont from Atlanta, Margaret Savage from St. Louis, and Gale Shangold from Los Angeles.

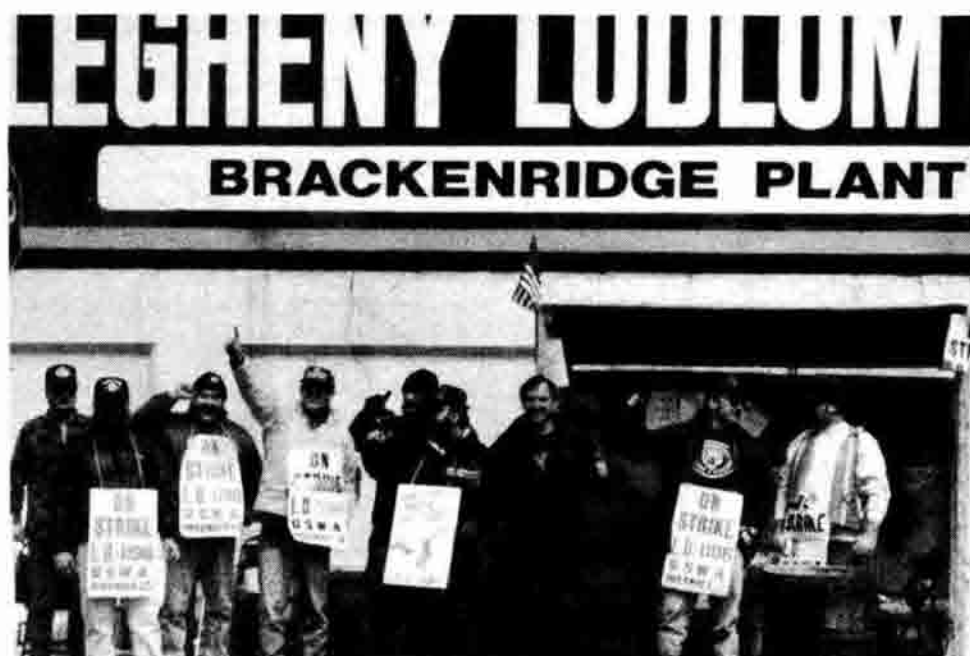
Steel strikers: 'We won't be intimidated'

BY EDWIN FRUIT
AND DEBORAH LIATOS

PITTSBURGH — As the Allegheny Ludlum strike enters its fourth week, the company continues its antiunion stance. In a letter dated April 21, President and Chief Executive Officer Bob Bozzone told employees, "You, the Company, and our customers are suffering the devastating effects of the strike. Why? Because the International Union adamantly refuses to negotiate on the economic package we've offered."

Allegheny Ludlum has also increased the presence of Vance security personnel at the local plants. These professional strikebreakers dress in black combat fatigue and spend their time videotaping the picket lines. "Do they think we're going to destroy equipment," a member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1138 who works at the West Leechburg plant said in an interview on the picket line. "We won't be intimidated by those people."

At the Brackenridge plant, 15 miles south of here, tensions have increased on the picket lines. On April 23, three members of USWA Local 1196 were hit by truck drivers entering the plant to haul away finished products. The USWA has decided to allow finished material to leave the plant, hoping to avoid court injunctions against picketing. Truckers enter-



Militant/Steve Craine
Three strikers were hit by trucks at Allegheny Ludlum in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania.

ing the factory are stopped, handed flyers, and allowed to proceed. The three strikers were hit and hospitalized with minor injuries when drivers refused to stop.

According to the Allegheny Ludlum USWA hotline, the local police are reviewing videotapes of the incidents to determine if charges should be filed. In the meantime, they are escorting trucks in and out of the plant.

The strike against Allegheny Ludlum involves 3,500 workers in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Indiana. Major issues are wages, pensions, and constant mandatory overtime. Many workers are forced to put in up to 70 hours a week, including being called to work on scheduled days off. A female worker with 18 years as an inspector and helper said that conditions in the plant are horrendous. "If there is a stronger word than horrendous, you could use that too," she emphasized.

Allegheny Ludlum is offering a six-year contract with an average of \$500 in bonuses, and one 50-cent-an-hour pay increase over the length of the contract. The company, which forced workers to accept concessions during the 1980s by pleading poverty, is one of the most profitable steelmakers today.

"I was doing much better in 1978 than I am now," one striker stated. "I've been here 15 years and am entitled to three weeks vacation. And I'm lucky if I can get one of those weeks in the summer."

USWA Local 1196 at Brackenridge has organized picket duty and solidarity actions with strikers wearing blue baseball caps that say "Strike and Defense." According to the April 21 USWA *Solidarity Alert* bulletin, fellow strikers from Local 8535 in New Castle, Indiana, pulled picket duty as a display of solidarity. The local union has also been circulating a letter sent by a University of Pittsburgh student who has visited the picket lines several times. "We know that the sacrifices you and your families are making will not only better your lives but ours as well," the student wrote.

In the town of Leechburg, signs of solidarity with the strikers are apparent. Green ribbons adorn poles and street signs. Other prounion placards are posted in store windows as well. The company, on the other hand, has taken out full-page ads in local newspapers accusing the unions of refusing to negotiate and of disrupting the local economy.

As we left the local 1138 union hall in Leechburg, one of the strikers said, "You can quote me on this. We will stay out one day longer than Allegheny Ludlum."

Edwin Fruit is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1976 in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. Deborah Liatos is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-234 in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

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Haitian refugees

Continued from front page
policy, the advisers recommended that this time the U.S. government make an exception. The refugees were allowed in, making them eligible to seek political asylum. As of April 26, however, they were still being held at the Krome Detention Center. In an attempt to prevent other Haitians who wish to flee the terror unleashed by the military regime from following this example, one boatload of refugees stopped at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard was returned to Haiti April 22. Another group of 98 was returned April 25. Haitian authorities detained 18 soon after their arrival.

A series of recent articles in the *Miami Herald* note that repression by the military government and its supporters is on the rise in Haiti. The return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was deposed in a coup in 1991, appears more and more unlikely.

In the latest incident, just days after the arrival of the 414 refugees in Florida, Haitian soldiers killed as many as 26 residents in Raboteau, a neighborhood in the northern port city of Gonaïves, in what the Catholic Church's National Commission for Justice and Peace called "a chicken shoot."

According to Haitian Women Solidarity, rape has become a common tool of political terror. The United Nations and the Organization of American States have received a dozen reports of sexual assault against pro-Aristide activists or relatives of labor union and political activists since January.

Washington continues to turn a blind eye to requests by thousands of Haitians for political asylum.

Since February 1992, more than 55,000 Haitians have applied for asylum in offices set up by Washington inside Haiti. But only 2,727 — 5 percent — received approval in spite of the fact that thousands of people have been slain by the military and rightist thugs since 1991.

One of the three U.S. offices where Haitians can apply for asylum is just a few hundred yards from military headquarters in the town of Les Cayes. Some applicants have been arrested right after filing petitions.

Washington has instructed U.S. interviewers to keep the number of asylum approvals to a minimum.

Many working people in Miami believe the Haitians should be granted asylum. "It doesn't seem fair," one 70-year-old Cuban garment worker in Miami said. "Why are we welcomed, but the Haitians are sent back?"

The Clinton administration has touted the economic boycott of Haiti as a way to force the regime to allow Aristide's eventual return. The embargo, however, has hit working people the hardest. The regime and its supporters have had little trouble getting the things they need.

"The Democrats and Republicans are the same when it comes to foreign policy," stated Jean-Claude Exulien, a radio commentator and activist in the Haitian community.

Corrections

An article in issue no. 17 titled "Killing of Albanian soldiers jars Athens, Tirana relations," stated that Albanian immigrant workers in Greece who claim Greek origins are entitled to residence permits and eventual citizenship. Greek-speaking Albanian immigrants in Greece, however, are not automatically given residence and work permits. This represents a change from two years ago when permits were more easily granted.

The article on the Allegheny Ludlum strike in issue no. 16 incorrectly stated that there is an injunction limiting picketing in effect at the plant in Leechburg, Pennsylvania. In fact, the company's request for an injunction was denied in light of the fact that the union is currently permitting trucks to enter and leave the property in order to pick up finished steel coils for delivery to customers.

In the article titled "Nation of Islam leader draws 10,000 in males-only event in Washington, D.C." appearing in issue no. 14, the *Militant* incorrectly inserted a subhead that read, "Collaboration with police." It should have read, "Praise from police."

An article titled "Palestinians protest West Bank massacre" in issue no. 10 incorrectly stated that the right-wing Israeli group Kahane Chai was founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane. This group was actually formed after Kahane's assassination by his son, Binyamin Kahane.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

After the Elections: What Next for a Democratic South Africa? Speaker: Geoff Mirel-owicz, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 7, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass Ave.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

South Africa After the Elections. Speakers: Ibrahim Seedat, South African student; Brian Williams, staff writer for the *Militant*. Sat., May 7, 7:30 p.m. 214 Avenue A (Between 13th and 14th Streets). Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 388-9346.

NORTH CAROLINA

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Rwanda — Not a "Tribal" War. Speakers and discussion. Sun., May 8, 6 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (910) 272-5996.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Classes and publication celebration. Sat., May 14. Time and topics to be announced. 1802 Belmont Road, NW Tel: (202) 387-2185

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Rev-

olution. Speaker: Ron Poulson, Communist League. Sat., May 7, 6 p.m. Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, corner of Norton and Collins Streets. Donation \$4. Tel: (02) 281 3297.

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The D-Day Debate and the Meaning of World War II. Sat., May 14, 6 p.m. 60 Shudehill, first floor. Donation £2. Tel: (061) 839 1766.

Caterpillar workers hold one-day strike

Continued from front page

five-month strike. The company had threatened to hire scabs. Since then, workers have faced continual harassment by bosses, speedup, denial of union rights, and worsening working conditions under a "final offer" imposed by the company.

At the end of March supervisors suspended five UAW members at the Moss-ville, Illinois, facility causing coordinated protests by workers throughout the Caterpillar chain. The protests were sparked March 30 when Bob Fleshman, nicknamed "coal miner," was suspended for "inappropriate behavior." Fleshman had stopped the assembly line the day before because defective parts had caused him to fall behind.

Upon hearing of Fleshman's suspension, coworkers began chanting "Where's coal miner?" The company then put four more workers on indefinite suspension, but the chanting spread throughout the plant and within hours through Caterpillar plants in several cities.

Michael Masching, a Local 2096 union activist, said several members of his local gathered outside Caterpillar's Pontiac, Illinois, plant where they began chanting. He said he could clearly hear workers inside responding and repeating "Where's coal miner?"

Workers at the Decatur facility, more than an hour south of Peoria, Illinois, also joined the protest, according to Solomon. Plant gate rallies were held in East Peoria in defense of the suspended workers. Hundreds of workers in Mossville met to discuss how to respond to the suspensions.

According to Jerry Brown, president of UAW Local 974 in East Peoria, a walkout was narrowly averted only because the company backed down. All the suspended UAW members were called back to work.

The possibility of a strike by the UAW against the entire Caterpillar chain has more and more dominated news and discussions here. "Every Caterpillar employee, indeed all of central Illinois, has been on red alert the last six weeks," an April 22 editorial in the *Peoria Journal Star* said. The editorial called for third-party mediation to avoid what it termed an

"Armageddon that has been threatened since 1992."

At an April 13 press conference in Washington, D.C., President Bill Clinton said "Caterpillar is very important to the whole country." Clinton said he would consider government intervention to mediate the dispute if a strike occurred.

On May 7, thousands of UAW members and other unionists from across the country

will rally at the Peoria Civic Center in support of the workers at Caterpillar. The "Rally to Defend Workers' Rights" begins at 1 p.m. and follows a two-day world conference of unionists from Caterpillar plants in Belgium, Brazil, South Africa, and other countries.

Peter Thierjung is a member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Havana hosts meeting with emigrés

Continued from front page

fairly new organizations. Patricia Gutiérrez de Sanguis headed up the delegation from Cambio Cubano (Cuban Change), a self-described anti-Castro group that pursues "democratic changes" in Cuba through peaceful means. Cambio Cubano opposes the economic embargo against Cuba.

Gutiérrez's father and main leader of the organization, Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo, took part in the revolutionary army that overthrew the Batista dictatorship. In 1960 he left the country disenchanted with the revolution. He was later captured and imprisoned for violent counterrevolutionary actions after reentering the country secretly.

Alicia Torres, director of the new Washington-based Cuban-American Committee, a lobby formation of businesspeople and Democratic Party liberals aiming to rival the influence of the rightist Cuban American National Foundation, was also there.

Also participating in the conference was a delegation from the Antonio Maceo Brigade (BAM), an organization of Cuban-Americans that defends the Cuban revolution in the United States. BAM leader Andrés Gómez headed up the delegation. The Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC) had a visible delegation as well, led by Walfrido Moreno. Both the Antonio Maceo Brigade and the ATC have mobilized people in public demonstrations in the streets of Miami and elsewhere in opposition to the U.S. embargo, unlike any other Cuban-American organization.

In addition to Roberto Robaina, other representatives of the Cuban government addressed the conference.

The Cuban government announced a number of new decisions during the conference. They included the creation of a special department for emigrants and the reduction of the waiting period for newly departed emigrants who want to visit their families from five years to one year.

Cubans residing abroad will not be required anymore to purchase hotel accommodations while visiting the island. Children of emigrants will be allowed to study in Cuba. A new magazine aimed at the Cuban diaspora will be published. Havana will attempt to bring consular services closer to the Cuban-American community, including possibly in Miami, if allowed by U.S. authorities.

The Cuban government will continue efforts initiated by the conference to maintain links with Cubans residing abroad. Officials also announced that other changes in the citizenship laws could follow pending discussion in the National Assembly, possibly as early as during its May 1 session.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

An evening with Cuban scholars Dr. Juan Antonio Blanco and Professor María del Pilar Díaz-Castanón. Their presentations will be followed by an open question and answer period. Thurs., May 5, 6:30 p.m. Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, 86th Street, between Broadway and West End Avenue. Sponsored by the Cuba Information Project. Donation: \$5. For more information, call (212) 227-3422.

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Golly — "White House political consultant Paul Begala says the current President has less



Harry Ring

need of the trappings of power because of Clinton's remarkable personal skills. When Clinton's TelePromTer failed during an address to Congress last year, Clinton was able to begin the speech without the text." — News item.

Project Loony Bin — The Pentagon's \$8-billion Domsday Project is being shelved. It tried to develop a chain of command that could survive six months of nuclear war and "control our remaining nuclear forces." A stumbling block was figuring out fool-proof shelters for the commanders. Our idea: Lock them up in a complex designed to look like a mental hospital.

Coke joins the cultural war — Coca-Cola will market OK, a new orange soda aimed at young men. The company says, "There is a latent demand for new brands that represent values of today's youth, especially young males."

That's what "Attention, shoppers!" means — At the Layton Hills Mall, outside Salt Lake City, security guards forced Terry Scott, a garden-variety computer technician, to leave when he insisted on wearing his leather cap backwards. They said it violated the mall's ban on gang-related attire. An ACLU spokesperson declared that they should have a banner at the entrance declaring, "Welcome to Gestapo Mall."

The break-even system — A study found that Medicare patients who are Black or poor receive worse care than other seriously ill Medicare patients. But, the report notes, the survival rate is about the same because poor people are twice

as likely to be treated at higher-quality urban teaching hospitals.

Reverse discrimination? — What if victimized Medicare patients continued to have access to better hospitals, but also received better care? Maybe the feds would consider that illegal since, conceivably, it could result in poor patients having a lower death rate than other folks.

Deadly logic — Caught in the public spotlight, the tobacco folks have decided that instead of the traditional stonewalling they'll run ads arguing that they don't jack up the nicotine content in cigarettes or add to the impurities. Next they may have to start accenting the negative.

If so, they might pick up a bromide once popular among a layer of youth, "Live fast, die young, and have a big funeral."

See — To underline the hazards of smoking, a British firm, "Enlightened Tobacco," is marketing a new brand of cigarettes, "Death."

When will Congress stop? — "This does not represent some ripoff of the American people. A parking space allows me to do my job. . . . When is this Congress-bashing going to stop?" — Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, opposing a motion that the senators give up their taxpayer-financed parking privileges at the D.C.-area airports. Motion was defeated.

Tobacco farmers in Greece protest low prices

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES

KATERINI, Greece — During March and April, thousands of tobacco farmers participated in mass protests against government attacks on their standard of living in the main tobacco-producing regions of Greece. Farmers demanded higher prices for their product.

The struggle began in the city of Katerini. After three weeks of mobilizations, which included mass rallies and a hunger strike, thousands of tobacco farmers blocked the national road and railway tracks with up to 7,000 tractors March 31. They effectively cut off ground transportation in this part of the country for several days.

Farmers won solidarity from working people and youth in the city and the surrounding towns. Statements of support came from the Labor Council of Katerini; the Union of Tobacco Workers, many of whose members grow tobacco themselves; the Garment Workers Union; as well as from youth and women's organizations. For two days high school and junior high school students emptied out classrooms and marched to the rally sites of the farmers to show their support. In a declaration the students stated, "The wrath of the tobacco producers is also our wrath. Many students are sons and daughters of the tobacco producers and sweat together with their parents in the tobacco fields in the summer. For most of them, tobacco is their future and we will not permit anyone to destroy it."

The fighting example of the farmers of Katerini was soon followed by tobacco growers in other cities in the region, such as Larissa, Serres, Drama, and Kavala. Increasingly, the struggle took on a national character as tobacco producers in other provinces joined in.

Costs up, prices down

In recent years, prices farmers receive for their products have declined, while costs for fuel, fertilizers, and pesticides have risen. An added factor in the squeeze on the farmers' income, has been the recent sharp increase in direct and indirect taxes by the government.

Some 14,000 tons of tobacco destined for export from the 1993 harvest sit in warehouses. Tobacco growers, estimated to number 16,000 in the region of eastern Macedonia and Thrace, have yet to be paid for their product. At the same time the capitalist tobacco families along with their government set the price for this year's crop at 1,400 drachmas a kilo (\$2.50 per pound) — some 200-300DR lower than last year's price (US\$1.00 = 245DR).

One of the major demands of farmers was a 20 percent price increase to meet inflation. They also demanded changes in the guidelines of the European Union (EU), which restrict the amount of tobacco farmers can produce.

The response by officials of the government of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) was that the prices and the guidelines were agreed upon by the previous government in 1992 in Brussels and all they could do was to try to pressure the EU to revise the rules. Meanwhile, Athens sent massive riot police units to intimidate the farmers and force them to end their mobilizations. The government launched a slander campaign in the mass media portraying farmers as "violent."

The struggle of the tobacco producers

reflects the increasingly devastating conditions farmers face. It takes place in a world marked by economic depression, overproduction, and inter-imperialist conflicts over access to the world's markets.

In the last 15 years, world production of tobacco has increased by 20 percent. At the same time, stocks in warehouses have risen dramatically, as anti-smoking campaigns have resulted in lower consumption.

In their profit drive, the capitalists and their governments pit farmers of one country against another. This feeds into their reactionary, nationalist campaigns. The Federation of Tobacco Processing Industries of Greece issued a public statement April 11. It blamed Turkish farmers for the crisis in the world market and the drop in the price of tobacco produced in Greece, by pointing to the "massive stock" of tobacco in Turkey — 500 million tons — and the recent "unprecedented devaluation of the Turkish lira" — 140 percent since January. The statement also blamed U.S. measures of limiting tobacco imports to 25 percent and the proposed tax increase of \$1.25 per pack for cigarettes, as well as decisions by the European Union to curtail export subsidies. These events, the federation of Greek tobacco companies stated, "bring about a significant drop in export prices . . . and therefore lead logically to lower prices for the producers."

Many political forces in the farmers' movement in Greece have also blamed farmers in the United States and other European countries for the devastation facing growers in Greece. The Communist Party, for example, complained in a statement that the government "is subservient to the Maastricht and GATT agreements . . . which opened the doors to American tobacco to enter Greece as well."

Many of the protesting farmers, however, focused their fire on the Greek government. "Farmers are not concerned with decisions of the EU, but the policy of our own government toward the tobacco producers," said Giannis Skoufás, a leader of the Coordinating Committee of Struggle of tobacco farmers in Katerini.

On March 31, farmers in Katerini opened the national road for the day so that people could participate in the nationalist demonstration that was held in the nearby city of Thessaloniki. More than 1 million people participated in that reactionary rally in support of the Greek government's campaign against recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

The press announced April 6 that the farmers' negotiating committee and the government reached an agreement. Under this pact, tobacco producers were offered 30DR more than last year. Following the announcement, farmers in Katerini, Grevena, and other cities demobilized their forces and pulled their tractors off the national road.

Farmers in other cities such as Ellassona, Trikala, Serres, and Kilis continued mobi-



Tobacco farmers near Katerini, Greece, block railway lines to demand higher prices for their product. The sign reads, "The merchants get rich, the farmers go hungry. The state?"

lizations for several more days. In Ellassona, farmers held a mass rally in the main square of the city the day of the announced agreement. They were joined by junior high and

high school students. Slogans at the rally included, "We will not retreat until our demands are met," and "We want prices from Athens not from Brussels."

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
May 9, 1969 Price 10¢

On Thursday, April 24, black workers of the United Black Brothers shut down the Ford assembly plant here in Mahwah [New Jersey].

The immediate grievance was the firing of a black worker who went into the supervisor's office to inquire about some problem. The brother was greeted with a hail of obscenities, telling him in no uncertain terms that he was not supposed to be in the office, and then summarily dismissed.

This action is representative of the racist treatment that black workers receive in the plant. It is an indication of a deeper problem, which the black workers are now becoming sharply aware of — that they have no real union that represents their interests. Local 906 of the United Auto Workers hasn't held a representative union meeting in a year. The leadership of the union is lily-white, even though 1,700 or 40 percent of the 4,200 workers at the plant are black and Puerto Rican.

Given these circumstances, the Ford management has been able to ride roughshod over the workers, arbitrarily firing black workers, speeding up the assembly line, and allowing safety standards to slide, thus putting limbs and lives in jeopardy.

Out of this situation arose the United Black Brothers, which was started eight months ago. So far the UBB has been able to shut down the night shift at Ford. The night shift begins at 4 p.m. and has a high concentration of black and Puerto Rican workers.

At a rally held on Monday, April 28, after the night shift had been shut down, 200-300

black workers gathered at the headquarters of Local 906 to hear speeches by UBB leaders, a Black Panther, and Mark Rudd of SDS. The rally was held outside the union headquarters because the building had been locked up by the union bureaucrats. A handful of white workers showed up for the rally.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS
May 6, 1944

While Roosevelt is mouthing about an export trade for the "four freedoms," tens of thousands of agricultural workers in California's sunny valleys continue their intolerable existence under the brutal terror maintained by the corporation-financed "Associated Farmers."

The La Follette Senate Civil Liberties Committee just two weeks ago released a report on the activities of the "Associated Farmers" of California which reads like a page out of the Black Book of Hitlerism, with special American trimmings.

The activities of the "Associated Farmers" are directed against industrial as well as agricultural labor. Organized not by the farmers but the land-owning banks and corporations, this terroristic outfit, which has murdered scores of workers attempting union organization, "stands in opposition to employee organizations and collective bargaining in the field, factory and transportation," states the Senate report.

"In labor disputes, in which waves of violence broke out, the leaders of the Associated Farmers occupied prominent places in the front ranks of bands of armed deputies and vigilantes participating in the riots." These vigilante gangs provide the industrialists with a "backlog of rural opposition to trade unionism" which helps to spearhead anti-union legislation and repressive drives against all labor.

Final nail in apartheid's coffin

Millions of toilers in South Africa have dealt the final death blow to the racist apartheid system. In doing so, they have taken a gigantic step forward in advancing the democratic revolution in that country.

At midnight on April 26 the constitution that codified white-minority rule was thrown into the dustbin of history. Millions of disenfranchised South Africans then lined up to vote in the first-ever nonracial elections.

Workers, farmers, and youth the world over can celebrate this victory as our own, as we vow to stand shoulder to shoulder with our South African brothers and sisters in the battles to come.

The victory in South Africa this week was won through decades of struggle. Working people there have assumed their rightful place as lead actors in making history, by successfully defying the dehumanizing plans of the white-minority regime. Their victory is a resounding vindication of the course charted by Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress.

Years of imprisonment, of intimidation, and of violence could not stop us, Mandela said. "And we will not be stopped now." The soon-to-be new South African president speaks the truth. Isolated gangs of rightist thugs with their guns and bombs will not go away quickly. But the revolutionary democratic forces have spoken. They will not be turned back by the desperate antics of the terrorists.

"South Africa belongs to all who live in it, Black and

White," the 40-year old Freedom Charter states. The demands of the democratic revolution it presented then remain the foundation of the ANC's program today — equal rights for all, land, housing, education, and jobs.

Difficult challenges lie ahead. The legacy of apartheid — both the poverty and the divisions cultivated for decades between Blacks, Coloureds, Indians, and whites — will take time and conscious leadership to overcome. The new South African government will have to fight — in the midst of a worldwide capitalist depression — for economic aid and investment from imperialist powers who for decades offered wholehearted support to the apartheid regime. In addition, the ANC-led government that takes power this week will not be a homogeneous body, representing the interests of one class. De Klerk, who will most likely be part of the new transitional regime, and Buthelezi will not suddenly become voices for democracy.

But the massive mobilizations of the South African toilers in city and countryside that paved the way for the victory of the Mandela-led African National Congress place the toilers in the best position to fight to resolve these problems in their own interests.

The labor movement and all democratic-minded people around the world have a high stake in this struggle. They should stand with the ANC and the millions it represents in South Africa in the fight to implement the Freedom Charter and advance the democratic revolution.

End forced return of Haitians

While allowing a boatload of several hundred Haitian refugees to land in Miami, U.S. president Bill Clinton strongly reaffirmed that his criminal policy of forcibly repatriating Haitian refugees remains firmly in place.

Intercepting refugees on the high seas, who are fleeing repression in their homeland, and forcing them back to the arms of Haiti's military rulers amounts to a sentence of torture and death for many Haitian working people.

While candidate Clinton during his election campaign claimed to be "appalled" by this policy put in place by his predecessor George Bush, President Clinton, in one of his first acts in office, proclaimed that the forced return of Haitians would continue. The president remained faithful to this later pledge. Since January 1993, about 1,700 Haitians have been seized from boats and returned by U.S. Coast Guard vessels to Haiti's ruling thugs.

Washington claims Haitians are free to apply for asylum at U.S. offices set up inside their country. But this is a cruel joke. The statistics speak for themselves. While more than 55,000 Haitians over the past two years braved intimidation by the military authorities to file applications requesting asylum, the rejection rate is running at 95 percent. Many of those who are rejected are then subject to jailings, torture, and sometimes death.

Since the 1991 coup ousting president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's military rulers and their hired thugs have

killed and tortured thousands and forced countless others into hiding.

The truly outrageous character of Clinton's Haiti policy was highlighted once again when the U.S. government in mid-April denied asylum to 16 members of Haiti's national soccer team applying from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The State Department insisted that the athletes must first return to Haiti to have their requests considered. "We would rather die here," responded a spokesman for the players.

The economic embargo enforced by U.S. warships off the island has only created greater hardships for working people without having much of an impact on the lifestyle and political hold on power of Haiti's military elite. U.S. trade with Haiti actually increased in 1993 with some 50 U.S. companies actively involved.

Recent announcements by the Clinton administration that they're for expanding the embargo and calls by some capitalist politicians for U.S. military intervention on the island would only make struggles for liberation by Haiti's workers and peasants more difficult. Working people should demand an end to this embargo and oppose any threats of U.S. intervention.

But above all, the labor movement should take the lead in demanding the opening of U.S. borders to Haitian refugees and an end to Clinton's criminal forced repatriation policy.

All out to complete sales drive!

Now is a great time to win new readers to the communist press. The struggles by Teamsters against the trucking bosses, by steelworkers at Allegheny Ludlum, by workers at Caterpillar Corp., and others mean there are greater numbers of working people today who are seeking to link up with other fighters. At the same time thousands of youth and workers around the world are celebrating the historic, nonracial elections in South Africa and discussing which way forward under the new ANC-led government.

Many workers, farmers, and young people involved in these struggles are looking for broader answers to what is happening in the world, why, and how they can act to change it.

The international campaign to sell subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as copies of *New International*, is an excellent opportunity to help these fighters find their way to socialism.

The experience of *Militant* supporters in Birmingham, Alabama, is a good example of what is possible when socialist workers and youth jump into reaching out with a newspaper that tells the workers' side of the story. In just one week, they signed up 25 *Militant* subscribers, almost as many as they had sold in the previous six weeks. They took a broad and aggressive approach — going to campuses, factories, working-class neighborhoods, and political activities throughout the region.

It will take this kind of serious effort by every distributor in order to reach the international goal of 3,000 *Militant* subscriptions, 650 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, and 1,800 *New Internationals* by May 15. We urge our readers to make this circulation effort their central priority in the next two weeks, thinking out how to use every available hour and take advantage of every opportunity to win new subscribers. This will include arranging to take time off work to participate in a special sales team, volunteering to help supporters in another area who are behind in making

their goals, raising targets in areas that are on or ahead of schedule, and calling subscribers in your area about renewing, buying the *New International*, and joining in the sales drive themselves.

There is no other paper like the *Militant*. In addition to the unparalleled reporting from a team of correspondents in South Africa, next week's issue will include the introduction to the new edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*. This document will be especially valuable to fighting workers, like the unionists from around the Midwest who will be gathering in Peoria, Illinois, May 7 for a labor solidarity rally. Worker-correspondents provide eyewitness accounts from the scenes of battle every week — be it the Teamsters fight against the trucking barons or the platinum miners' strike in South Africa.

In-depth articles analyze why Washington and other imperialist powers are deepening the war in Bosnia, the row over D-Day, the meaning for working people of the turmoil in the world's stock markets, and the challenges and opportunities facing the Cuban revolution.

Members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee have been helping to sell subscriptions and copies of *New International* from Cincinnati to Houston and Detroit. A concerted campaign in the next two weeks will present additional opportunities for young socialists to get more deeply involved in the circulation effort. The last weeks of the sales drive are also a good time to step up discussions on the job among industrial workers with all three publications.

With a final all-out push we can reach the goals of winning thousands of readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* — and through this help recruit new supporters and members to the communist movement.

What's behind U.S. hypocrisy on human rights in China?

Were the massive democracy protests in China's Tiananmen Square in 1989 student protests, as the article by Brian Williams in the April 11 issue of the *Militant* said? Or had earlier student actions triggered a larger working-class movement by the time Beijing called in the army and crushed the demonstrations? Stan Smith, a reader from Chicago asked this question in a letter printed in last week's issue.

In a letter printed on the opposite page, Albert Fried-Cassorla also raises a disagreement with the article by Williams. He argues that the hue and cry by U.S. officials over human rights in China, whatever their intentions, advances the interests of working people. We will return to this question later in this column.

Smith did raise a good point. In the *Militant* article, titled "U.S. businessmen dismiss White House rhetoric on human rights in China," Williams stated that China's "most favored nation" trading status has been "up for debate in Washington each year since Beijing's military crackdown on student protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989." But while students and student organizations were the leadership of the democracy movement, they were joined on the front lines by tens of thousands of working people.

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

The massive democracy protests in China in 1989 stemmed from economic policies implemented by the Stalinist regime in Beijing that encouraged private farming and business, as well as foreign investment. This created a growing layer of millionaires and other relatively rich traders, lenders, capitalist farmers, and factory owners, while the majority of workers and peasants faced steadily worsening conditions.

As the government carried out this economic shift, it maintained tight restrictions on democratic rights. The student protesters — who first came into the streets in mid April following the death of a popular government official — demanded freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and other basic rights, as well as an end to massive government corruption.

From the beginning, they sought to draw in factory workers, journalists, soldiers, and others. The May 5, 1989, *Militant*, reporting on one of the earlier protests of tens of thousands in Tiananmen Square on April 22, noted that the students were joined by a contingent of 5,000 workers. On May 4, more than 100,000 marched in Beijing. "While the nucleus of the crowd was still students," *The New York Times* noted at the time, "they were easily outnumbered by the young workers."

After the government-led massacre in Tiananmen Square, workers in cities across China joined students in protesting the crackdown. In Shanghai, for example, half of the workers stayed home from their jobs. The first three people executed in Shanghai for their role in the protests were a brewery worker, a radio factory worker, and an unemployed worker.

Democracy and capitalism don't go together

Fried-Cassorla takes issue with the statement by Williams that Washington's "hue and cry over human rights is about striking a harder [trade] bargain with Beijing." Fried-Cassorla argues instead that the Clinton administration is forced to pay attention to human rights abuses in China because of pressure from working people in the United States. "This attention is positive for the U.S. and Chinese working classes, regardless of any politician's motivation," he says.

But it is not true that the U.S. rulers' sporadic ranting and raving about democracy in China — while pushing full-speed ahead to take advantage of new markets — advances the interests of working people in China, the United States, or anywhere else. The U.S. bosses and their government, from Warren Christopher to the owners of Boeing, couldn't care less about democratic rights.

In a June 23, 1989, editorial, the *Militant* noted that the rulers in Washington try to exploit "the crimes of the Beijing regime to project themselves as champions of democracy and defenders of civil liberties around the world." As the editorial explained, this image is but a facade. Capitalism and democracy don't go together and working people need to expose the rulers' lies.

Following the Tiananmen Square massacre, Washington called for economic sanctions against China. The *Militant* urged working people then to oppose this attack on the toilers in China. "International solidarity with the protesters in China will not be furthered by supporting the imperialist rulers," the *Militant* said.

Christopher's recent hypocritical statements notwithstanding, there is no fundamental disagreement among U.S. rulers today on policy towards Beijing. China's most favored nation status will be renewed. Most U.S. capitalists are looking to increase trade with Beijing and investments in the most populous country of the globe. So they play down the human rights card. But whichever side of their mouths they speak out of, their words have nothing to do with democracy and everything to do with maximizing their profits at the expense of working people — in China and around the world.

— SARA LOBMAN

13,000 government workers strike in Hawaii

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. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your

voted to approve a new contract April 10 by a 92 percent margin. The contract covers the 1,900 workers in the plant who build the Mercury Villager/Nissan Quest minivans. They work under a Modern Operating Agreement (MOA), also known as "team

ON THE PICKET LINE

union, at your workplace or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

More than 13,000 state and county workers in Hawaii went on strike April 18. Members of the Hawaii Government Employees Association, the state's largest union, are seeking a minimum 8 percent pay raise over two years. The state and its four counties have offered a 4 percent increase.

"We have told the membership the success of the strike depends on solidarity, but they should be prepared for a long strike," said the union's director, Russell Okata. The strike is the first in the 60-year history of the union.

Some 6,700 other workers, many of them in nonteaching positions at the University of Hawaii, are set to join the strike on April 22, after having met the requirement of giving 10 days notice.

Auto workers in Ohio approve settlement

Members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2000 at Ford's Avon Lake assembly plant in Ohio

concept." The other 1,400 workers in the plant build the Econoline van and work under a "traditional" agreement.

Workers in the Villager/Quest area had soundly rejected a previous contract proposal on March 14. A second tentative agreement was reached March 30 as union members prepared to go on strike that night.

The MOA was first imposed on the Avon Lake workers in 1990 by agreement of the company and union officialdom. Union members did not get a chance to vote on that contract.

In 1991 and 1992, hundreds of mostly young workers were hired into the plant to start up the new product line. The company has raised production of the minivan by 20,000 units this year with little increase in the workforce. This has been accomplished through assembly line speedup and adding tasks onto existing jobs, leading to greater injuries.

"Right now they're wearing people out after six months," said Rod

Lee, a worker in the trim department on the Villager/Quest line. "We have the highest incidence of carpal tunnel in the whole [Ford] system."

The new contract includes an agreement by the company to hire as many as 152 new workers, including 50 immediately and the other 100 in August.

Airport workers win contract in New Zealand

Eighty Ogden Aviation workers at Auckland International Airport in New Zealand recently scored a modest victory when the company came to terms with the union a few days before an impending strike.

Ogden Aviation, an international aircraft servicing company,

got a foothold at Auckland airport two years ago as a result of the Employment Contracts Act, a law designed to strengthen the hand of the employers against the unions. Ogden workers went without overtime rates for weekend work, often worked double or even triple split shifts, and received few allowances. Many worked only part-time hours. Pay began at NZ\$9.50 [NZ\$1.00=US\$.056] per hour, an average factory rate.

In contrast, the airport's other aircraft cleaners, loaders, and baggage handlers, despite recent wage cuts, enjoyed moderately better pay and conditions. Resentment grew as 46 workers joined the union.

Once the contract expired the union announced plans to strike.



Striking members of the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) picket at district courthouse in Honolulu April 18.

Ogden responded by issuing lockout notices and hiring 30 new workers before the strike had even begun, training them with the clear intention of using them to keep the planes flying and break the strike.

In response, the workers grew more determined to strike. "They felt they had nothing to lose," said union delegate Maurice Davis.

The company settled by offering a 6 percent raise over two years, recognition of the union delegate, and improved sick and bereavement leave.

Brewery workers walk out in the Netherlands

Striking workers have virtually shut down beer production at Heineken, the largest brewery in the Netherlands. More than 3,000 workers walked out April 21 after the Dutch Federation of Labor Unions rejected Heineken's proposed 2 percent pay raise over the next two years plus a 1 percent onetime payment.

The following day strikers blockaded the company's two main Dutch breweries in the cities of Zoutwoude and Den Bosch. The plant in Zoutwoude employs about 2,200 people and the brewery in Den Bosch another 1,000.

In early April, Heineken announced 1993 profits of \$273.1 million with sales worldwide of \$4.8 billion.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Amy Husk Sanchez, member of UAW Local 2000 in Avon Lake, Ohio; and Malcolm Stuart in Auckland, New Zealand.

LETTERS

Prison labor

I cannot go on strike, nor can I unionize. I am not covered by workers' compensation or the Fair Labor Standards Act.

I agree to work late-night and weekend shifts. I do just what I am told no matter what it is. I am hired and fired at will and am not even paid minimum wage; I earn one dollar a month. I cannot even voice grievances or complaints, except at the risk of incurring arbitrary discipline or some covert retaliation.

You do not have to and need not worry about NAFTA and your jobs going to Mexico and other Third World countries. I will have at least 5 percent of your jobs by the end of this decade. I am called prison labor.

A prisoner
Capshaw, Alabama

Occupied territories

I am a little disappointed the *Militant* hasn't run a follow-up article on Israel and the Occupied Territories in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre. In particular, the banning of the two pro-Kahane groups and the deployment of the "peacekeeping troops," in my opinion, merit some commentary.

I haven't read anything about what these "peacekeepers" are actually doing (I'm not even sure they've arrived yet), but I can't see them functioning as anything but an auxiliary to the Israeli Army, helping to give them some humanitarian cover.

I don't see the banning of the two rightist groups as any advance either. The ban will only strengthen Israel's hand in its continued attacks on democratic rights, which are mainly directed at Palestinians and their defenders.



I find the Israeli response to Hebron, which has been echoed in the U.S., highly cynical. It is not tiny rightist groups composed inordinately of American immigrants and ultra-orthodox sects that are responsible for most anti-Palestinian violence. Not only has it been Zionist policy, whether of Likud or Labor coloration, which has been responsible for attacks on Palestinian rights in general, but it has also been the Israeli Army and police which have been the biggest killer, by far.

Baruch Goldstein was able to kill dozens of unarmed Palestinians in a mosque, not because of his religious beliefs or his country of birth, but because he was obliged by law to be a member of the Israeli Army Reserves, to be trained in the use of automatic weapons, to have such a weapon and ammunition for it in his house, and because he had been won to hatred of all Arab peoples. His political and military training came at the same school—Zionism. For Israel to ban two tiny sects in

the guise of protecting Palestinians is like the British government banning a few Loyalist bands to defend the nationalist community in Northern Ireland.

Gary Boyers
Detroit, Michigan

Clinton's China policy

The *Militant's* April 11 article on the Clinton administration's dispute with China over human rights and trade accurately accused the U.S. side of hypocrisy. However, I disagree about the motivation of the U.S. position.

The article made the claim that U.S. insistence that China maintain some minimal respect for civil liberties was motivated by a desire to drive a harder bargain with the Chinese. Even the *Militant's* article pointed out that huge economic stakes lie in the balance—such as \$40 billion in Boeing jet plane sales. Therefore, from an American business perspective, the fewer obstacles to trade, the better; the less outcry and angry rhetoric, the

greater chances for quick profitable deals.

I believe that the Clinton administration has been forced to point out human rights abuses because of the respect the American working class has for these rights. Americans have a high regard for political liberties. We don't like to see it taken away, either at home or abroad. Clinton has been forced, against his will, to at least make accusations. This attention is positive for the U.S. and Chinese working classes, regardless of any politician's motivation.

As one of the many possible historical comparisons, look at Roosevelt's setting up the War Refugee Board late in World War II, after so many Jews and others were murdered. The Board allowed in 200,000 refugees. Roosevelt acted not out of the kindness of his heart (since he had ignored many previous pleas for action), but because public outrage grew too great.

Albert Fried-Cassorla
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Gay rights

On April 7, I was able to attend a meeting held by a new group called LaborPride. The flyer announces "gay and lesbian union members in Philadelphia are organizing... and the boss isn't happy about it." Attended by about 10 union activists, it was their second meeting. It's important to note that we were able to meet at the AFSCME District Council headquarters and that one of the members present is a president of his local and is known as a gay activist. The group's purpose is to provide a forum for gay union members to

discuss shop issues and, where possible, take gay issues such as the fight against homophobia, HIV/AIDS and domestic partnership benefits into the workplace. We discussed fund-raising issues and the upcoming National Lesbian and Gay Labor Conference in New York on June 24 during the weekend of the 25th Anniversary of Stonewall.

Local unions represented by activists at the meeting included Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, AFSCME, health care workers union (1199C), American Postal Workers Union, SEIU, and Transportation and Communication Workers (formerly BRAC).

As it grows, LaborPride will be able to cut across the various stereotypes and help educate workers who hold prejudices against gays. On the shop floor they will learn that the fight around gay rights is also a struggle for workers rights.

Craig McKissic
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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

The *Militant* prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Youth rally against Klan in Michigan

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO
AND JACK WILLEY

LANSING, Michigan — Hundreds of people, mostly young, turned out to show their opposition to a Ku Klux Klan rally here at the Michigan State capitol April 23.

In the weeks before the event, city officials, police, religious groups, and the media campaigned to discourage people from protesting the Klan. Downtown merchants held special sales the day of the Klan rally, for example, and organizations sponsored activities away from the rally site to promote "diversity." One group in Lansing led people in washing the capitol steps the day after the controversial event as an alternative to demonstrating against the Klan.

However, many students and others organized to show their opposition.

"We want a peaceful protest to drown out the Klan and show there's an alternative to what they say," said Jason Wade, a 20-year-old Michigan State University (MSU) student who helped organize Unified Progressives as One (UP-1). The ad-hoc campus committee included activists from the Women's Council, the Chicano group MEChA, Active Transformation, and other organizations.

UP-1 held a press conference and several open meetings, sent out a 600-piece mailing, and distributed another 300 fliers urging people to "rally against racism and oppose the Klan!"

"At first, we tried to get people out to march," Wade said. "Then we found people didn't even know that the Klan was going



Some 800 activists march April 23 in Lansing, Michigan, to protest against Klan.

to rally. So we spent a lot of time just informing people."

Cops came uninvited to an UP-1 meeting and violence-baited the students, claiming it was impossible to protest the Klan without violence breaking out. But the cops left when they failed to convince the students to stop organizing.

The day of the rally, some 50 people led

by UP-1 gathered at MSU at 10 a.m. to march to the capitol. Several blocks away, about a dozen police cars with lights flashing pulled up to confront the group. The cops took away some signs, saying they were "offensive," and told the group that if it didn't keep moving, arrests would be made. Despite these provocations, the student demonstrators reacted with discipline,

and continued their march to the capitol after the cops left. Media reports estimated that 800 gathered to oppose the racists.

The 27 Klan members who showed up came out of the capitol onto the steps at about 1 p.m., to the sounds of "Dixie" and the national anthem over loudspeakers. Holding Confederate flags and shields with the Klan symbol and wearing suits and ties, the Klan members made speeches and chanted "white power" for the next two hours.

When a number of anti-Klan protesters urging "violent action" led people to try to tear down a corner of the chain-link fence by the capitol, the police sprayed pepper gas. Some demonstrators spit at and threw rocks at the cops, who in turn periodically sprayed pepper gas. Most demonstrators, however, did not go in the fenced-in areas and stood outside waving signs and chanting.

A 15-year-old Cleveland Heights High School student and five of her classmates came from Ohio after members of the Cleveland Student Political Organizing Committee urged students to participate.

"Some people thought it was dumb we were coming because they said the Klan wasn't affecting us," she said. "But it's the ideas of the Klan that can affect us."

"Yeah," added a classmate. "If they think that no one's going to be there, no disagreement, then they're just going to keep going and grow."

When the Klan left, on a state prison bus with a police escort, some of the crowd tried to follow. The cops let loose six or seven cans of tear gas and moved against the crowd, tapping their nightsticks on the shields. By the end of the day seven people had been arrested, one for felonious assault.

The next day, a Klan member interviewed on Lansing radio stations announced the group was dissatisfied with their rally and planned to return in six weeks. The Klan had announced several other appearances in May and June in Illinois and Ohio. Young people at the rally vowed to continue organizing protests against the racists.

Rose Ana Berbeo is a member of the International Association of Machinists and the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC). Jack Willey is the SYOC coordinator in Detroit.

Young socialists build anti-Klan action

BY JACK WILLEY

LANSING, Michigan — The Michigan Young Socialists and other members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) from Cleveland and Minneapolis helped build and took part in a counterdemonstration of some 800 people protesting a Ku Klux Klan rally April 23 in front of the state capitol here.

Before the day of the Klan rally, young socialists had gone to meetings of United Progressives as One (UP-1), an ad-hoc committee of students at Michigan State University (MSU) formed to mobilize people to protest the Klan. The young socialists helped distribute fliers and posted up notices about the anti-Klan rally.

Cecilia Ortega and other members of the Cleveland Socialist Youth Organizing Committee energetically built the anti-Klan demonstration at colleges and high schools, including announcing it over the loudspeaker at Cleveland Heights High School. Seven students from Cleveland came as a result.

Three members of the SYOC from Minnesota drove 12 hours to participate in the event. SYOC members and two MSU students met before the rally to discuss the best way to take part in the Klan protest. Jeanine Dukes from Cleveland described lessons learned at a recent anti-Klan rally in Painesville, Ohio.

The young socialists invited anyone interested to come to a meeting of their group after the rally and encouraged others to join in helping to form a nationwide socialist youth organization.

Twenty young people attended the meeting after the rally at the MSU Student Union, where they discussed the success of the counterdemonstration, the democratic revolution in South Africa, and the fight for socialism in Cuba today. Many people raised the importance of forming a socialist youth organization to confront the challenges that workers and young people must face in the midst of a worldwide capitalist depression.

In the discussion one student said that

the problems workers face today are due to their own laziness and unwillingness to seek opportunities. Several people responded by explaining that capitalism is a system driven by profits and that the ruling class uses scapegoating as a way to divide the workers. SYOC members pointed to the Teamsters strike and other fights as examples of working class struggles young people should join and help win support for. Five people signed up there to get more information on SYOC.

Young socialists participate in Boston student conference

BY JASON COUGHLIN

BOSTON — Thousands of young people from throughout the United States converged on the University of Massachusetts campus here April 14-16. They came to be part of the 10th National Conference on Student Community Service, organized by the Community Outreach Opportunity League (COOL).

Members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) in Boston set up a literature table and participated in the event, as did many other organizations, such as Greenpeace, Frontlash AFL-CIO, Empty-the-Shelters, and the Young Communist League. The SYOC table included books with speeches by Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, James Cannon and other revolutionary leaders, as well as books on the history of struggles against racism and exploitation. It immediately attracted attention.

"Many young people came to this community service conference because they were looking for ways to eliminate problems they saw in society, like homelessness, poverty, and environmental destruction," stated Beth Hanon, a member of SYOC and participant in the conference. "They were excited to meet young people with socialist ideas, and wanted to learn more about Cuba and the South African revolution."

SYOC members organized a showing of the video "Cuba Va: Cuban youth debate the future," produced by the Union of Young

Communists in Cuba. The video features frank and open discussions among young people in Cuba about the challenges facing the Cuban revolution and the way forward. Ten conference participants came to see the film. A broad discussion broke out afterwards on the Cuban revolution and its relation to struggles for social change in the United States. Those who watched the video also wanted to know more about SYOC and the kind of activities it is involved in.

Many participants in the conference went back to their home cities with socialist books and periodicals. Altogether, \$333 in Pathfinder literature, 7 Militant subscriptions, and 2 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* were sold. Also, 60 people signed up to get more information about SYOC.

Jason Coughlin is SYOC coordinator in Boston.

Join Socialist Youth Organizing Committee

To find more information or to join the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee write to:

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