

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Iran today: workers, peasants
resist capitalist offensive

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Caterpillar strike solid

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A strike by some 14,000 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) against Caterpillar Inc. is solid despite attempts by the company to undermine solidarity at facilities in Colorado, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. Caterpillar is the world's largest producer of earthmoving and heavy construction equipment.

The strike began June 20 when company executives walked out of negotiations with the union. The talks were to resolve 92 unfair labor practice complaints filed against the company by the National Labor Relations Board. The union focused its demands on winning reinstatement of 11 of 35 workers illegally fired for union activities.

Members of UAW Local 974 in East Peoria, Illinois, are upbeat as they prepare to enter the fourth week of the walkout. Strikers dispute outlandish company claims that thousands of workers — 44 percent — have crossed picket lines and that production is at near normal levels. Some 7,500 UAW members are employed by Caterpillar in East Peoria.

UAW member Dave Haleshire explained that production is down at Building KK where transmissions are made. Pickets are close enough to the plant to know if production is going on, he said. Hot iron treated by dropping it in tubs of water for cooling creates enough noise for people on the street to hear it.

"If they aren't heat treating iron, they aren't grinding gears, and they aren't assembling transmissions without gears," Haleshire said. He pointed to the north yard saying, "It's full of transmission casings. If they were assembling transmissions, it wouldn't be full."

Haleshire reported that production is nil at Building LL, where welding occurs, and at the foundry in nearby Mapleton, Illinois. "They say the foundries are running, but how can you run a furnace without smoke?" he asked.

Union officials confirm that assembly work at the Mossville, Illinois, engine complex is at a near standstill and parts shortages plague the system.

Another East Peoria striker, Jim Fisher, reported that between 40 and 50 workers who had crossed picket lines earlier

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Militant/Angel Lariscy

May 7 solidarity rally with Caterpillar workers in Peoria, Illinois. UAW members have kept plants shut since the walkout on June 20. Strikers need support of all youth and working people.

Clinton denies entry to Haitian refugees

BY SETH GALINSKY

MIAMI — The Clinton administration announced July 5 that Haitian refugees intercepted by U.S. military vessels at sea will no longer be able to obtain asylum in the United States. This reverses a policy begun June 16 that allowed refugees fleeing terror and economic catastrophe in Haiti to apply for asylum on board U.S. Navy ships. Prior to this date all Haitians picked up in international waters were automatically returned to the country's military rulers.

William Gray, the White House's special envoy on Haiti, said that Haitians stopped by U.S. vessels who meet Washington's cri-

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Socialists announce N.Y. election campaign

BY MARK GILSDORF

NEW YORK — Supporters of a socialist alternative to the growing political and economic crisis of the world capitalist system are launching a statewide Socialist Workers election slate here. They will bring a working-class voice to the November elections.

Heading up the socialist ticket are *Militant* staff writer Naomi Craine, who is running for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Democrat Daniel Moynihan, and Larry Lane, a member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 301, for governor of New York.

Craine, 23, is a member of the steering committee of the Socialist Youth Organizing

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Massive turnout for N.Y. gay rights march

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

NEW YORK — In a massive, spirited demonstration of solidarity, hundreds of thousands of people filled the streets here June 26 to show their support for gay rights

in an international march marking the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion.

The main march, organized by the Stonewall 25 coalition, began at the United Nations and wound its way up the east side of Manhattan. Demonstrators demanded the United Nations take positions in defense of the rights of gays and lesbians worldwide.

A second march started from the site of the Stonewall Rebellion in Manhattan's Greenwich Village and went up 5th Avenue. The organizers of this action and some among the 8,000 who participated in this action said they thought AIDS awareness should be the main issue of the day. The two marches converged in Central Park, culminating in a six-hour rally.

Police estimated a crowd totaling 100,000 people; the event's organizers put the figure at 1.1 million.

The demonstration received widespread publicity. Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican mayor of New York City, made a point of participating. There were demonstrators from Latin America, Europe, South Africa, and numerous other countries, as well as contingents from all over the United States. Some were in New York to attend or play in the Gay Games, a weeklong international athletic event, but many had

traveled to the country just for the rally.

Also marching were veterans of the Stonewall rebellion that ushered in the modern gay rights movement. On June 27, 1969, police raided a Manhattan bar called the Stonewall Inn, in an effort to close it down and arrest gays, lesbians, transvestites, and other pa-

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Organizers estimated that more than 1 million took part in 25th Stonewall anniversary march. Police put crowd at 100,000. By defending gay rights as part of civil liberties for all, action dealt blow to rightist attacks on homosexuals.

**Come to an
International Conference
of Socialist Workers and Youth**

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SOLIDARITY RALLY WITH STALEY WORKERS JUNE 25

Workers, farmers, and youth from the United States and around the world will attend a socialist conference August 3-7 in Oberlin, Ohio. Delegates to the 37th national convention of the Socialist Workers Party will discuss the growing disorder of world capitalism since the 1987 stock market crash: a world headed toward greater class struggle, inter-imperialist conflict, the rise of ultra-rightist movements, and growing pressures toward war. There will be panels, classes, and workshops involving all participants.

Trade unionists and socialists from across North America and around the world will discuss the current strike wave rolling across the United States and the new opportunities to strengthen the building of a communist party rooted in the industrial working class. A high point will be a report from a meeting of youth that will take place simultaneously with the convention, called by a young socialists organization that now has affiliated groups in cities across the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SUPPORTERS OF THE 'MILITANT' IN THE NEAREST CITY LISTED ON PAGE 12, OR WRITE TO: SWP, 406 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

Class struggle intensifies in South Africa — page 4



Nigeria oil workers strike

The 50,000-member National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers of Nigeria went on strike July 4 to demand the release of Moshood Abiola, a businessman who was elected president a year ago but barred from taking office by the military government. Abiola was subsequently jailed by the military rulers, who had voided the election results. Several other unions in Nigeria also have threatened to strike if Abiola is not released. The workers' protests are aimed at ending a decade of military dictatorship.

Gasoline stations and refineries were reported closed throughout the oil producing regions while tankers in Lagos remained docked. Nigeria produces 1.8 million barrels of oil daily and exports 1.4 million.

Arafat returns to Gaza

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yassir Arafat rode through the streets of Gaza July 2, after 27 years of exile. He addressed thousands of cheering Palestinians in a refugee camp in Jabaliya, the birthplace of the 1987 uprising against Israeli occupation, known as *intifada*. Arafat pledged to work for the release of several thousand Palestinians still held in Israeli prisons, but said, "Circumstances dictate that we keep quiet." Arafat also explained that the PLO-Israeli peace accord must be upheld and serious work was ahead in building an independent Palestinian state.

Small groups of Israeli ultrarightists staged protests against Arafat's presence in Gaza and his subsequent visit to Jericho in the West Bank. Some 300 right-wing Israeli settlers and their supporters lined the Tel Aviv highway at the entrance to Jerusalem and blocked the roads from Jerusalem to Jericho, as well as the main highway through the Gaza Strip July 1. Organizers of the demonstrations billed their actions as "The Battle for the Defense of Jerusalem." Arafat was not scheduled to visit that city.

N. Yemen forces push south

Southern Yemen forces have been pushed



Thousands of protesters organized by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) marched June 27 against French intervention in Rwanda on the road linking the capital, Kigali, to the town of Kayanza. After declaring they would confront the advancing RPF forces and clashing with the rebels on some fronts, French officials backed off. They stated July 5 they will no longer attempt to prevent the RPF — which now controls Kigali, the second largest city Butare, and most of the rest of the country — from winning the civil war.

back into the capital city of Aden by its rivals in the north, who have seized the city's water supply facilities, its main radio station, and a commando base. Northern Yemen forces have captured most of the country, which has been engulfed in a civil war since May 4. The 300,000 residents of Aden, and 50,000 refugees who have fled there, are experiencing food, fuel, and water shortages.

Northern Yemen troops have also captured the road that leads to the site of the region's main oil refinery. One government officer has warned of a massive death toll if the battle for Aden ensued. High-level meetings aimed at ending the two-month civil war have been scheduled at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Crisis looming in Macedonia

The Serbian army has been reinforcing positions along its border with Macedonia, raising fears that warfare could explode there as it has in Bosnia. The number of Serbian patrols straying across the Mace-

donian border has increased. The country's airspace is also being violated by Mig fighters from Belgrade.

Meanwhile, Greece, which has territorial designs on this former Yugoslav republic, has imposed a trade embargo on Macedonia. The European Court of Justice ruled June 29 against a European Union request that Athens temporarily lift the embargo.

Bosnia war rages despite map deal

Washington, Moscow, and several governments in the European Union have agreed on a map for the territorial division of Bosnia along ethnic lines. A meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, July 5 is scheduled to formally approve it. Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic called the proposed maps "humiliating" and said, "if the map is not changed, we should definitely go our own way." Foreign Minister Mate Granic of Croatia has approved the proposal. Bosnian government officials have not yet said whether they will accept the new map.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian government army has been fighting Serb forces to secure a strategic road between Tuzla in northern Bosnia and Zenica in central Bosnia despite a cease-fire signed June 10. Bosnian and Croatian forces have begun to talk openly about using their alliance to coordinate an offensive against Serb troops on the battlefield.

Paris increases minimum wage

The French government announced June 29 a 2.1 percent increase in the minimum wage starting in July. The announcement prompted an angry response from the union officialdom, which had been demanding a 2.7 percent raise. Earlier this year, the French government attempted to lower the minimum wage for youth. This led to na-

tionwide protests in March that forced the government to back down.

Washington, Ottawa spat over exports

The U.S. government has threatened to place tariffs on surging Canadian wheat sales. Ottawa, in turn, has vowed to retaliate against a range of U.S. farm goods. Washington wants to limit wheat imports from Canada while pushing to gain greater access to Canada's poultry and dairy sectors. The Clinton administration has also pressured the Canadian government to end rail subsidies.

Production of the U.S. durum wheat crop dropped from 122 million bushels in 1991 to 69 million last year.

Rally for gay rights

Nearly 4,000 people marched on the Ontario provincial legislature in Toronto June 9 to protest the defeat of legislation aimed at ending discrimination against gay and lesbian couples. Demonstrations also took place in Hamilton, Sudbury, Ottawa, and other cities. The legislation would have ensured that gay and lesbian couples receive the same private sector benefits as married and common law heterosexual couples. It would have also changed property rights and survivor pension laws. Since 1987 the Ontario human rights code has made it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

Automakers expand in Mexico

The auto industry in Mexico employs about 160,000 workers and will add 50,000 more by 1998, according to Ciemex-Wefa, an econometrics forecasting firm. Although Mexico is currently experiencing a slump in the economy, annual sales are expected to climb from 600,000 cars and trucks last year to 1 million by the end of the decade. The automakers plan to use Mexico as an export platform to other Latin American countries. Nissan, which has built an assembly plant in Aguascalientes, plans to expand production to build as many as 360,000 cars a year if Latin American exports shoot up.

U.S. court slams injured workers

In a 6-to-3 decision the U.S. Supreme Court made it more difficult for injured workers to receive disability benefits under federal laws that provide coverage for coal miners and longshoremen. A 50-year-old Labor Department rule was overturned that granted compensation to the worker if the evidence for and against a finding of disability was equal. The court said the rule violated the Administrative Procedure Act, which places the burden of proof on workers.

—MAURICE WILLIAMS

Ali Kermani and John Steele from Toronto contributed to this column.

THE MILITANT

Follow new stage of South African revolution

The first-ever nonracial elections in South Africa and the victory of the ANC at the ballot box opened a new stage in the democratic revolution. Working people now have more political space to fight to implement the program put forward by Nelson Mandela — for land, housing, jobs, affirmative action — and in the process forge a communist leadership. Read about the class struggle in South Africa every week. Don't miss a single issue!



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Peasant uprising in Ecuador forces gov't to halt its land grab

BY HILDA CUZCO

An 11-day uprising by peasants in Ecuador forced the government of President Sixto Durán-Ballén to retreat from its plans to implement a new agrarian law. The peasants, mostly Ecuadorean Indians, succeeded in forcing a constitutional court to declare the Land Development Law unconstitutional. Sixto Durán-Ballén had signed the law June 13.

The Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), which includes most of the indigenous organizations in the country, called for a "great protest mobilization for life." They said that this new law would allow the government to confiscate their lands and give them to the wealthy landlords.

Indian peasants, who make up 40 percent of Ecuador's population of about 10 million, closed roads and highways in six of the 21 provinces: Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Chimborazo, Bolívar, Cañar, and Azuques. Their actions paralyzed the central region of Ecuador.

In Cotopaxi, 200 indigenous communities had blocked the Pan-American Highway, cutting off access to the main cities of Ambato and Cuenca. This resulted in supply shortages, which led speculators to boost

prices. About 40,000 people rallied in the provincial capital of Río Bamba to protest the land law.

At a meeting between CONAIE leaders and Durán-Ballén on June 20, the president refused to repeal the law. Instead, he proposed a joint commission to reform it. The Indian representatives rejected the motion and decided to go on with the mobilizations until the law was annulled.

The day after this meeting, Durán-Ballén declared a national state of emergency, saying, that the "situation in several cities was no longer bearable." He ordered the army to force the Indians back to their communities and end the uprising.

CONAIE reported that the peasants of the Amazon region took control of the sites of four petroleum wells managed by the Elf Hydrocarbures company of France and the Ecuadorian State Petroleum Enterprise.

The military closed several radio stations and attacked peasant groups in Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Chimborazo, and El Loro. The army fired tear gas at protesters in southern Cuenca, south of Quito. Mobilizations extended throughout the Andean and Amazon



A group of peasants blocks road in antigovernment protest north of Quito, Ecuador.

regions. Confrontations between the military and the Indians left at least five people dead and many injured.

Ecuador's economy faces its worst economic crisis yet. Because of a drop in the price of oil — the country's main export, — economic growth declined from 9 percent a year during the early 1980s to 2 percent in 1993.

President Durán-Ballén, a former mayor of Quito who advocates free market reforms, was elected president in 1992. The government has embraced a privatization campaign like other capitalist regimes in Latin America. Durán-Ballén promised to slash the jobs of public employees.

Ecuador's Congress approved privatiza-

tion measures last October that pave the way for the government to sell stocks of the state-owned oil company, Petroecuador, to the highest bidders.

Last January, the Ecuadorian government increased the price of gas by 71 percent to meet a national deficit of \$500 million.

The country's main trade union, the United Workers Front (FUT), together with student organizations and CONAIE, held a nationwide strike last February that paralyzed the country for 48 hours to protest gas price increases. Students and workers organized demonstrations in Quito, Cuenca, and other cities. The indigenous communities blocked highways in most of the 21 provinces of the country.



Strikes and protests sweep Argentina

BY AARON RUBY

A new wave of strikes and protests against government austerity is sweeping through Argentina. Public workers in the province of Catamarca went on strike June 15 demanding their pay from May. All public services were shut down the week before as a result of a "work to rule" slowdown. Piles of garbage, accumulated as a result of a sanitation workers strike, burned in the doorway of the government house. Workers have been organizing rallies and assemblies on the job to demand back pay.

On June 6, in the northern province of Santiago del Estero, 3,000 people marched past the federal trustee's office and 300 occupied pension offices to protest the government's attack on pensions. Daniel Cejas, president of the pensioner's organization said, "The people of Santiago are mad and ready to resist this bad government."

This was the largest action in the province since December when workers burned government buildings demanding several

months back pay. Strikes by teachers and judicial branch workers across the province have protested moves by the government to privatize pension funds and sell state industries. The workers are also demanding emergency pay increases, since economic and social conditions continue to deteriorate. Unemployment reached 12 percent in April, up from 9 percent in October.

In Salta province, medical personnel are refusing to attend all but emergency cases until they receive back wages owed to them since May. On June 16 thousands of public workers there took part in a strike and demonstration to demand an end to pension fund transfers and a 500-peso minimum monthly wage [US\$1=1 peso]. The cost of living in Argentina is among the highest in the semi-colonial world.

In San Salvador de Jujuy, 2,000 marched June 7 to protest a 150 percent pay raise given to local government officials. "We want the decree to be abolished, or an authorization for an equal increase for state

workers," stated Carlos Santillan, leader of the municipal workers union. In the province of Chaco, unions representing state workers struck June 15 to protest cutbacks in pensions.

Córdoba, the second-largest city in Argentina and one of the country's industrial centers, was brought to a virtual standstill by a demonstration of more than 10,000 workers called by 88 labor organizations on June 10. Workers demanded a general wage increase in the province. It was the largest labor rally there in the past decade.

In late May, thousands of workers struck for 18 days in the southernmost province of Tierra del Fuego. They won a 300 percent wage increase and forced the companies to rehire some 200 fired workers. About 30 percent of the union members were reported to have voted against the settlement. Farmers in the southern zone of Patagonia have called for protests to close the roads to back their demand of higher prices for their goods.

The national teachers union (CTERA) has called a nationwide teachers strike for July 6, the date of a national demonstration called by dozens of unions, organizations of pensioners, and students against the economic policies of Argentine president Carlos Menem.

As we go to press, news reports indicate that tens of thousands of workers, students, and others turned out for this national march in Buenos Aires, the country's capital.

Venezuela gov't suspends constitutional rights

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Amidst an accelerating economic crisis and growing social unrest, Venezuelan president Rafael Caldera suspended many provisions of the country's constitution June 27. The measures include suspension of civil liberties, such as free movement inside and outside the country, the inviolability of the home, and protection against unauthorized arrest and detention. The president also suspended the right to engage in any lawful economic activity, the right to own property, and the control of expropriation by the state.

Revoking these freedoms gives the president additional executive powers that Caldera is determined to use to clamp down on students, workers, and peasants protesting against government austerity measures.

Since June 30, government security forces have carried out a wave of raids in working-class neighborhoods and rounded up hundreds of youth. Heavily armed cops have also paid nightly visits to intimidate Anibal Romero, a political science professor who is a critic of Caldera. Police have also harassed the owner of a radio station and others who oppose the regime's policies.

In the month leading up to the February 2 inauguration of Caldera, the city of Barcelona, the adjacent resort town of Puerto La Cruz, and dozens of smaller cities were burned and looted in spontaneous uprisings that began as protests over increases in local bus fares. Spontaneous demonstrations and scuffles also broke out throughout the coun-

try as merchants attempted to collect the new value-added tax (VAT), which, on most goods, amounted to a 10 percent sales tax. In the towns of Morón and Puerto Cabello protesters marched June 22 against the high cost of living. Meanwhile, students rallied at the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas, the country's capital, around similar demands. Students clashed with police who shot at the protesters later that afternoon. Valencia, the country's third largest city, was left without bus service on June 22 because of a strike by bus drivers.

A day of civic demonstrations to protest price speculation and increases in public service rates held the same day in the state of Carabobo ended in riots, as the National Guard and the Carabobo state police attacked the crowd. One person died, hundreds were wounded, including three cops, and 500 people arrested.

The wave of protests come as Venezuela is experiencing one of the worst economic and social crises in its history. Inflation was 5.2 percent in May and is expected to reach an annual rate of 70 percent by the end of 1994. An estimated 8 million of the country's 20 million people live in poverty. Public schools, roads, hospitals, and other services are falling apart while real incomes and living standards are plummeting. Falling oil prices, combined with rising international interest rates, has transformed Venezuela's foreign debt problem into a major crisis.

Between 1982 and 1986 the government

used an estimated 55 percent of Venezuela's export earnings to service payments on its \$30 billion foreign debt. In that same period nearly \$20 billion left the country in capital flight. Export earnings have since declined.



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Class struggle intensifies in South Africa

BY GREG ROSENBERG

The class struggle is heating up in South Africa, as workers and peasants press the fight to win economic and social justice in the wake of apartheid's burial.

Thousands of workers marched through the streets of Johannesburg June 27 in protest against actions of the whites-only city council, which ordered the demolition of squatter shacks earlier in the month. A group of working people made homeless by the bulldozing of Liefde and Vrede, south of Johannesburg, joined unionists organized by the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) and Johannesburg Municipal Employees Association.

Demonstrators demanded that the city council's representative, Ian Davidson, "stop using workers for political games." Union officials urged the rank and file to disobey council orders relating to evictions of people from their homes and the cutting off of electricity. They also demanded that the council, made up of members of the National Party and Democratic Party, be dissolved to make way for a transitional municipal council.

People whose homes were bulldozed on the night of June 6 carried signs reading, "Nobody, not even Ian Davidson, will move us again," "Liefde and Vrede — our right for housing," and "Stop demolishing shacks."

New conflicts arose over the fight for immediate measures to provide housing following a 12-day winter storm that slammed into Cape Town. Wind and rain pounded the city near the tip of Africa at the end of June, devastating some 20,000 people at homes built in the Cape flats east of the city. Black townships like Khayelitsha and Nyanga were hard hit, especially thousands living in plastic and tin huts.

'People must live like human beings'

The South African government announced an \$830,000 package for immediate relief. ANC cabinet minister Jay Naidoo, touring the area, said the flood crisis "is not a natural disaster, it's a man-made disaster... created by apartheid.... Never again must our people live under conditions created by apartheid. Our people must live like human beings." Some 7 million South Africans are living in squatter camps and shanties.

The government ordered soldiers into the Cape Town area to help rebuild housing. Tensions flared on July 1 when troops arrived at the Delft housing compound and tried to remove furniture from 174 cracked and collapsing houses. Residents said they didn't want their belongings moved to a church because they feared vandalism and looting. "The president [Nelson Mandela] said he was going to give us other houses. We don't want their pigsties. We want other houses now," said Igisaan Caspir. Residents shouted at the soldiers, who left.

There are increasing demands for rapid action to solve the housing crisis throughout South Africa. Working people seeking to build shelters have stepped up their occupations of unused land.

Daniel Mofokeng, a member of the executive council of the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) regional government, which is led by the African National Congress, told the *New Nation* newspaper that the regional government had issued a ban on information that could lead to the identification of sites selected for housing development. "The problem is huge and serious," he said. "If full details of the plan



In Sebokeng, near Johannesburg, William Dikelele carried a door for the shack he is building. Many South Africans are fighting to advance struggle for land.

are made public before actual construction started, the following day one may find the place full of squatters and delivery of proper formal housing will be hindered."

ANC president Nelson Mandela has proposed a land reform to benefit the millions of working people whose land was stolen under apartheid, or who were simply denied access to it because of their skin color.

Land Affairs minister Derek Hanekom said the ANC's plan was to distribute some 30 percent of South Africa's productive lands over five years, starting in 1995. He said this would include land owned by bankrupt white farmers as well as state holdings. Land tenure rights would also be extended to farm workers. "Our program is not based on repossessions and evictions. These measures will only be used in cases of extreme urgency," said Hanekom. "But if this program is not successful, we will then have to look at more drastic measures."

Debate on budget

A budget presented by South African finance minister Derek Keys to Parliament June 22 touched off commentary by various unions and newspapers. (Keys resigned his post July 5 effective in October). London's *Financial Times* reported that a wealth tax designed to help fund the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Program "will primarily affect white taxpayers and white-owned companies and is levied at 5 percent on annual incomes above R50,000 [\$US13,700]."

The *New Nation* editors argued the budget "was disappointing in the extreme, in that it did not go far enough," in addressing social needs. The Congress of South African Trade

Unions (COSATU) said in a June 23 statement that the tax was "the first truly progressive taxation measure," but that "fiscal discipline had been repeatedly raised as a virtue in itself, without the assurances that this would not be done at the expense of economic development and justice." The statement went on to say, "When the emphasis should be shifting to community policing it is difficult to understand why half a billion rand has been allocated to buying armored vehicles for the police."

ANC leader Pallo Jordan, now communications minister, expressed his views on taxation in an April interview with the German-language *Profil*, published in Vienna. "Taxes are as high on milk as on champagne.... We say, 'Put taxes on champagne and leave milk alone!'" Jordan added, "National liberation has not yet been achieved. What we will get now is democracy. But national transformation has not yet been achieved by that. The issue of the land, for instance, remains an enormous problem. The new government must struggle for power. The struggle continues."

Workers continue to feel the pinch of the economic crisis in South Africa, where unemployment is 50 percent. There is a growing discussion among the ANC, unions, and other mass organizations about how to advance the interests of working people amidst this crisis.

"When COSATU released its leaders for parliament last year," wrote columnist Amrit Manga in the June 5 *Sunday Nation*, "it did so in the belief that it was sending people into government who were committed to a labor bias. But there was no clear or common understanding as to how the presence of labour oriented ministers and MPs in

parliament would accrue into direct benefits for COSATU members."

Manga questioned how the former union leaders could be made accountable. He wrote that other mass organizations, such as the neighborhood-based civic associations, "appear to be confronting the challenge with more purpose than the trade unions have so far." Manga raised the idea of a trade union caucus in Parliament.

A wave of civil servant strikes has continued across South Africa, as workers demand pensions and pay equity, which Mandela has pledged to implement. At the end of May, the premier of the Eastern Cape, Raymond Mhlaba of the ANC, banned strikes and protests by provincial civil servants, saying the curbs would be lifted when "normality" returned to the civil service.

Agreement in KwaZulu-Natal

ANC leaders reached an agreement with the rightist Inkatha Freedom Party June 21 in a conflict over the KwaZulu-Natal regional parliament, in which Inkatha holds a 51 percent majority. This diminishes the possibility of new outbreaks of fighting in the area, where Inkatha has organized murderous assaults on working people. The regional cabinet agreed to hold a referendum within 18 months on whether Ulundi or Pietermaritzburg will be the interim capital. The agreement followed rising tensions in the region. ANC member of parliament Peter Mokaba told a rally in Durban June 16 that the ANC would "break" Inkatha, and send its leader, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who is currently the national minister of Home Affairs, "packing his bags for home."

In another development in the province, South African Communist Party (SACP) central committee member Harry Gwala told a July 1 press conference that the SACP had suspended him for six months. Gwala also leads one branch of the ANC in the province. "I think it's an attempt to isolate those they consider too radical," he said.

The *Weekly Mail & Guardian* alleged Gwala was linked to hit squads that targeted senior ANC and SACP leaders opposed to his direction in the Midlands region of the province. "I could sue for that but I'll have to consult my lawyers," said Gwala. "The allegations were baseless."

South African president Mandela has repeatedly rejected requests to send troops to Rwanda, as part of a so-called peacekeeping force. Awaiting the arrival of French president François Mitterrand July 4, Mandela said of France's intervention in Rwanda, "If it is no longer possible to solve things peacefully, that is a decision that should be taken by the United Nations as a whole and not by one nation individually.... Problems of this nature... should not be the subject of unilateral action as far as I am concerned."

Massive turnout for N.Y. gay rights march

Continued from front page

trons. However, that night, people fought back in a clash with the cops that turned into a rebellion lasting nearly three days. In cities across the country, gays and other supporters of democratic rights mobilized to protest police harassment and to defend victims of discrimination and cop brutality. The rebellion inspired fights against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation on campuses, in workplaces, and elsewhere, as well as against false notions about homosexuality.

Dozens of veterans and a few active duty soldiers and sailors in uniform took part in this year's march. Many demonstrators carried signs or wore T-shirts protesting the U.S. government's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

"The focus of this international march is that we want global rights," Pat Norman, a co-chairwoman of Stonewall 25, told the *New York Times*.

The march was made up of hundreds of political, religious, and cultural organizations, as well as individuals like Darlene Costello, a 23-year-old student at Adelphi University on Long Island.

"I was really excited to go and celebrate the spirit of gay activism and being proud to be gay and open about sexuality," Costello said. She and other students at Adelphi collected 500 signatures required to hold a Gay Awareness Week at their school in May. A number of participants were also in-

involved in labor struggles. For example, one young medical worker there was trying to unionize her workplace. Two women who are members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in Denver had been part of resistance to attacks on utility workers by the bosses there. Another

member of the IBEW said he had stopped in East Peoria, Illinois, to walk the picket lines with the Caterpillar workers before coming to New York for the demonstration.

Rose Ana Berbeo is a member of the New York Young Socialists.

Stop the scapegoating of gays!

The following are excerpts from a statement distributed by members of the New York Young Socialists at the June 26 gay rights march.

The scapegoating of gays and lesbians is one of the basic attacks on democratic rights that is fostered and promoted by an incipient fascist movement in the United States and worldwide. Rightist figures like Patrick Buchanan, Ross Perot, and Louis Farrakhan talk about gays, lesbians, and bisexuals as part of the "disintegration of the family" and "family values...."

These rightist figures place the blame of this crisis on "welfare queens," "dead-beat dads," immigrants, gays, and lesbians. The "breakdown of the family" is what they say causes the poverty, violence, crime, homelessness, and "pollution of the culture." They use this

rationale to justify stiffer criminal penalties and a larger police force. They use this rationale to justify the horrible conditions of poverty and homelessness generated by the capitalist system. They use this rationale to justify police brutality and to take away our democratic rights.... The purpose of these attacks is to prevent workers, youth, and their allies from coming together to fight the real source of the crisis — the capitalist class and their capitalist system.

The mass actions such as the Stonewall commemoration march are exactly the kinds of things that will defend everyone's democratic rights and build real human solidarity. People can learn from the democratic revolution unfolding in South Africa, where the constitution now guarantees freedom from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

FOR FURTHER READING

- The Coming Revolution in South Africa by Jack Barnes
- The Future Belongs to the Majority by Oliver Tambo
- Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola two speeches by Fidel Castro. In *New International* no. 5. \$9.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write 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.



Fund: a rousing success!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Supporters of the New International Fund have scored a big victory in meeting the international goal in full and on time! As the accompanying final scoreboard shows, more than \$113,000 has been collected — 114 percent of the projected goal. These funds are already being put to use to publish the next nine issues of this magazine of Marxist politics and theory in four languages — English, French, Spanish, and Swedish.

Next to appear in English will be *New International* no. 10. Articles in this issue will include, "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War" by Jack Barnes, "What the Stock Market Crash of 1987 Foretold," which is the resolution adopted by the 1988 convention of the Socialist Workers Party, and "Cuba's Revolution Confronts a Crossroads in the Fight for Socialism" by Mary-Alice Waters. Volunteers from around the world have already begun translation of the contents of this issue into French, Spanish, and Swedish. This issue and the others to follow will be invaluable for working class fighters and revolutionary-minded youth looking for a way out of the crisis of capitalism worldwide.

Seven participating countries

In the final two weeks of the drive, more than \$30,000 was sent to New York by *New International* supporters around the world. Activists in all seven countries participating in this campaign met their target goals.

Fund supporters in Philadelphia succeeded in raising more money than participants in the drive from any other area. According to Philadelphia fund director Jon Teitelbaum, 37 people made contributions totaling \$8,505. "The key to this campaign was getting started immediately and talking to people about the *New International* at Militant Labor forums, other public events, and every chance we could," said Teitelbaum. "A mailing about the fund sent to 200 people got a terrific reception." The mailing resulted in raising \$1,100, of which \$600 was sent in without even any follow-up calls. Philadelphia supporters

raised their initial goal from \$4,750 to \$7,500 and then went over the new target by another \$1,000.

Fund supporters in New Zealand more than doubled their original goal and then succeeded in going well over this projection as well. "Over one-third of the pledges and donations came in the mail as a result of mailing and phoning *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* readers, Militant Labour Forum attendees, and Pathfinder Readers Club members," wrote Michael Tucker from Auckland. "These contributions ranged from \$3, from a new reader of *Perspectiva Mundial*, a student from Mexico, to \$300 from a longtime *Militant* reader."

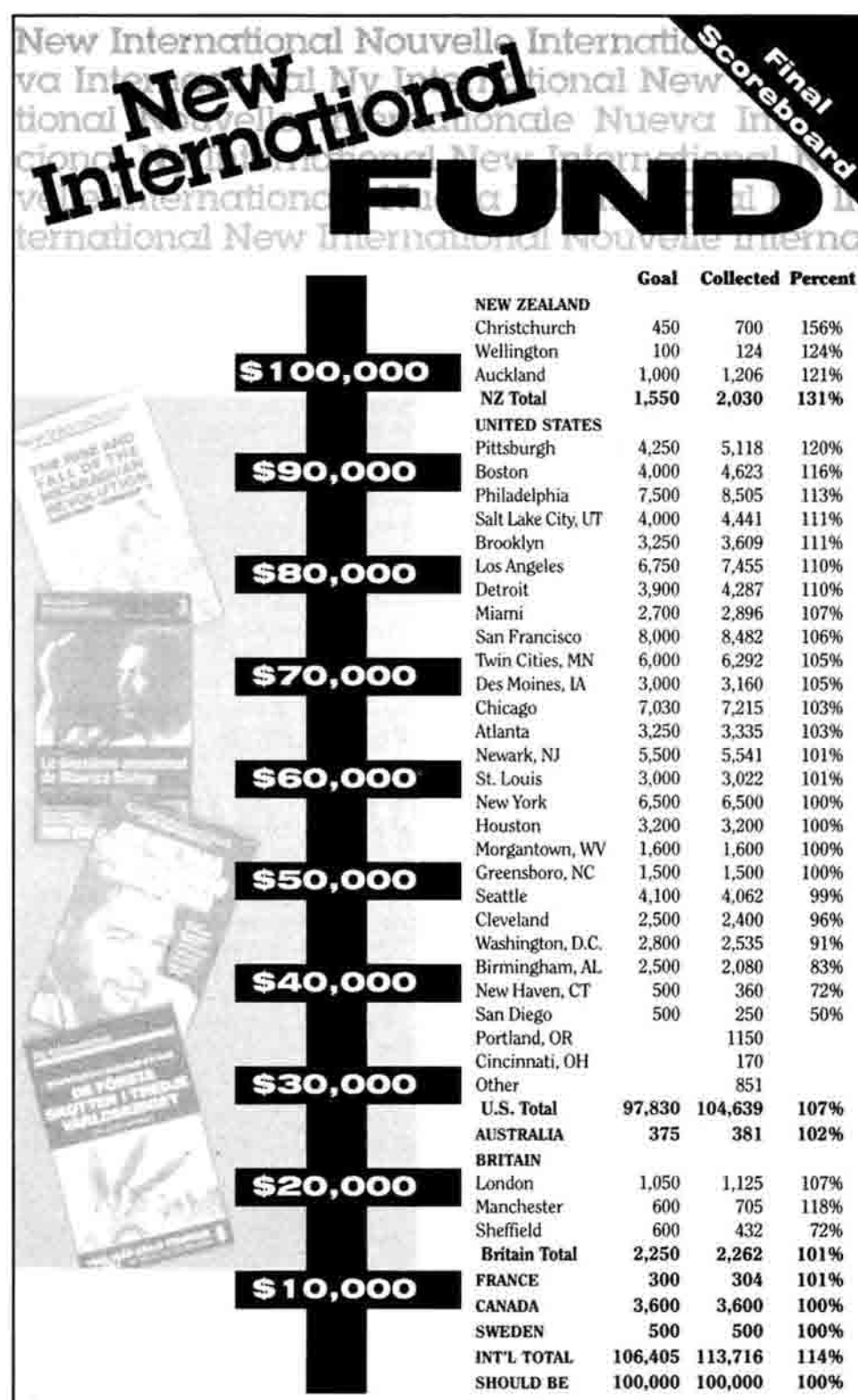
Successful rallies

New International Fund rallies in cities throughout the United States and several other countries succeeded in raising thousands of dollars towards the goal. These meetings addressed many of the major political issues developed more fully in the *New International* magazine. At a June 18 event in Miami, fund supporters heard an eyewitness report from South Africa by *New International* contributing editor James Warren. He described the challenges facing the African National Congress in the new stage of the democratic revolution in that country. Participants there contributed \$566 toward the fund.

Mail pours in

In addition to fund meetings, a number of other individuals sent in donations directly through the mail. "Enclosed is a [\$20] check for the New International Fund," wrote Eric Matheis from Overland Park, Kansas. "I'd like to thank the St. Louis Pathfinder Bookstore for sending me the flyer for the New International Fund Rally (June 26). I am unable to attend but I'm glad I can still contribute."

The victory won in meeting the fund goal on time ensures that *New International*, in four languages, will continue to be a part of the political discussion and debate necessary for forging an international communist leadership of the working class.



New York socialists announce election campaign

Continued from front page

Committee. Before joining the *Militant* newspaper staff in August 1992, she worked in textile plants in North Carolina and was active in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Lane, 48, works at a large General Electric plant in Schenectady, New York, where workers have been fighting company demands for cuts in medical benefits and other concessions in contract negotiations.

Rounding out the statewide slate are Nancy Rosenstock, an airline worker and member of the International Association of Machinists, for attorney general; Brock Satter, a leader of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee, for comptroller; and Mary Nell Bockman, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York in 1993, for lieutenant governor.

The Socialist Workers Party is also standing three candidates for U.S. Congress in New York: Ed Warren, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union; Ellie Garcia, a printshop press operator; and Ruth Robinett, a rail worker and member of the United Transportation Union who just returned from the Freedom to Travel trip to Cuba that challenged Washington's travel ban to the Caribbean island.

Petitioning campaign

The immediate challenge before the socialist campaigners will be an intensive petitioning effort to get the candidates on the ballot. A July 12 press conference in Albany will kick off a one-month drive to collect 22,000 signatures — about one-and-a-half times the legal requirement.

"We will turn this undemocratic petitioning requirement into an opportunity to reach thousands of workers, farmers, students, and others with socialist politics," said Craine. "Campaigners will be getting out to the picket lines and plant gates, building solidarity with workers who are resisting the bosses' attacks on wages and working conditions. We will be out defending abortion clinics, joining actions in defense of the socialist revolution in

Cuba, and countering all the representatives of the capitalist class — Democratic and Republican alike." Craine has been given a three-month leave of absence from the *Militant*, beginning in August, to campaign.

Taking up social and political questions raised by rightist demagogues will be an important part of the campaign. Lane said there is growing discussion and debate at his worksite. "In the plant I'm identified as the anti-Rush Limbaugh," he said, referring to the right-wing television and radio commentator, who many of his coworkers listen to. "I give communist answers to Limbaugh's scapegoating of women, gays, 'underworld youth,' and immigrants for the crisis of capitalism. These radical but reactionary ideas get a hearing because neither liberals like New York governor Mario Cuomo and President Bill Clinton nor conservatives like senators Alfonse D'Amato and Bob Dole have any answers to the problems workers face."

Florida socialist candidate defends women's rights

BY SETH GALINSKY

MIAMI — "The number of people at this meeting tonight shows that many of us want to answer the attacks on women's rights," noted Kelly Gilson. "We need to turn out like this every time the right wing tries to close down an abortion clinic."

Gilson, 21, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Florida. She was speaking during the discussion at a meeting for feminist author Gloria Steinem June 10.

Seven hundred people, including dozens of youth, came to hear Steinem in spite of an intense downpour. Steinem told the crowd that "what we need is not socialism or capitalism but cooperative businesses."

In contrast to this point of view, Gilson said, "Although all women are oppressed under capitalism, working class women are hit hardest by the economic crisis. Men and

Lane said, "I explain that this just divides working people. Instead, we need to build solidarity with working-class fighters around the world." The socialist candidate recently traveled with several other unionists from Albany to Vermont to support rail workers fighting union busting by Central Vermont Railroad. Lane has been building support among his fellow workers for the current nationwide walkout of 14,000 Caterpillar unionists and other strikes.

This is the kind of discussion and activity socialist campaigners will hit the streets with July 12. Volunteers will be leading full-time teams of petitioners in Albany, Buffalo, New York City, and elsewhere across the state. Others will join in collecting signatures and selling the socialist press before and after work and on the weekends. Campaigners will organize nightly classes, dinners, and political discussions for workers and young people they meet who are interested in learning more about socialism.

July 16-17 will be a special campaign weekend. Young socialists from across the United States who will be in New York for a leadership meeting to prepare the next steps in forging a nationwide socialist youth organization will be joining the petitioning teams and participating in a campaign rally in New York City.

"We invite everyone who supports the socialist campaign, or wants to learn more about it, to help us in the effort to put our slate on the ballot and other campaign activities," Craine said.

Those interested in joining the petitioning drive can contact the campaign headquarters at 214-16 Avenue A, New York, NY 10009, Tel: (212) 388-9476; or 59 4th Ave (corner of Bergen), Brooklyn, NY 11217, Tel: (718) 399-7257.

Mark Gilsdorf is a member of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee steering committee.

women need to fight together to defend the rights of all working people."

Although a handful of people in the crowd started to heckle Gilson, she stood her ground and explained that capitalism is the source of the biggest problems working people face today. Many applauded at the end of her comments.

In addition to Gilson's campaign, the Socialist Workers Party is running Francisco Picado for governor, Ernest Mailhot for U.S. Senate, Maureen Coletta for U.S. Congress in the 17th district, and Laura Garza for U.S. Congress in the 21st district.

Picado is a garment worker and member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Mailhot is an airline worker and member of the International Association of Machinists. Coletta is an aircraft fueler and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. Garza is a member of the

United Steelworkers of America. Rollande Girard and Jean Luc Duval cochair the campaign.

More than 35 people attended a socialist campaign rally June 4, including several who had never been to such an event before.

One campaign supporter who is originally from Colombia told the rally that the socialist candidates are the "only voice in defense of the working class in these elections."

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U.S., Cuban scholars debate socialism vs. capitalism at conference in Havana

BY LAURA GARZA

HAVANA, Cuba — U.S. policy toward Cuba, the breakup of the Soviet Union, AIDS, agriculture, women in the countryside, and race relations in Cuba — these were among the numerous topics discussed during the Sixth Conference of North American and Cuban Philosophers and Social Scientists. The annual event was held at the University of Havana June 13-17. More than 100 Cubans, mostly professors and researchers, joined over 60 participants from North America, most of whom came from the United States and a few from Canada. Several people from Argentina, Ireland, and South Africa took part as well.

Participation this year included many academics visiting Cuba for the first time, as well as students from Syracuse University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Maryland among others. Is it possible to fight for socialism in today's world? Is there any basis for optimism on the possibilities to halt the assault on living standards being carried out by capitalist governments in the world? Most participants expressed the view that the breakup of the Soviet Union was a blow against socialism, shifting the relationship of forces in the world against the working class and to the advantage of imperialism, especially Washington.

Renée Marie Croose Parry, from Florida,

asserted that the dominance of the United States in the world makes it difficult to remain optimistic. Others argued that the objective weight of the working class is diminishing in the world today as a result of capitalist restructuring. Harry Targ, from Purdue University in Indiana, for example, argued in his paper that imperialism was characterized by "the global character of capitalism, the declining relevance of labor power for production. . . . The Latin American working class will be dwarfed by a growing lumpenproletariat as unemployment and underemployment rates soar. Neoliberalism . . . will continue to dominate the policy agenda in most countries," he concluded.

Cuban economist Héctor Castaño, on the other hand, was among the minority who defended Marxism. He said that "those who wrote the Soviet manuals had no problem changing now to writing manuals for capitalism." In light of the disintegration of the Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union, Castaño argued, "We should not renounce Marxism." He called for "rereading the classics of Marxism with new eyes."

Debate on 'market socialism'

Delegates presented a variety of views on economic policies under discussion and debate in Cuba.

A number of participants pointed to the policies of the regimes in China and Vietnam — opening up the economy at an accelerated pace to capitalist market relations — as the way to overcome the current economic difficulties in Cuba. Many Cuban economists are interested in the capitalist market. The University of Havana has a half dozen professors studying economics at the University of Chicago as part of an exchange program.

"The so-called China option . . . in principle, is the most attractive and viable choice given the current conditions," argued Enrique Baltar Rodríguez in his paper titled, "Will Cuba Follow the Chinese Model?" Baltar, a professor of Asian studies at the University of Havana rejected the socialist perspective advanced by Fidel Castro and other central leaders of the Communist Party of Cuba during what was known as the rectification process. Rectification, he asserted, led to a "stagnation of the rhythm of economic growth."

The rectification process, launched in 1986, aimed to deal with the demoralizing and depoliticizing effects of political policies similar to those of the bureaucratic regimes in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China. Rectification attempted to strengthen the consciousness and combativity of the working class in Cuba and increase its leadership weight, through the organization of voluntary work brigades that built housing, child-care and medical centers, irrigation systems and other projects, and began to address the food problem and other social needs.

Echoing middle-class radicals around the world, Baltar called for the "de-ideologizing of the concepts 'planning' and 'market'," and a move to "market socialism." Baltar equated democracy and individual freedoms with capitalism and lauded "a small vanguard sector [in the Cuban economy] that functions in association with foreign capital and according to the laws of the market."

Baltar said that "Up to the moment, the economic policy followed by the leadership of the revolution does not reflect a real spirit of change, and much less an understanding that the market could be a way to renew socialism."

"Today the party current in defense of the socialist project prevails," Baltar stated.

But, Baltar said, "the wearing down of the party and the state, due to their ineffectual response to current needs, is provoking a crisis of credibility that in the medium-term could alter the relationship of forces."

"Not even the socialist majority has a homogenous or sole perspective on the current situation. One can even detect fundamental differences over the specific nature of the project to be defended," Baltar said.

Dr. Arnaldo Silva León, a professor at the University of Havana, presented a different perspective. After discussing the reasons for the degeneration of the Russian revolution, Silva concluded that capitalism is a dead end for humanity.

In his paper, titled "Socialism: System and Models: The Crisis," he noted that in the early years of the Russian revolution there were open debates and exchanges.

But, "After the death of Lenin, and after Stalin had taken power," he said, "this burning debate disappeared. Stalin's opinion became officialized and even worse — infallible. . . . Everything opposed to Stalinism was catalogued as anti-Soviet and anti-socialist, persecuted and anathematized by the worst insults. The fate of Trotsky, Bukharin, Preobrazhensky, and other leaders of the party is well known. A kind of in-

Continued on next page

Pathfinder books are in demand at Cuban campus libraries, factories

BY LAURA GARZA
AND AARON RUBY

HAVANA, Cuba — Among the crowd at the University of Havana surrounding the display of literature published by Pathfinder the most popular question was "Do you have any more copies of *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky?" Delegates to the Sixth Bilateral Conference of U.S. and Cuban Philosophers and Social Scientists, especially the Cuban participants, were pleased to see a display of books in Spanish, English, and French by revolutionary fighters like Nelson Mandela, Che Guevara, Malcolm X, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, V.I. Lenin, and Leon Trotsky. The titles that drew the most interest included the Spanish language *Nueva Internacional* no. 1, which features the article *The Opening Guns of World War III* by Jack Barnes as well as works by Trotsky, and books with writings by Guevara.

One Cuban professor explained the popularity of the Spanish version of *The Revolution Betrayed*, noting many people have read critiques but have not read the book itself. In light of the collapse of the Soviet Union, when a chance is presented to read this book, everyone wants to grab it, he said. The books were sold to Cubans in Cuban pesos for nominal prices, making titles available that would otherwise be inaccessible to most Cubans if they had to pay in dollars. Pathfinder representatives explained that working people in the United States and other countries are sending donations to make these books available to interested readers in Cuba.

Another popular item was the pamphlet *Shining Path: Anatomy of a Stalinist Sect* by *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel. Titles in Spanish on women's liberation and writings by Malcolm X were also in demand.

Copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, a monthly Spanish-language socialist magazine, also drew interest for the articles covering labor battles in the United States, France, and elsewhere, as well as a two-part translation of the introduction to *The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution* in *New International* no. 9.

Many delegates admired the poster display of the six-story-high Pathfinder Mural in New York, showing figures whose works are published by Pathfinder, including Fidel Castro, Rosa Luxemburg, and Karl Marx.

Pathfinder representatives made donations of dozens of books to the philosophy department at the University of Havana and the Institute of Philosophy, which also co-sponsored the one-week conference. The display of the Pathfinder Mural was also

shelves. Gisela Guerrero, the assistant head librarian, said, "We feel motivated as librarians when we have titles that people are interested in." She and Raisa Giraldez, who is in charge of the effort to get new books, said that among the most popular titles are the Spanish-language editions of *Malcolm X Speaks*, *Revolution Betrayed*, and *Nueva Internacional* no. 1.

"We could use a few more of each to keep up with demand," said Giraldez. The univer-



Aaron Ruby presents a donation of Pathfinder books to workers' library at Heroes of Moncada cigar factory in Havana June 24. At left is Vilma Iturralde, tobacco workers union secretary at the plant.

donated to the Institute of Philosophy.

Another session of the conference was held at the University of Matanzas. Pathfinder representatives donated several titles to the university library there. The library also received a display on the case of framed-up political activist Mark Curtis.

The University of Matanzas had requested books from Pathfinder two years earlier. A wide range of Pathfinder titles already donated to the library lined the

city hosts several hundred African students, many of whom can make use of Pathfinder titles in English, such as *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. "All the people who made donations should feel satisfied," said Guerrero.

At the University of Matanzas, the Sociology Department was making use of *Writings of the Left Opposition*, published by Pathfinder in Russian. Many of the professors studied in the former Soviet Union and are fluent in Russian. Several of them suggested Pathfinder publish in Russian Trotsky's *Revolution Betrayed* and other titles related to the Russian revolution, after learning they are not available in that language.

Copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* and a few books, including speeches by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela were donated towards beginning workers' libraries at two cigar factories in the Havana region, the "Heroes of Moncada" and the "Carlos Baliño" plants.

There was greater interest in the books of speeches by Mandela among working people than had been expressed at the philosophy conference. Workers there requested a copy of *Habla Malcolm X* after learning it is published by Pathfinder.

The value of books made available at the conference in Cuban pesos, and donated to university libraries and factories during this trip exceeds \$2,500. To help cover the costs and make possible future donations, you can make a contribution to the *Militant's* Books for Cuba Fund (see accompanying ad).

Contribute to Books for Cuba Fund

Many Cuban libraries have requested Pathfinder books. You can help make these valuable political tools available to Cuban youth, workers, and other fighters by contributing to the Books for Cuba Fund. The fund helps cover the cost of donations of Pathfinder books to libraries and other cultural institutions in Cuba.



Pathfinder supporter Andrew Hunt with Raisa Giraldez (next to Hunt), head of acquisition and exchange, and Gisela Guerrero, assistant head librarian, at campus library, University of Matanzas, Cuba, June 21.

Make checks payable to the *Militant*, earmarked for the Books for Cuba Fund, and send to: 410 West St., New York, NY 10014

Freedom to Travel trip to Cuba widens opposition to Washington's travel ban

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER
AND JON HILLSON

HAVANA, Cuba — After defying federal law that prohibited their week-long stay in Cuba, nearly 200 U.S. citizens scored a victory against Washington's three-decades-long travel ban. They returned June 30 and July 1 through customs with only minor harassment from government agents. Hundreds of people throughout the United States joined calls to drop the U.S. travel ban and many turned out at airports in Florida, New Jersey, and Texas to welcome the challengers back from Cuba.

"This is another black eye for the Clinton administration. The right to travel to Cuba is being won," declared Pam Montanaro, coordinator of the Freedom to Travel Campaign.

At the Houston airport, where the largest contingent of travel challengers entered the United States, the news media as well as opponents of the travel ban greeted the group on their arrival.

An enthusiastic group of 30 Cuba solidarity activists welcomed back New York participants at the Newark airport in New Jersey. An immigrant worker and representative of the Dominican Friends of Cuba who was part of the welcoming delegation said, "I'm here because I believe that the government's ban on the right of U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba is unjust." A high school teacher stated, "As a Cuban I am opposed to the blockade of Cuba. I'm against Washington's ban on the right to travel to Cuba. I'm here to give moral support to these individuals who have bravely traveled to Cuba in opposition to the travel ban."

Other members of the welcoming committee in New Jersey included Cuba solidarity activists from Pastors for Peace, the Socialist Workers Party, Socialist Youth Organizing Committee, members of the United Transportation Union and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and a legal observer from the American Civil Liberties Union.

This was the second trip sponsored by the Freedom to Travel Campaign, which is led

by Global Exchange, a San Francisco-based social justice organization.

Some 60 participants in the previous trip, held in October 1993, had their passports seized by U.S. customs agents.

The Clinton administration, through the U.S. Treasury Department and its Office of Foreign Assets Control, sought to sabotage the current trip by freezing \$43,000 in the organization's bank account — money that was to be used for airfare, food, and lodging.

An emergency fund-raising campaign netted more than \$20,000 in contributions to ensure the trip would continue.

Protests against the government's outrageous act, along with the tour itself, garnered significant news coverage in the United States.

Speaking for those in U.S. ruling circles who favor modifying the decades-long trade embargo and travel restrictions, the *New York Times* editors wrote that the Freedom to Travel voyagers "now braving the ban say their visit has educational purposes" — and would hence be legal — "but why should they have to make any such claim? The cold war is over." But, the editorial lamented, "Cuba is still Communist."

Quoting U.S. representative Don Edwards, a Democrat from California, the *Times* editors asserted, "The best way to expedite the fall of totalitarianism in Cuba is to encourage the flow of information, the exchange of ideas, and the development of friendships between ordinary Americans and Cubans."

The arrival of the group was front-page news in Cuba, as national television featured the visit of the 200 participants. Nearly a quarter of the contingent was teenagers or youth in their early 20s.

This was the first trip to Cuba for the majority of the group. But for all them, it was an encounter with a revolution struggling with its deepest economic problems ever.

These difficulties were triggered by the collapse of aid and trade at preferential prices with the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries — Cuba's main trading partners until 1989.

A top priority of the government is to garner hard currency needed to import oil and other necessities to sustain the revolution's social programs. The government seeks to attract foreign capital, particularly for the development of the tourist industry. The growth of capitalist investments and a bourgeois black market has led Havana to legalize the use and circulation of U.S. dollars and other foreign currency, which is now widespread in Cuba.

These difficult economic and social conditions had a major impact on the Freedom to Travel participants, who saw children begging and encountered prostitutes, who have reappeared mainly around hotels and other tourist areas in the last few years. These experiences sparked constant debate and discussion in the group.

Several activists shared their impressions with *Militant* reporters who took part in the trip. "Things are difficult," Yazmin Garcia, a 17-year-old first-year student at the University of California, said, "so the gains of the revolution are threatened. Teachers want to be [tour] guides to get money."

"Many people are hungry, but not starving," noted Archie Blumhorst, a 58-year-old Missouri union construction worker and part-time farmer. Blumhorst was formerly a Ross Perot presidential campaign coordinator. Unlike in the United States, he said, "there is an effort to equalize things. They don't have nearly the elite that exists in the United States to exploit the majority of people. They are like David against Goliath. They bear this crisis, they are enduring."

"The revolution," said Jeremy Scahill, a 19-year-old University of Wisconsin student who edits the student newspaper, "provides the essentials of survival for its people, the barest essentials. If you want more, you have to dig deep."

Yet, because Cuban people abolished capitalism, Scahill said, "Cuba scares the U.S.



Supporters of Freedom to Travel trip welcome back challengers at Newark airport June 30.

government, because it has laid the basis for communist society. The U.S. fears the day when [Cuba] overcomes its problems. Cuba sets an example, that it is possible to move from elitism to equality, a worldwide example that we can do it too."

"I saw two forms of Cuba: the workers' Cuba and the tourist Cuba," explained Jeri Oakes, a 36-year-old full-time nurse and student at the University of Louisville. "I wonder how the tourist Cuba will affect the workers' Cuba. There is tremendous stress and strong solidarity. I wonder how long it will last."

Bill McCarthy, a 32-year-old business reporter for the *Fresno Bee*, viewed the revolution's continued limits on capitalist commerce as a deficiency. "Cubans are natural traders and merchants," he said, but business is restricted. "There's not enough to eat in one of the more fertile countries in the world. All the components for a solution are here, but there is no solution. It's clear people are afraid to say things."

According to Noel Hansen, a 22-year-old cargo handler for Federal Express in Milwaukee, "The people in the countryside, the workers and the farmers, look at things differently than people in the city. They look at things differently than people in Havana, professors in the university, the professionals who know they're hungry but they don't deal with why, so they doubt the revolution."

In a spirited exchange with tour participants, a working member of an agricultural cooperative in Alquizar, in rural Havana province, explained that land they farm in common, "belongs to us, was given to us by the revolution, and belongs to the revolution. We will never sell it."

After a series of questions and answers between Cuban unionists and travel challengers in the lunchroom of a steel container manufacturing plant, the young leader of the National Union of Metal and Electronic Workers told the group the plant was not for sale.

"Here," he said, "we are the owners of the factory."

And in the modest, nearby home of a family practitioner, who treats 800 people in the neighborhood for free, a youthful doctor explained that charging for health care was a "thing of the past. We long ago renounced profit for treating disease."

Such experiences moved many travel challengers to come back and work to win others to defend the Cuban revolution.

Student editor Scahill, and Lisa Rottach and Jack Willey from the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee, and others decided — in collaboration with the Union of Young Communists from Cuba — to begin work to build a U.S. youth brigade to Cuba for January 1995. The aim, said Scahill, is "to bring a good-sized contingent to work hand in hand with Cuban youth to learn about the revolution and to oppose the embargo."

At a wrap-up meeting of travel ban challengers, campaign leader Pam Montanaro announced a third Freedom to Travel trip between Christmas and New Year's Day at the end of this year.

Jon Hillson, a member of the United Transportation Union in St. Paul, and Chris Hoeppner, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Seattle, participated in the Freedom to Travel trip. Eva Chertov from New York also contributed to this article.

Philosophers conference in Havana

Continued from previous page
situation eliminated them all. . . .

"When we examine the problems that destroyed socialism in the USSR and other European countries," Silva said, "we should free ourselves of uncomfortable prejudices and objectively analyze the events." He stated that in the former Soviet Union, "The participation of the masses in major decisions was completely annulled. Man ceased to be the subject of social transformation."

Silva concluded that for "the peoples of the Third World . . . capitalism is not a valid option. . . . It has worsened the problems of the foreign debt, chronic unemployment, low standards of living." He argued that socialism remains the only alternative. "In this context we find the growing role of Cuba. The very future of socialism for this Third World depends to a considerable extent — perhaps decisively — on what we Cubans will be capable of doing," Silva stated.

World crisis of capitalism

Several conference participants discussed the effects of the economic depression on working people in imperialist countries.

Peter Burns, from the University of Southern California, presented a paper on "Global Thatcherism in the Light of the British Experience." Burns, like a few other conference participants, took up the employers' attacks on the living standards of working people in the capitalist world. He pointed out that in Britain, unemployment was highest and the economic downturns the longest since the depression of the 1930s. "Total growth in manufacturing output since 1979 stood at 2.3 percent, one of the worst records

in the world. . . . Income inequality is now greater than at any time since the 1880s, and the numbers living in poverty have more than doubled from approximately 5 million in 1979 to 12 million now," Burns said.

"But working-class resistance to the bosses' offensive is beginning to grow in the United States and in other capitalist countries," said Aaron Ruby, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C. "This upturn in fightback by labor and union activity makes it possible to win youth and many others to the idea that the working class is the main social force that can change society," he said. Ruby pointed to the strikes by workers at Caterpillar, resistance by workers and youth in France that surprised the government, the growing fights by workers in Argentina, and the resistance by workers and farmers in China. These, he said, opened up the possibility of forging a communist leadership on a world scale that will be capable of drawing on the experience of the Russian and Cuban revolutions.

Ruby pointed to Oliver North's victory in the race for the Republican nomination for Senate in the state of Virginia and the inclusion of a fascist party in Italy's coalition government as examples of what capitalist rulers will increasingly resort to as they face an ever more unstable world and growing resistance by working people.

Ruby asserted that the capitalist system is in a world depression with no way to boost the employers' profit rates other than to attack the standard of living of workers in their own countries, imposing harsher and harsher conditions, competing with each other for market share. The deepening competition will lead to more clashes like the

war against Iraq. "The ascent of rightists, of Bonapartes in governments of capitalist powers will also make real the possibility of inter-imperialist war once again," Ruby said.

Ruby's presentation sparked some debate. One participant disagreed with Ruby's statement that the average rate of industrial profit was declining and argued that capitalism was more stable today.

Ruby was later invited to give a similar presentation to the Institute of Philosophy in Havana the following week.

After the sessions at the University of Havana concluded on June 17, conference participants visited other provinces, a tobacco factory, a daycare center, and met with leaders of student and women's organizations. Similar conferences were organized at universities in the cities of Matanzas, Holguín, and Santiago de Cuba.

Several delegates from both the United States and Cuba stressed that the meeting provided an opportunity to learn more about different political perspectives and struggles around the world.

Running from session to session, conference participant Ellen Schweitzer, a 21-year-old student from the University of Michigan explained, "I came because Cuba is the only place where a socialist system, a noncapitalist system, is trying to operate. Cuba right now is going through a lot of change. I wanted to see firsthand. . . . People don't tend to blame the ideas of the revolution for the shortages which are definitely causing hardship. . . . but everyone doesn't cheer capitalism as the solution." She added, "This has galvanized me to look for further opportunities to do solidarity work with Cuba."

Iran today: workers and peasants resist

BY GREG ROSENBERG

NEW YORK — "In the midst of the world capitalist crisis, the ruling class in Iran has to do what the capitalists in other parts of the world are doing. They have to do what they call rationalization of the economy. So more and more they are moving against the working class," said Ma'mud Shirvani at a Militant Labor Forum in New York City June 18. Shirvani recently returned from a visit to the region.

"The beginnings of confrontations are taking place," Shirvani said. "Actions by workers in different factories to defend their conditions of life against attacks by the capitalist bosses and government-appointed managers in nationalized industries have begun. It's in the early stages, but nevertheless it's real and growing."

In 1978-79 a general strike by workers in the midst of a massive national revolutionary upsurge culminated in the February 1979 insurrection when soldiers joined the masses in the streets and overthrew the shah's Persian monarchy, said Shirvani. "Workers have been forced to retreat since then, but have not been defeated; they remain at the center stage of Iran's politics. This is something all bourgeois commentators miss," Shirvani told the New York audience.

"If you read or listen to the big-business media here, you would think it's a different world in Iran," said Shirvani. "They portray people there as different, as crazy. But once you see it through the class struggle and understand that it's a society divided into classes, you can see it's the same world. The same things are happening. Never before has the world, including that part of it, been so universal as it is now."

Because of these developments, the unfolding conflict presents new opportunities to build working-class leadership in Iran.

Economic situation

The international depression is ravaging Iran's economy. Unemployment is rising. Inflation is running at about 30 percent annually, making the price of basic goods further from the reach of working people. The regime in Tehran is short of foreign exchange, while the Iranian currency, the rial, has fallen by more than 50 percent in the last year [\$1=2,800 rials]. The economy is largely dependent on oil exports and has been hard hit by falling oil prices. The debt owed to foreign banks has grown to \$20-30 billion. The government has been unable to make payments. Tehran recently got the agreement of German and Japanese finance capital to reschedule some \$7 billion of the loans, despite strong U.S. opposition.

The Iranian regime, headed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, has led the effort to impose austerity on the working class and peasantry. The government has begun the attempt



Iranian workers and peasants in mass protests in 1979. A general strike by workers then culminated in an insurrection that overthrew the shah's dictatorial rule. Workers and peasants have used the space they won ever since to defend their interests.

to discipline the working class to pave the way for widespread privatization of industry and commerce. All sorts of subsidies are being cut back, making it more difficult for working people to make ends meet.

In June, central bank governor Mohammed Hussein Adeli told Tehran radio that the government would allow privately owned banks to open for the first time since the 1979 revolution. "That the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer is a generally recognized fact there," Shirvani reported.

"In order to establish a modern economy that can compete for market share and profits," Shirvani said, "the employing class is moving to implement more layoffs, claiming that 40 percent of the working class is redundant."

Workers in Iran, however, by making a revolution and defending it arms in hand in the past, feel they have a bigger stake in defending its gains. Millions of workers also consider having a job a right, Shirvani said.

He cited as an example of the emerging resistance actions by workers at Iran Khodrow, an automobile assembly plant in Tehran. "Iran Khodrow has 9,000 workers," Shirvani said. "It had 14,000 at the beginning of the revolution. Now the bosses say 4,000 have to be laid off but they can't just let them go overnight."

"When the workers found out, they organized a march through the factory in early May, and they showed their collective strength that way," he reported. "In addition, machine workers in Tabriz won a confrontation with the employers there over layoffs. In Isfahan, a major industrial city in central Iran, petrochemical workers also went into action when the bosses threatened them. They started pro-

ducing trash instead of products."

Shirvani said that in a petrochemical plant in the southern part of the country workers wanted the bosses to implement and abide by clearly defined job classifications. "So the workers assembled and demanded that the manager, who is appointed by the government, come out and speak with them. He came and made some promises, and the workers shouted, 'You're a liar.' They forced the company to back down." Strikes are illegal in Iran, so workers use their imagination to bring their collective strength against the bosses.

One woman worker told Shirvani that "Iran's working class is more advanced and stronger than before the revolution. And it has internationalist views. Workers want to do something. Peasants are the same way. The ruling class has not been able to push them off," she said, remarking that "a major gain of the 1979 revolution is that it has politicized the working class."

A tug of war between peasants and big landowners who fled during the 1979 revolution still continues, Shirvani said. Emboldened by the rulings of courts in favor of private property, some of those landowners have returned to the villages they owned to repossess the land taken over by peasants. They have succeeded in some cases, but in general peasants have successfully resisted. The land question also involves more peasants and workers who occupied land in the outskirts of cities to build living quarters. Some violent confrontations have taken place when authorities have sent in the police to raze the "illegal" buildings to the ground.

Revolutionary tradition

Shirvani explained that working people in Iran have a strong revolutionary tradition. Massive social movements have rocked the country during the past century, aimed at sweeping away the monarchy and dictatorial rule.

● At the turn of the century a national democratic revolution took place against the Qajar dynasty, which had become an instrument of British and Russian imperialism's plunder of the country. The landlords and the upper echelons of the Islamic clergy who supported the monarchy were defeated and a secular constitution was won. During that upheaval multinational brigades of Muslims, Armenians, Georgians, and others came as volunteers to defend the revolution against reaction. Even a young Princeton graduate, who was working in the American consulate in Tabriz at the time, fought in the revolution against the monarchy and was killed. He became one of the martyrs of the first Iranian revolution. Only an armed intervention by British imperialism and the czar's forces from Moscow maintained the monarchy and robbed the people of their revolutionary gains.

● In 1916 Iranian Marxists and socialists formed a communist party and participated in the Russian revolution along with the Bolsheviks. They later joined in the struggle to defend that revolution by fighting against the British and Turkish armies that attacked revolutionary Baku, where workers councils

had taken power.

● After World War II massive struggles took place that established a workers and farmers government in the northwestern region of Azerbaijan and engulfed the whole country in a revolutionary upsurge. An independent Kurdish republic was also established for a year. Stalinist misleaders, on orders from Moscow, betrayed the revolution and handed it over to be butchered by the pro-imperialist shah of Iran.

The movement against imperialism continued in the country until 1953 when Washington intervened and managed to reverse the gains of the workers and farmers through a CIA-organized coup with military supporters of the shah. These forces overthrew the democratically elected government of Premier Mohammed Mossadegh and put the shah back in power.

● In 1979 Iran went through its latest revolution, which began with a mass uprising in the city of Tabriz in 1978 and spread across the country.

Millions of people came into action against the shah's U.S.-backed dictatorship. Hundreds were killed as a result of military repression. Oil workers led a working-class general strike, which brought on a mass insurrection that toppled one of the world's most heavily armed and repressive regimes.

"The workers and peasants overthrew a monarchy that claimed a continuity of 2,500 years," stated Shirvani. "They overthrew the despotic secret police, the Savak, that permeated the entire country, especially the factories. The peasants were able to gain land. They were able to become citizens, winning the dignity of human beings and formal equality for the first time."

The revolution did not result in a workers and farmers government, because Stalinism had managed to kill Marxism in Russia and break the revolutionary continuity of revolutionists in Iran with the Bolshevik party of V.I. Lenin. So in the absence of a communist party that could lead the working class and its allies to form a workers and peasants government, a section of Iran's capitalist class gained power. It used the mantle of religion to win support from working people.

Demonization of Iran

Washington remains extremely hostile to the example set by working people in Iran. Most appalling to the U.S. government is that the 1979 revolution removed a stable pillar for an imperialist-dominated Middle East, including the Persian Gulf. As a result of this and Tehran's efforts to broaden its economic and political reach in the region, the U.S. government has sought to isolate Tehran, and the big-business media has demonized the country. Washington has frozen \$9 billion to \$12 billion of Iran's assets in the United States.

Washington backed the eight-year war by the Saddam Hussein regime in Baghdad against Iran in the hope of erasing the gains of the revolution and weakening working people.

Workers and peasants in their millions mobilized to beat back this invasion. Shirvani reported that working people in Iran today do not necessarily take sides in the nearby war between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"Even [Iranian] Azerbaijanis don't necessarily side with the Azerbaijanis," said Shirvani. "They think it's a crazy war because they have gone through the experience themselves. To make a revolution, it requires consciousness. Working people in Iran reached a higher consciousness, beyond national consciousness, because Iran itself is a multinational country. The dominant nationality is Farsi. In order to make the revolution the toilers had to break through these divisions and unite in action."

Class differentiation

Shirvani reported growing class differentiation in Iran. "Some of those who went through and fought for the revolution are starting to move higher in the state apparatus, and they are becoming new capitalists, new managers," he said. "They are the ones who more and more are becoming candidates in order to confront the workers and force them

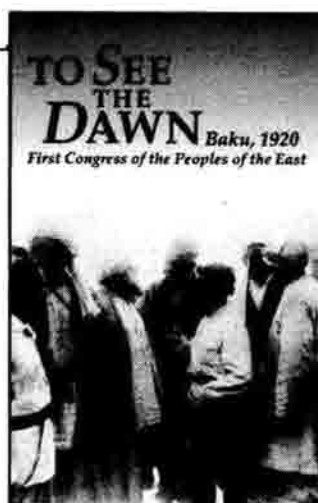
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capitalist offensive

Continued from previous page
back, implementing layoffs and so on.

"The professional managers have no credibility," continued Shirvani. "The workers just tell them to go to hell. So capitalists hope the new managers will be able to use a certain prestige of the revolution, and the rulers hope they can discipline the workers."

The main conflict within the bourgeoisie, said Shirvani, is over the pace and implementation of the fight to get the working class to produce at the speed and under the conditions it wants. The capitalists have defeated the so-called radical elements — petty-bourgeois figures who used revolutionary demagoguery and had a base in the peasantry. In the last parliamentary elections, they were not even allowed to stand for office.

A June 28 article in the *Wall Street Journal* reported that U.S. oil companies last year became Iran's biggest clients. The article stated, "It is impossible to tell what will happen in a country as unpredictable as Iran." This reflects Washington's concerns over the ability of the current regime in

Tehran to force the working class to produce at a speed and under conditions favorable for capital. Iranian capitalists have to prove they can discipline workers and open the road to productive private ownership in order to advance toward their goal of greater integration into the capitalist world market.

Shirvani emphasized that none of the skirmishes between workers and bosses in Iran have resolved the fundamental antagonism that is growing as the rulers move along this path. "These are the initial stages of the confrontation," he said. "The working class is getting ready more and more for major battles, including the battles for power that it retreated from early in the revolution because there was no proletarian leadership."

He pointed out that with the collapse of the Stalinist apparatus, "It's now possible for workers, peasants, and youth in Iran to learn from the experiences of more than a century of struggle by the modern working class and in the process of their struggles build a communist leadership that can organize them in the fight for power."

Pathfinder books are a hit at seventh Tehran bookfair



Marcella FitzGerald

Pathfinder booth was bustling with visitors every day during May 4-13 Tehran fair

BY ANITA OSTLING

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Marcella FitzGerald, who represented Pathfinder Press at the 7th International Book Fair in Tehran, Iran, May 4-13, spoke at a meeting here June 4. She reported that many of the 1.2 million participants who stopped by Pathfinder's booth gave the publishing house a warm reception. Some 730 Iran-based publishers and 500 international publishers attended the event. The book fair, a national event, got daily coverage on radio and television. Young people came from all over the country, some were bused in to attend. To get into the fair people pay 150 rials, the price of a movie ticket. Yet this year attendance almost doubled compared to 1993, FitzGerald said.

Participants took advantage of a government decision to subsidize two-thirds of the cost of foreign-language purchases to buy \$8,276 worth of Pathfinder books, a new record for the publishing house at a book exhibition. The Pathfinder booth was the only one there that presented "only political and revolutionary books," a Tehran newspaper reported. Other foreign-language publishers brought mainly technical and medical books.

Four student volunteers helped to staff the booth and produce fliers publicizing Pathfinder books. One of the leaflets celebrated the inauguration of South African president Nelson Mandela and drew attention to the Pathfinder book *Nelson Mandela Speaks: Forging a Democratic, Nonracial South Africa*. The booth highlighted the works of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and Russian revolutionary leaders V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky, as well as the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

The top seller among these titles was *The Communist Manifesto*. Fair attendees pur-

chased 37 copies of the *New Internationalist*. Titles on the fight for women's rights also attracted a lot of interest.

Of the thousands who browsed through Pathfinder's display, many wrote comments in a visitors' book. "Iran needs more books on Marxism. Thank you for bringing the books," wrote one. "I'm extremely delighted to see these revolutionary books and these revolutionary figures such as Che Guevara," said another. One peasant youth from the village of Hamadan wrote congratulations to Nelson Mandela for leading the democratic revolution.

FitzGerald pointed out that one result of the 1979 revolution in Iran is "the demand for culture, for education, for literacy, for access to libraries." She added that Pathfinder's booth was highly popular with young people who stopped by, including soldiers and women. "Eighteen-year-old soldiers bought books on the Vietnam War and the experiences of the antiwar movement in the United States," said FitzGerald. "Young women we met were passionate about the fight for women's rights in Iran and around the world. One youth came up and said, 'Hey, you're from Britain. Britain shouldn't be in Ireland.' So, I said, 'I don't think so either.' A few days later she came back with her friends for some books on Ireland by Marx and Engels."

"One of the things you have to remember about this is that these books are mostly in English," continued FitzGerald. "The official language in Iran is Farsi. So the response to Pathfinder shows the level of interest, the hunger for revolutionary ideas contained in Pathfinder books." And it didn't stop there. All the Spanish-language titles on hand were sold by the end of the fair.

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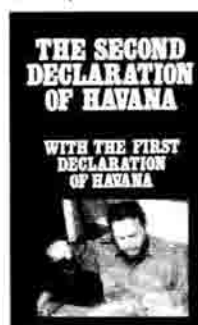
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Nationwide strike at Caterpillar is solid

Continued from front page
have rejoined the strike. Plants in East Peoria, Mapleton, and Mossville are all organized by UAW Local 974.

Supervisors and salaried personnel assigned to production are not happy about the 10-12 hour days, sweltering heat, and difficult conditions they have been working under. "The executives at the top are starting to lose our support," one middle manager told the *Peoria Journal Star*. "We're pawns in their power struggle. They don't seem to give a damn about us now."

Solidarity march

Families in Solidarity (FIS), a UAW support group, is building support for the strike. The group planned a one-mile march on July 8 for wives and children to stop at 16 plant gates in East Peoria. FIS is also reaching out to churches and community organizations, offering speakers to explain the union's view of the struggle.

Decatur, Illinois, Local 571 members report that their ranks are as united as ever with fewer than a dozen of some 1,800 strikers having crossed picket lines.

Strikers say the company has used a variety of tricks to make it appear that numbers crossing the line are much larger, including banning car pools and forcing salaried employees to drive their own cars. Workers say the company is also using the parking lot as storage space for cars from other businesses and rental companies.

Rodney Hale, a member of the local's bargaining committee, said strikers had initiated steps to counter Caterpillar's hiring during the strike. The company "sent out 210 letters and 26 people showed up for interviews on June 27," he said. "The union leafleted those going in. During the week, eight joined the union and we're talking to others."

'Bottom line, stick together'

The leaflet gave applicants the facts about the strike and what the UAW is fighting for. "We believe a better alternative would be to join our strike, with the chance of securing employment after our dispute is over," the leaflet said. "You can come to the UAW hall for further details and to sign up for strike pay and insurance!"

Some 50 strikers, along with wives and children, gather each morning at the Aurora, Illinois, facility. "We're here every morning, rain or shine," said a strike activist. "The bottom line is, we have to show we can stick together. That's our strength. Each one alone, what are we? We're powerless."

"This plant is not functioning," said an 18-year Caterpillar employee on strike in York, Pennsylvania. "All they've got is what they have stockpiled." The UAW Local 786 member explained that the company sent letters to employees on layoff prior to the strike offering full wages and full benefits if they crossed the picket lines.

With powerful weapons at its disposal, the company is working overtime to break solidarity among UAW members and between plants in the chain. An unprecedented media campaign, including television and radio commercials, is being conducted by the company to convince workers to cross picket lines.

Rumors that the strike is weakening at other plants have been floated and are reported as fact in the big-business press. Reporters uncritically print the company's figures on the number of union members crossing picket lines. Feature articles focus on wavering individuals, hardships brought about during strikes, and past bitter labor disputes, like the 205-day strike against Caterpillar in 1982.

The union is working to counter the assault. A UAW national "800" phone news line with recorded information on the strike has been established. Advertisements presenting the union's side have been placed in local newspa-

pers. Daily informational meetings have been organized by Local 974 in East Peoria, the largest union local in the chain, to keep the membership informed of developments.

On June 24, company officials demanded strikers pay their medical insurance premiums or face a cutoff of benefits. The payments would have amounted to \$291 a month for individuals and \$623 for a family. UAW officials answered by reaffirming the union's policy of paying medical insurance premiums for members on strike.

Caterpillar vulnerable

Caterpillar has hammered its competition through downsizing, restructuring, and smaller inventories. The company gained a commanding market lead over John Deere & Co. and Komatsu of Japan, posting record profits last spring.

Caterpillar's strengths, however, have made it vulnerable. The June 30 *Financial Times* reported that the company's most immediate problem "is how to honor long-term supply contracts for diesel engines." According to the *Times*, Caterpillar is the second-largest North American supplier of heavy-duty truck engines, and the heavy-duty truck industry is in the middle of its biggest rebound.

The *Times* noted that Caterpillar is also in

a bind in some of its big machinery lines. "The company was struggling to keep up with surging demand long before the strike, putting many products on 'allocation,' so they would go directly to a buyer rather than sit in dealers' inventories."

Other press reports indicate that Caterpillar can only last 30 to 60 days before parts shortages cripple production. An ace counted on by the company was its ability to offset shortages with production at plants in Belgium and Japan.

The July 1 *Peoria Journal Star* reported that "Caterpillar is in jeopardy of losing its five-year contract with Navistar Transportation Co. because of lost production." Caterpillar supplies the injectors to Navistar, which it puts into engines that power Ford Motor Co.'s heavy-duty pickup trucks.

The UAW 800-number phone news line concludes its message by noting the lengths to which the company has gone to get UAW members to cross the picket lines. "Cat wants us back because they need us," the message says. "Our solidarity is one mountain they can't move."

For regular updates on the strike, call 1-800-INFO-UAW. For information on strikers available to speak to other unions, call Bob Dunn at Local 974 in East Peoria, Illinois, at (309) 694-3151.

Fired UAW member tells truth about struggle

BY JIM GARRISON

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — Caterpillar executives have appeared in local television spots to describe the current strike by 14,000 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) as an effort to protect criminals in its ranks. Company officials claim in a media blitz that the union is striking over the jobs of 11 terminated workers who stole from the company, carried out violence on the picket lines, threatened to kill Caterpillar executives, or falsified medical records.

When the company broke off talks with the UAW after 40 minutes on June 20, union negotiators were demanding the reinstatement of 11 workers with full restoration of seniority, benefits, and back pay. Agreement on this issue, according to the UAW, would have laid the basis for further talks and a postponement of its June 21 strike deadline.

Bob Dunn, a member of UAW Local 974 here for the past 21 years, is the national chair of "The Terminated," a committee of

UAW members fired by Caterpillar on charges related to their struggle against union busting. Dunn was among the first to be fired on struggle-related charges in April 1992. Caterpillar management alleges that he kicked the truck of a strikebreaker as it approached a picket line during the 1991-92 five-and-a-half-month strike for a decent contract. That strike ended without a new contract and the company imposed its final offer after union members were told to return to work by UAW officials.

"The company fired me for what they called picket line misconduct at the time," Dunn said in an interview. "They refer to it now as 'picket line violence' in order to justify their own behavior. It's like turning a misdemeanor into a felony."

Dunn explained that of the 70 or 80 workers fired by Caterpillar here since the end of the 1991-92 strike, 29 have been designated as "struggle related" by a committee of the international union. There are currently 48 terminated workers so designated throughout the Caterpillar chain.

"Not a single one was fired for reasons of theft, making threats against Caterpillar executives, or falsifying medical records," Dunn said.

After the 1991-92 strike the UAW formed Contract Action Teams, composed of members working inside the plants, and Families in Solidarity committees to build support for efforts to win a contract. Dunn said he proposed a similar committee be organized by the union for fired workers last September.

How fired workers get by

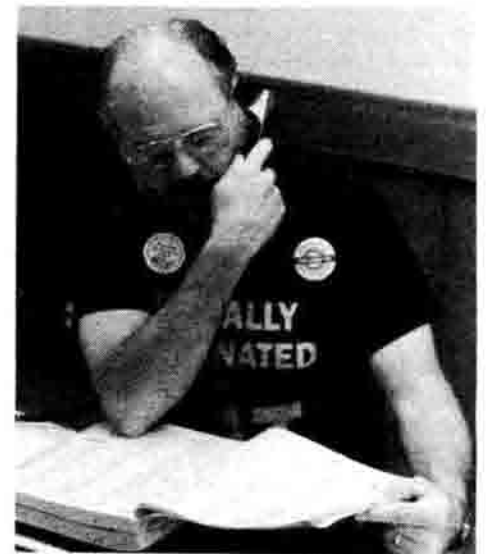
"Originally we were a support group" for the terminated workers, Dunn explained. "We helped people deal with the stress and find out what was available to them in terms of insurance, benefits, utility assistance, and the like." Dunn said he and his spouse are able to get by on savings and income from his wife's job.

Last Christmas, Dunn said, a member of the committee faced foreclosure on his home. Other members of the group chipped in equal shares to save the house.

The Terminated committee began in Local 974 with 13 members and has grown to include members from all Caterpillar plants where workers have been fired for union activities.

The committee has become very active and members are immediately recognizable at rallies and on the picket lines by their black T-shirts with "Illegally Terminated by CAT" emblazoned on the front in yellow letters.

They have produced and distributed a series of leaflets for the entire membership in recent months. "Our first handbill was to say thank you to all the members for their support of our situation," Dunn said, "and it included the names of all the members of our group on the bottom." Members of the committee trav-



Bob Dunn at UAW Local 974 hall

eled to plants throughout the Caterpillar chain to distribute this handbill.

"We learned that the company wrote about us in their internal communications," Dunn said. "They noted that the union had established a 'flying squad.' We looked that up in our labor history and found that the unions in the 1930s had used flying squads of strikers who would go around setting up and supporting picket lines. We thought that was a pretty good name for us."

The Terminated committee was organized as a national grouping at a meeting in Aurora, Illinois, in January. In April, the entire committee traveled to Tucson, Arizona, where they intervened in a Caterpillar stockholders meeting.

Several members of The Terminated committee form the core of the union's Rapid Response Team. The team, which also includes several UAW international representatives, is organized to counter public appearances by Caterpillar representatives, by explaining the union's point of view. Its members also do outreach to other unionists around the country.

Dunn recently led a team of four terminated workers from East Peoria, Aurora, and Pontiac, Illinois, on a trip to Iowa. In Des Moines, the team met members of UAW Local 270 at Fawn Engineering. They spoke with workers on their lunch breaks during first and second shifts. An informal reception was held at the home of UAW Local 270's president. The team also met with members of UAW Local 442 at a Frigidare plant in Webster City. In Cedar Rapids, the team took part in a seminar on employee involvement, where two members of Caterpillar's management were addressing a group.

Dunn explained his work on outreach to other unionists, saying, "I want them to know what's happened to us and what could happen to them."

Jim Garrison is a member of UAW Local 110 in St. Louis.

Illegally terminated by Caterpillar

Caterpillar Inc. forced the current strike of 14,000 United Auto Workers union (UAW) members by refusing to negotiate the reinstatement of 11 of the 35 workers illegally discharged by the company. Caterpillar claims the discharged workers are criminals responsible for theft, threats against the lives of company executives, and picket line violence. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) found sufficient evidence to prove that the workers were fired in retaliation for their union activities. Listed below are 11 cases at issue in the strike.

Dennis Rohrbaugh. Complaint issued April 1, 1993. Employee at York, Pennsylvania, plant discharged for distributing union literature.

Richard Stoltz. Complaint issued June 4, 1993. Union steward at Mossville, Illinois, plant discharged for picking up a cartoon from shop floor and placing it on foreman's desk.

Larry Recar. Complaint issued August 9, 1993. Mossville plant employee discharged for refusing to work voluntary overtime and urging fellow workers to do likewise.

Alan Kagemann and Robert Seibert. Complaint issued July 13, 1993. Pontiac, Illinois, employees fired for speaking to workers who crossed picket line. The alleged offensive speech took place in a local tavern, miles away from any Caterpillar facility, during nonworking hours.

George Boze, Jr. Complaint issued December 15, 1993. Boze is the union

unit chairman at Mossville plant and was discharged after assisting union attorneys for several weeks in NLRB hearings. The foreman who discharged Boze has been cited by the NLRB several times for making illegal threats against UAW members.

Janet Kolzow. Complaint issued January 25, 1994. Aurora, Illinois, employee fired for wearing "Stop scabs" button.

James Fehrenbacher and Rudy Gerhardt. Complaints issued January 24 and 25, 1994. Aurora, Illinois, workers discharged for displaying banners in their cars that said, "Support HR-5, S-55. Stop scabs from replacing union workers." HR-5 and S-55 are bills before Congress to stop employers from permanently replacing strikers.

Mike Masching. Complaint issued February 25, 1994. Pontiac, Illinois, worker fired after he was nearly run over by a car crossing picket line during an unfair labor practice strike in November 1993. Company claims Masching struck the car.

Bruce Mollard. Complaint issued April 25, 1994. Pontiac, Illinois, union steward discharged while on medical leave for allegedly misrepresenting his medical condition. Mollard was fired after Caterpillar security conducting surveillance "discovered" him picking a tomato in his back yard. His firing took place a few days after he made a statement supporting the UAW in an unrelated legal matter.

Leslie Fay strikers remain confident

BY BROCK SATTER

WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania — "We'll keep striking until we come up with an agreeable settlement or until we take this company down," said strike coordinator Linda Whitaker outside the Leslie Fay garment plant here.

Some 1,800 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) began a nationwide strike against the clothing manufacturer June 1. The company is threatening to close its factories in the United States. The strike remains solid.

ILGWU officials and Leslie Fay management are now in negotiations. The major point of contention in the talks is reportedly the number of jobs that will remain and the amount of severance pay in a possible buyout scheme.

According to *On The Line*, the union strike bulletin, workers have successfully shut down four plants in Pennsylvania and one in Ohio. Plants in New Jersey, Georgia, and Florida are also struck.

Joe Pasternach, a stocker for 22 years at the Laflin warehouse in Pennsylvania, one of the few plants still operating, said, "50 to 75 pickets gather daily at 5:00 in the morning," before breaking up into shifts. On June 16 they were met by a busload of workers from the SASSCO plant in New Jersey and the Leslie Fay headquarters in New York.

The bulletin reports that the number of trucks crossing the line at the Laflin plant has fallen from 30 to 3 or 4 a day. Whitaker said a temporary agency was hired to get the inventory out of the warehouse for the fall season, a heavy business time for the company. "We talked to the temporary agency and persuaded them to stop working," she said.

The company is harassing picketers in an attempt to break the strike. Whitaker believes that the company is pushing to get an injunction issued against the strikers. The bosses have gone to all the local judges in the hopes of getting a court order. "No one here is going to give an injunction," Whitaker said, reflecting the impact of the strike in the area.

CP Rail workers prepare for strike

BY JON HILLSON
AND CHRIS NISAN

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — As the clock ticks down to a 12:01 a.m. July 14 strike deadline, members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) here are showing the owners of Canadian Pacific Railroad they are ready, willing, and able to shut down the company's critical Midwest rail traffic.

The dispute involves 1,500 UTU members in several Midwestern states. Another 3,200 rail unionists are expected to honor the UTU's picket lines.

After six years without a pay raise, and months of carrier bullying, UTU unionists have united to mount a spirited response to the rail bosses. Their fightback activities include:

- Weekly strike preparation meetings throughout June that have drawn nearly 100 workers, many of them from other rail unions, including those representing engineers, car repair workers, mechanics, track workers, and clerks.

- The securing of a strike headquarters.

- A citywide labor solidarity rally set for July 11 at an International Association of Machinists hall. It has been endorsed by more than 20 area railroad unions and leaders. A big billboard outside the St. Paul yard announces the rally and the strike deadline. Informational pickets aimed at involving family members are set for July 6 and 8 at the Canadian Pacific's downtown Minneapolis headquarters.

- The yard is awash in union-produced fact sheets, leaflets, and flyers explaining the stakes in the labor battle and promoting upcoming events. Strike graffiti adorns boxcar after boxcar.

- Canadian Pacific rail unionists received pledges of support from top union officials at a recent regional meeting of the UTU in Cleveland.

Jon Hillson and Chris Nisan are members of UTU Local 1882 at Canadian Pacific in St. Paul.

Since the walkout began, the company has been harassing workers at the Laflin plant. Whitaker said that two strikers had been hit by cars. One security guard broke a striker's glasses, damaged his camera, and smacked an older woman worker in the face, giving her a concussion. Now she needs a neck brace. The security guards are shining spotlights on the workers doing night shift picket duty to intimidate them.

At the Secaucus, New Jersey, Leslie Fay-owned SASSCO plant, the company chopped down 19 trees so the strikers wouldn't have any shade. A number of workers there reported that scab workers were being brought in by companies contracted by Leslie Fay.

Workers have won support from other union members near the Laflin plant. "We received \$67 from the Teamsters local, and around 50 workers from the UFCW [United Food and Commercial Workers] joined our picket line, mostly from Acme Food stores," said Whitaker. "Truckers from Acme joined and now workers from the local newspaper *Citizens Voice* will join our picket."

Court drops fines against coal miners

BY KATHY RETTIG
AND ESTELLE DeBATES

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — The labor movement scored a victory June 30, when the U.S. Supreme Court threw out \$52 million in fines ordered by a Virginia judge against the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

The fines stemmed from the UMWA's battle against Pittston coal company in 1989. In April of that year 1,700 miners in Virginia and West Virginia walked out of Pittston mines after working without a contract for more than 14 months under continued provocations from the coal company.

Support for the striking miners grew as the UMWA organized several peaceful protests, and linked up with workers striking against Eastern Airlines. Throughout the coalfields UMWA miners walked out in solidarity with the strikers. Within weeks the conflict involved 44,000 miners in 11 states.

Virginia judge Donald McGlothlin issued an injunction against the UMWA early in the walkout, seeking to prevent striking miners and their supporters from preventing coal from being mined or hauled. In May 1989 McGlothlin ordered the first fines against the UMWA and over the following months found the union in contempt for more than 400 violations of his injunction, with fines totaling \$64 million, of which \$12 million was later dropped.

Virginia governor George Allen told the Associated Press that the Virginia Supreme Court "had it right" by demanding the union be fined. And Virginia attorney general Jim Gilmore added, "In the future... we'll make sure that the procedures are followed so that even Supreme Court justices will agree with us."

The UMWA reached an agreement with Pittston in June on a new four-and-a-half-year contract.

In a press release hailing the victory won in dropping the Pittston fines, UMWA president Richard Trumka pointed to the fight against \$5 million in new fines levied against the union as a result of the 1993 contract strike. While all the coal companies agreed to drop the fines as a part of the negotiations, the National Labor Relations Board is pursuing a case against the UMWA.

Frame-up conviction

In another development stemming from the 1993 strike, UMWA Local 5958 officer Jerry Dale Lowe was convicted on June 24 in a frame-up in U.S. District Court in Charleston, West Virginia. The court found Lowe guilty of federal conspiracy charges of attempting to damage and disable a vehicle involved in interstate commerce and injure the driver, and using a firearm in the commission of a federal crime.

Lowe faces up to 50 years in prison, and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on August 26.

Following seven days of testimony and three days of deliberations, the jury convicted

Strike wave erupts in South Korea



Rail workers and students rally in downtown Seoul, South Korea. Thousands of striking workers paralyzed the nation's transportation system during the week of June 22. Some 22,000 shipyard workers and others struck the next week.

the coal miner of firing the gun that killed Eddie York, an employee of a nonunion contractor, on July 22, 1993, at Arch Mineral Corp.'s Ruffner mine near Yohyn, West Virginia. York was exiting the mine in a convoy of four vehicles and, as he approached a UMWA picket shack, was shot in the back of the head.

The shooting occurred in the third month of the UMWA's seven-month strike against the Bituminous Coal Operators Association in 1993. At the Ruffner mine, Elite security guards carried out a series of provocations against strikers, which included firing guns in the air, teargassing a picket shack, and verbally threatening pickets.

UMWA International Executive Board member Howard Green told the *Charleston Gazette* before the verdict, "The ones who were doing the shooting were the guards. The government should have done a better job inquiring into that."

A suit filed by the National Labor Relations Board last November charges that at least three times on the day of York's shooting Elite guards fired their guns near the UMWA picket shacks at the Ruffner mine, including once at the picket shack where York was killed.

In Lowe's trial, UMWA member Kenneth Maynard testified that he videotaped Arch Mineral guards carrying weapons near the picket line outside the Ruffner mine. He said one guard carried a pistol in his pocket and another carried what looked like an Uzi stuck

into the back of his pants. The judge refused to allow the defense to show Maynard's video.

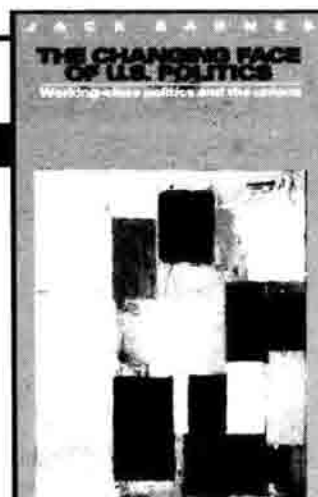
Seven other UMWA members were charged along with Lowe in the original indictment. In a plea bargain with federal prosecutors, they pleaded guilty in April to the destruction of property and agreed to be called as government witnesses in Lowe's trial. However, Lowe's defense used these miners' testimonies, none of which implicated Lowe in the shooting.

UMWA Local 5958 President Ernie Woods was one of the miners called to testify. Woods said that the guards provoked the miners into throwing rocks that day. According to the *Charleston Gazette*, he said he saw a guard fire a shot as he drove out of the hollow where the incident occurred.

"I was as close as from here to you. It was a shot... without a doubt... To provoke us, to get something on film... I heard gunshots. More than two or three. They were pretty rapid."

Results of a state police investigation presented at the April hearing said that on July 22 the security guards were "messing with their truck to make it backfire on command" so it would sound like a gunshot.

Joe Stanley, president of UMWA Local 93, said in an interview, "The conviction is a miscarriage of justice. They have convicted an innocent man. Whatever happened was an accident. Arch deserves the blame for putting the strikers in the situation they were in."



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Japan wracked by political instability



New Japanese premier Tomiichi Murayama

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In another sign of accelerating political instability in one of the world's foremost imperialist powers, Japan's Parliament picked a new prime minister June 29. Tomiichi Murayama, of the Social Democratic Party, is the third premier in three months and the fourth in one year. The previous prime minister, Tsutomu Hata, resigned after 59 days in office to avoid a vote of no-confidence from the Parliament.

Murayama, who assumed the chair of the Social Democratic Party last September, is the first from his party to hold the office of prime minister since 1948. The conservative Liberal Democratic Party had headed the government since 1955 until it lost its parliamentary majority last year.

Days after taking office, Murayama tried to quell nervousness among some in Tokyo's ruling circles by making it clear he'll be a faithful servant of Japanese imperialism. In a news conference July 1, the social democratic leader reversed his longstanding opposition

to the use of Japanese troops in United Nations military operations around the world and rejected his party's past position of support to North Korea. This rightward shift, however, is nothing new for Murayama's party. "The Socialist Party has changed considerably already," the new premier said. "The word socialism does not appear in the latest Socialist Party platform. We are now capable of keeping abreast of the times."

The seemingly endless gyrations in the government in Tokyo come during the worst economic and social crisis in Japan in decades. Since 1990, Japan's economy has experienced a prolonged slump. In 1992, production grew by a meager 0.4 percent. Industrial production growth first fell into negative figures in 1991 and has now posted three straight years of contraction.

Japan's economy has taken some huge blows from competition in the world market, especially from its U.S. rivals. Komatsu, the world's second-largest manufacturer of construction equipment, saw its pretax prof-

its fall by 55 percent last year, the worst performance for the Japanese giant in a decade. Domestic sales dropped by 1.8 percent. The strong yen has made Japanese exports more expensive, resulting in a reduction of sales in the European markets by 3.1 percent. Komatsu's main rival, Caterpillar, the U.S. heavy equipment and machinery company, has reported earnings of \$192 million for the first quarter of this year, five times higher than in the same period in 1993. Caterpillar has profited handsomely from a surge in orders overseas.

The volume of U.S. exports to Japan has increased about 60 percent since the mid-1980s. U.S. government pressure has also helped force the Japanese government to lower trade barriers to its competitors abroad for such items as cellular phones. It has also pushed Japanese corporations like Toyota to buy U.S.-made auto parts. Last year General Motors (GM) exported to Japan parts, such as shock absorbers and radiators worth \$250 million. This is an increase of 25 percent compared to 1992. GM hopes to sell \$2 billion in parts to Japanese auto plants worldwide by 1998, including \$450 million to several in Japan.

U.S. software giants like Microsoft Corp., Lotus Development Corp., and Borland International Inc. have seized more than 50 percent of Japan's PC-software market.

U.S.-based Stroh Brewery Co. says it has shipped 1 million cases of beer to Japan, up from 350,000 cases shipped a year earlier and virtually none three years ago. U.S.-brewed beer sells in Japan for 19 cents per 12-ounce can compared to 71 cents charged by Japanese breweries.

General Electric recently won an order for advanced generators from Tokyo Electric Power Co., beating out companies like Toshiba Corp. and Hitachi Ltd. Tokyo Electric is one of the world's largest utilities.

Japan's rivals in Asia have also benefited from the strong yen. South Korean products, for example, have gained a 10 percent to 25 percent price advantage over Japanese competition. This has helped the South Korean shipbuilding industry surpass that of Japan, making it the world's largest in terms of orders received.

The prolonged recession in Japan may be ending. Industrial production was up 0.9 percent in January. After three years of stagnation this could signal a recovery in the domestic market. But political instability and social polarization seem to have no ending there.

Clinton denies entry to Haitian refugees

Continued from front page

teria for asylum will now be taken to camps in Panama — which has promised to take up to 10,000 refugees — the Turks or Caiscos Islands, or elsewhere in the Caribbean. Those who do not qualify will be shipped back to Haiti. Only those who apply at U.S. offices in Haiti will be allowed to settle in the United States.

"Now you can make it to ship," gloated one State Department official, "but that ship's going to Panama, not a U.S. base. These countries are not necessarily an improvement over Haiti."

Between June 15 and July 5, more than 10,000 people fled Haiti in rickety boats. On July 4, in a single day, 3,247 Haitians were intercepted by U.S. vessels.

Washington also announced the dispatch of 2,000 Marines in an amphibious assault group to the seas off Haiti. They will join 650 Marines who are already stationed there. U.S. officials said the Marines are there to evacuate U.S. citizens if necessary.

While the approval rate of asylum requests made to U.S. interviewers inside Haiti has climbed from 7 percent to 37 percent in recent months, only a relatively small number of people are able to apply. The rate on board U.S. vessels had been about 33 percent.

Paul Olvert, a former campaign worker for deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has been in hiding since the 1991 coup. He told the *Miami Herald* that he is planning to head for the Coast Guard ships.

"There are several others who're in hiding who might come along with me. We're all Lavalas," he said, referring to the organization that backed Aristide. "I don't have any security here."

Washington has also begun using the U.S. military base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to temporarily house Haitian refugees.

During the administration of George Bush, when the Guantánamo camp was last in operation, many activists criticized U.S. treatment of the refugees. Still painted on one of the structures is graffiti, stating "This place is for animals, not for Haitians."

The government of Cuba condemned the use of the U.S. naval base as illegal and "against the wishes of the Cuban people and government." Washington is using the base "as if it were part of U.S. territory," noted a statement by José Peraza Chapeau, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba.

Some refugees never make it on board the U.S. ships. As many as 150 people died July 4 when their boat capsized 300 yards off shore. Many of the victims were children.

Clinton has tried to get Aristide to make radio broadcasts discouraging people from fleeing the island, but the deposed president refused.

Tightening U.S. embargo

The tightening U.S. embargo on Haiti includes ending commercial flights to and from the United States, the freezing of bank accounts, and the canceling of visas for wealthy Haitians.

The embargo itself is hotly debated in Miami. The pro-Aristide owner of a photo shop in Miami's Little Haiti said in an interview that the "embargo is good because it will help bring our president back. Just like

the embargo of South Africa helped Mandela."

But a Haitian grocery store worker in West Palm Beach, Florida, said that "the embargo just makes things worse for working people. The rich, they still have their bank accounts in Switzerland."

While the wealthy businessmen in Haiti are finding it harder to do business due to the embargo, they are not yet willing to accept Aristide's return. Many wealthy families still grimace at the space taken by workers and peasants during Aristide's presidency.

"Impertinent," one Port-au-Prince businessman told the *Miami Herald*. He was referring to demands by sugarcane cutters for better pay and working conditions when Aristide was in power.

If Aristide were killed, the owner of a large retail business told the *Herald*, he would celebrate with "five bottles of champagne, all just for me."

But in spite of his defiance, he is not opposed to U.S. military intervention. "One doesn't dare to say it," he stated, "but I think everyone thinks, 'If there will be an intervention, let it come as soon as possible, to be done with this.'"

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Report Back from Cuba: Challenges Facing the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Aaron Ruby, just returned from a two-week trip to Cuba. Ruby is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C. Thurs., July 14, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd. NW. Sponsored by the D.C. Socialist Youth Organizing Committee and Militant Labor Forum. Donation: \$4. Students: \$2. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Indonesia — Upsurge in the Labour Movement and Clamp Down on Democratic Rights. Speaker: Bob Aiken, Communist League. Sat., July 16, 6 p.m. Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, corner of Norton and Collins Streets. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02)-281-3297.

CALENDAR

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Southeast regional conference on Cuba. Community Rally to End the Blockade of Cuba Now. Speakers include: Rev. Lucius Walker, director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace; Fulani Sunni Ali, Southern Arts Media Education Association, Inc.; Cleto Montelongo, director of Echoes of the People; Robin Singer, Atlanta Network on Cuba; and a spokesperson for the Caribbean International Education Committee. Friday, July 22, 7:30 p.m. Talks and workshops Sat., July 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fund-raiser and dinner party in **Solidarity with Cuba** Sat., July 23, 6 p.m. All events will be at Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. (corner of Euclid and Austin Ave.) Registration \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students or low income) Sponsored by the Atlanta Network on Cuba. For more information call (404) 377-1079.

TEXAS

El Paso

Protest Against Operation Blockade and Anti-Immigrant Bashing! All Out to El Paso! Sat., Aug. 20. Sponsored by Open Borders Coalition. For more information, call (512) 452-7453.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Challenges Facing the Cuban Revolution Today. Speaker: Aaron Ruby, recently attended a conference in Cuba and was part of the *Militant and Perspectiva Mundial* reporting team there. Tues., July 19, 7 p.m. Mount Pleasant Library (basement), 16th Street and Lamont NW. Sponsored by D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition. The presentation and discussion will be in Spanish with translation into English. For more information, call (202) 452-5966.

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SWEDEN

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

That's what the homeless keep saying — "Absolute poverty in Britain no longer exists, the Duke



Harry Ring

of Edinburgh said last night." — The Times of London.

Pluck and love (I) — The annual Horatio Alger Award honors those who exemplify the theme of the Alger novels — that "pluck" can lead "from rags to riches." A recipient this year was Dwayne Andreas. Of humble origin, he climbed

to the top of the ladder at Archer Daniels Midland, a top international dealer in foodstuffs. Andreas, we learn, is devoted "to caring for and feeding the poor around the globe."

Pluck and love (II) — Recently, the feds fined Archer Daniels Midland \$318,000 for dangerous job conditions which killed at least one worker. Further back, the company was convicted of rigging prices on foodstuffs sold to the Food for Peace program. Archer Daniels Midland is a major shareholder in the parent company of A.E. Staley, the corn processor which has locked out its workers for the past year for rejecting a giveback contract.

Theology dep't — We don't

know the "new catechism" from the old, but Boston-area Catholic school teachers seem to. They had a picket demanding a modest wage increase in their new contract. The old one provides a single raise of less than 1 percent — to those with 10 years seniority. One picket sign declared, "Low wages are a sin, says the new catechism."

By any means necessary — Zeneca, a U.S. company, sold \$70 million worth of corn seeds, herbicides and farm equipment to Ukraine. Only 10 percent of the seed yielded corn. The seed was not suited to the relatively short growing season in Ukraine and much of it, apparently, was just no good. A confidential Zeneca memo explained business was

poor in the United States and they had found that Ukraine, Russia, and Romania were the best areas for "sizable profits."

It does seem that way — Pointing to the anger in Ukraine over the seed swindle, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce official there observed, "Yes, we in the West believe in commercial gain. But if that is your only goal, then this is what happens."

"More kick to the stick!" — We're puzzled. Why didn't the coffin-nail folks run big ads instead of keeping it quiet that they had developed a tobacco plant with double the nicotine. Or that they had found that adding a drop of ammonia delivers nearly double the amount of nicotine to the blood stream. Back

in the days before we kicked the habit, we would have gladly paid more for the extra jolt.

Nothing's perfect — Carter-Wallace said it will comply with a government order to stop selling Organidin, an anti-asthma drug. The feds voiced concern that the medication causes cancer and, also, that it doesn't work.

Thought for the week — "If you read the literature about . . . almost any stigmatized group . . . the literature is almost identical . . . sexually promiscuous, not caring about family structures, not caring about society. Its astonishing how uniform prejudice is" — Psychiatrist Robert Cabaj, commenting on the activities of antigay groups.

Farmers demand regulation of contract hog raising

BY JOSÉ ALVARADO

GOLDFIELD, Iowa — At a June 11 hearing here, working farmers from central Iowa assailed the "mega" hog confinement facilities being built. They put forth proposals that would regulate them with stringent laws protecting air, soil, and water quality.

That was the majority opinion of the 300 people, mostly farmers, at the last of three hearings held by the governor-appointed Environmental Agriculture Committee.

The committee was set up in response to protest meetings organized by the Organization for the Protection of the Environment (OPE).

The OPE was initiated by 16 farm families from north central Iowa to educate about the hog factories and pressure the state government to regulate the unbridled building of giant hog confinement facilities, and their manure disposal methods. These small meetings quickly grew and attracted up to 1,000 farmers and their families.

Of central concern to working farmers voicing opposition before the task force is the odor and huge open manure lagoons.

Drainage wells dotting the north central sector of Iowa compound the threat posed to water supplies.

According to Myron Hill, a farmer in Wright county, "Drainage wells were dug in the early 1900s . . . to drain water back into the underground system. If it were not for this network of drainage wells throughout the region, working the soil would be impossible." He added that "manure sprayed out onto the fields . . . can empty directly into the drainage wells, which go into the drinking water here and down stream."

The manure is rich in nitrogen and phosphates and contains the odorous compound hydrogen sulfide, which has been linked to 19 fatalities in Iowa hog facilities since 1978.

Corporate bosses — Farmland, Iowa Select, Land o' Lakes, and others — pitch this manure as free fertilizer and a plus for farmers.

But Wallace and Irene Kreimeyer, who grow soybeans and corn, pointed out that "the soil can be saturated to the point of killing it with too much nitrates. These nitrates, which are cancer causing, constantly leach into the ground." Eventually, Kreimeyer said, "it will reach the aquifer."

According to the *Des Moines Register*, the number of lagoons in the state has sharply

increased, going from 58 in 1992 to 108 last year. In 1994, according to Don Paulin of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), "the number of new lagoons will equal last year's level by July."

Arden Tweeten, a farmer and chairman of the OPE, remarked after addressing the task force, "The DNR today only has guidelines but no laws to protect the water source. Air quality is bad not just because of odor, but because of the methane gas, rising from the manure, which is heavier than air."

"The rape of rural Iowa," Martha McCormick told the task force panel, "by corporate hog factory owners is being legally done. It must be stopped."

"Now is the time to restrict these mega production factories," she said. "Construction must be halted until the total environmental damage can be assessed."

"What's the hurry?" she asked, "except that hog factory owners want to beat any new and more stringent rules."

A few contract farmers also spoke, addressing the problems they have had from their neighbors who oppose anyone getting involved with a corporate hog facility.

David Thompson, who contracts with his brother for Land o' Lakes, noted, "We saw the changes coming [in the industry] and sold 120 acres," to expand their hog operation.

Thompson reported that people in his area have protested against his decision from the very beginning. Thompson said all he wanted was to farm and raise hogs like everyone else.

Many farmers see the governor's committee as a way to buy time for the corporate hog producers, until at least December when the committee begins to make proposals on regulations to the governor for the state legislature.

Of the 21-member committee, only one person — Blaine Nickels, a central leader of the OPE — is a working farmer. Farmers at the hearing said that only two others are sympathetic to their concerns. The rest are bankers, state legislators, and representatives of big livestock association interests and of the Farm Bureau, a longtime conservative organization that often takes positions opposed to the interests of the working farmer.

Family farmers pressed the committee to consider studies and reports from North Carolina. The experience there reveals the devastating effects on workers and the environment



Militant/Nell Wheeler

Iowa hogs soon to be sold for slaughter

due to the lack of regulations for commercial hog facilities, according to farmers here.

The corporate bosses claim that family farmers in Iowa are living in the agricultural past and standing in the way of creating new jobs.

Gilbert Thomas, vice president of Hawkeye Bank in Humboldt, noted, "Competition is not dirty work. Competition is the backbone of the free market system. The non-

competitive must become competitive. Regulation does not make an industry more efficient, competition makes an industry more efficient."

A board member of the Iowa Pork Producers testified he thought there was a "hysterical level of discussion" on the environment. "The discussion on the environmental concerns can put individual pork producers out of business," said Eugene Gomley.

"Family farmers are intelligent and excellent stewards of the land," farmers Dean and Evelyn Lloyd reply. "They are not raping the land to line their pockets today — disregarding consequences for the future."

"IBP and Farmstead want more uniform hogs so they can use more machinery and less workers and eventually get cheaper hogs too," noted farmer Sandra Luebenthal.

Most farmers see economic devastation developing from being forced to compete with the large hog-producing operations.

Working farmers are proposing that the big hog bosses put up a cash bond so that when and if they shut down their hog facilities the burden of leaving a mess hits them in their pockets.

They are also demanding that township officials only grant building permits after public and environmental hearings and a secret ballot vote by township residents and those in other townships living within a three-mile radius of the proposed facility.

José Alvarado is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 254 in Des Moines, Iowa.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



SEATTLE — Nixon's attempt to bring back memories of the good old days when the troops came home from Korea, met a quick resistance from the antiwar movement here.

About ten days before the event, spokesmen from the Army announced that Seattle had been chosen to host a parade of the vanguard of the 25,000 GIs being withdrawn from Vietnam. It was also announced that General Westmoreland and Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor would greet the troops.

The Nixon administration obviously intended to make national hay out of the parade in an attempt to lull the American people into thinking that the war is almost over. Seattle was probably chosen as the host city above major West Coast cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco with the expectation that there would be a smaller likelihood of large antiwar demonstrations.

Yet the Seattle antiwar movement was able to mobilize 300 people in the pouring rain, to welcome the troops home and protest the hoax. 841 GIs, with guns on their shoulders, were paraded through downtown Seattle in formation.

About an equal number of "patriots" waving American flags showed up. A large girl's

school had been let out and equipped with American flags especially for the festivities. The scene was emotionally charged. Many of the "patriots" really wanted to believe that the war was over, and were very upset by the demonstration which brought home the reality of the situation.



The deep-going and widespread character of the opposition of the Greek masses to the reactionary monarchy and its government-in-exile is revealed in reports of the recent mutiny in the Greek armed forces.

When the Greek shadow government in Cairo ordered the arrest of a mutinous brigade near Alexandria, states an Algiers dispatch, "not a single Greek soldier was ready to carry out the order." Furthermore, British soldiers also refused to do the dirty work and Churchill, staunchest backer of the Greek monarchy, had recourse to colored troops.

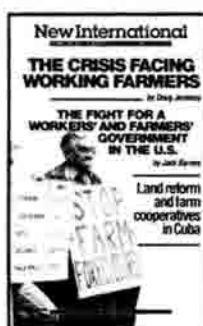
After the mutiny had been suppressed, four Greek naval officers were court-martialed at Chatham Barracks, London, on charges of insulting the Greek king and the Greek navy. One of the officers, a lieutenant, was alleged to have hung in his quarters a photograph of the King reviewing naval crews at Chatham on Greek independence day, March 25. Across it he had written, "Traitors and mercenaries." He was sentenced to two and half years' imprisonment.

For Further Reading

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Clinton's barbarism on Haitians

The Clinton administration's latest flip-flop on Haitian refugees — once again denying them in a blanket manner interviews for asylum in the United States — shows Washington's contempt for workers and farmers. It deserves condemnation from the labor movement and young people around the world.

While stationing an additional 2,000 Marines off Haiti's coast, the administration is rounding up working people fleeing the Haitian military rulers' reign of terror and shipping them off to prison camps.

Only three weeks after U.S. officials began the policy of giving interviews on navy vessels to Haitians intercepted at sea, thousands of refugees fleeing military repression have now been told that they can only apply for U.S. asylum inside Haiti — right under the nose of the tyrants in Port-au-Prince.

Those that U.S. immigration officials deem eligible for asylum will now be sent to special camps in Panama and other countries. U.S. officials will continue to hand over the rest to Haiti's military butchers. This is sheer barbarism on the part of Uncle Sam.

An estimated 10,000 people risked their lives in dangerous, flimsy crafts in the Caribbean to escape the island from the time of Clinton's last policy shift in mid-June. The growth of refugees is in response to continued terror by the regime and a worsening economic situation, which is compounded by the embargo Washington decreed on Haiti. The ruling families in Haiti continue to live high on the

hog despite these measures, while the lives of ordinary workers are made even more miserable. Thousands seized the opening to try to get out of this situation.

In response to protests by Haitians against the brutal U.S. policy, which has bipartisan backing, Clinton has attempted to cloak the bloodstains on his hands in humanitarian garb. Even before the latest announcement by William Gray, the president's point man in Haiti, a large majority of those picked up by U.S. military vessels were forcibly repatriated. In the past several weeks, scores have drowned in the attempt to leave. Some 150 people went to their graves July 4 when one boat capsized.

Washington's arrogant actions are to be reinforced by the additional detachment of Marines, who are in place to ensure and prolong the domination and superexploitation of Haiti's working people by the capitalist class in the United States. This includes the use of military force if Washington deems it expedient and thinks it can get away with it.

What working people need above all in Haiti right now is time and space to organize to defend their interests. They don't need prison camps anywhere in Central America or the Caribbean. They don't need an embargo that makes their everyday lives tougher. And the last thing they need is U.S. troops threatening their soil.

Youth and working people should demand: U.S. hands off Haiti! End the blockade now! Open the U.S. borders to Haitian refugees!

A boost for gay rights

The massive gay rights demonstration in New York June 26 struck a blow against the right-wing assault on gay rights. It was a boost for the working class and all defenders of civil liberties and democratic rights.

Gays are one of the main targets of Patrick Buchanan and other incipient fascists, as they attempt to lay the ideological basis for rightist movements that can take on the working class in the streets to resolve the growing crisis of capitalism in favor of the bosses.

In a June 14 column titled "What's the Christian-bashing all about?", for instance, Buchanan declared, "A struggle for the soul of America is under way, a struggle to determine whose views, values, beliefs, and standards will serve as the basis of law." He claimed that "populist conservatives" like himself "want the popular culture to reflect the values of patriotism, loyalty, bravery, and decency it used to reflect not so long ago." Buchanan called for "traditional marriage taught as the God-ordained and natural norm." The rightist politician and some of his associates have called teachers who speak out against antigay prejudice in school "blasphemous and sexually perverted."

This "culture war" waged by Buchanan, Ross Perot, and other demagogues tries to blame gays, single women, immigrants, Jews, and other social layers for the effects of the social breakdown caused by capitalism. The problem, they rail, is "decadence and moral decay." They appeal to

desires for order and stability within the middle class and better-off sections of the working class to win forces to their radical, rightist banner.

These attacks on the civil rights of homosexuals, and laws such as the Pentagon's ban on gays in the military, cut away at the democratic rights that workers have fought for and need today to defend their interests.

At its root, this ideological campaign is directed against the working class. Its aim is to make it harder for working people to unite across such barriers as race, sex, and national origin to wage an effective fight against the capitalists and the disaster their system has in store for humanity.

The demonstration on the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion was a powerful answer to this offensive. The rally was massive, disciplined, and more international than previous gay rights actions. The organizers set an important tone of civility — recruiting volunteer marshals on the spot and welcoming anyone who opposed discrimination against gays.

The action's success makes it a little harder in its aftermath to portray people as less than human because of their sexual orientation. It makes it more possible for those fighting antigay discrimination to link up with other fighters in the labor movement and supporters of democratic rights — a victory that should be celebrated and built on.

Cop corruption is inherent

Brutality, rampant racism and sexism, drug-dealing, theft, and more are all part of the standard operating procedure of the police. This fact is driven home to thousands of working people each week, as they experience firsthand the justice meted out by the supposed guardians of law and order, often on the receiving end of a nightstick.

What's rare is even partial exposure of the cops' methods. A fraction of the truth rose to the surface in early July, when the Mollen Commission released its report on the New York City police following a two-year investigation. It detailed how gangs of cops have gone on beating sprees, particularly in Black and Latino neighborhoods, while they searched for loot to steal. "We just beat people up in general," former cop Bernard Cawley told the commission. "It was a show of force . . . to show who is in charge."

Cops ran major drug-dealing operations. They raped women. Officers often falsified records in order to obtain convictions. In a practice called "collars for dollars," cops did whatever was necessary to make arrests to get more overtime pay and earn promotions. All this, of course, was covered up by top police officials, who the report called "willfully blind." This is just the tip of the iceberg. Much of the commission's findings haven't even been made public.

The commission, of course, advances the self-serving lie that most cops are honest, and that it's a case of a few bad ones spoiling the mix. They even argue that "the Police Department is the entity best able to prevent and investigate corruption among its members."

The police have one job under capitalism. That is to protect and serve the interests of the capitalist rulers and their property relations, and smash anyone who gets in the way. As part of accomplishing this goal, the cops routinely dole out punishment to working people, particularly those

who are Black, Latino, or who were born in other countries. That some cops can get rich off some drug deals or engage in a little torture just comes with the turf.

As workers fight back against the employers' profit drive and political polarization grows, the cops' methods get rougher and rougher. This goes hand in hand with the bipartisan effort to atomize the working class. As the Mollen Commission issued its report, New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani was announcing his plan to use the cops to crack down on such "offenses" as panhandling, cars with loud radios, graffiti, reckless bicycling, underage drinking, and unlicensed peddling.

Workers battling the employers know that the cops come in swinging on the bosses' side. Federal and local cops were instrumental in cooking up the frame-up of United Mine Workers of America member Jerry Lowe, who was convicted last month. Young people defending abortion clinics from rightist thugs know that the cops take the side of the opponents of women's rights.

This is what the police do, regardless of their skin color or how much "sensitivity" training they receive. The aim of commissions like the Mollen group is to blunt criticism of the cops for their everyday actions, which include "acceptable" brutality sanctioned under the police codes of conduct. And it's to get the police in shape to come down hard when the employing class needs them to try to quash workers' battles on the picket lines, protest demonstrations, and more.

Workers, youth, and other defenders of democratic rights should seize every opportunity to protest actions of cop brutality and terror wherever they arise. And they should use the slight lifting of the veil off the New York cops' secrecy to explain that a cop is a cop is a cop.

Women's rights group holds national conference

BY MAGGIE TROWE

About 1,000 people attended the national conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW) July 1-3 in San Antonio, Texas, organized around the theme "Women of Courage: Healing Hatred."

Conference participants discussed the fight against anti-woman violence, defense of abortion clinics against rightist attacks, the fight against anti-immigrant campaigns, support for the African National Congress Women's League, defending the rights of lesbians and gays, and a renewed campaign for an Equal Rights Amendment.

Violence against women was a central theme of the conference, taken up by NOW president Patricia Ireland in her keynote address and by several workshops. The conference voted to call a "Spring Offensive Against Violence" in 1995, which will include a "Young Feminists Summit on Violence."

The discussion took up the recent brutal murder of Nicole Brown Simpson, former wife of sports figure O.J. Simpson, and the fact that Nicole Brown Simpson had been a victim of repeated domestic violence by O.J. Simpson. Ireland expressed frustration that the Violence Against Women Act is stalled in congressional committee. "We don't know whether Nicole Brown Simpson's murder could have been prevented by the passage of this bill," Ireland said. "We don't know whether O.J. Simpson killed her. But we know that someone killed her, and we know she was the battered wife of a sports hero, and that the system failed both of them."

Ireland also cautioned that "as we look at the Nicole Brown Simpson story we have to understand that racism is also a disturbing part of society. . . ." She said, "O.J. Simpson has pleaded not guilty and must be treated so until a court proves otherwise."

After an intense discussion and debate in an issue hearing on violence against women, a resolution was put forward calling on Hertz, the company for which O.J. Simpson was a spokesperson, to pay reparations to battered women's services equivalent to the money paid to O.J. Simpson since 1989, when he pleaded no contest to charges of assaulting his wife.

A good part of two plenary sessions was devoted to a decision to launch a campaign for a new Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution in August 1995. A campaign for the ERA in the 1970s and early 1980s failed to win ratification in the required number of state legislatures.

Attacks against abortion clinics

The fight against rightist attacks came up around a number of issues. NOW members participating in coalitions in Arkansas and Ohio announced mobilizations against anti-abortion groups' efforts to shut down area clinics this month.

The conference presented a Women of Courage award to Fay Clayton, who successfully argued the *NOW v. Scheidler* case in the U.S. Supreme Court for the use of federal anti-racketeering legislation to prosecute rightist groups who "conspire" to disrupt the property rights of clinic owners. Some defenders of democratic rights have opposed the anti-racketeering laws, warning that their sweeping powers of search and seizure can be used by the government against unions, women's rights defenders, and others.

NOW leaders also hailed the June 30 Supreme Court ruling allowing judges to establish a "buffer zone" around clinics to prevent disruption by protesters.

In a workshop called "Scapegoating and Exploiting Immigrants," Elizabeth Toledo, NOW national board member from the Southwest Region, described the campaign around the Save Our State (SOS) ballot initiative in California, which would suspend access to social services and public education for any person accused of lacking citizenship or a residence visa, and would require teachers, health care workers, and others to report "apparent illegal immigrants." The burden would be on the accused to prove their status in order to restore social services and prevent deportation.

Dolores Huerta, cofounder and first vice president of the United Farm Workers of America, compared this campaign to the mass deportation of Mexican-born workers during the 1930s depression, calling it a policy of "ethnic cleansing."

She criticized Democratic Party politicians for proposing that health-care services be denied to newly arrived immigrants and blasted leading legislators from California for backing the SOS initiative.

The conference called on the government to end the forced repatriation of Haitian refugees.

'Flush Rush' buttons

Many conference participants wore "Flush Rush" buttons, referring to Rush Limbaugh, a rightist radio and television commentator and author of the best-seller *See I Told You So*. Limbaugh has targeted NOW and other women's rights fighters, calling them "FemiNazis."

In Tampa, Florida, Limbaugh supporters recently drowned out a press conference by NOW protesting the Florida Citrus Commission decision to give Limbaugh \$1 million to promote Florida orange juice.

Correction

The article entitled "General Dynamics workers walk out" in the July 11 *Militant* incorrectly stated that Joe De Cresenza is a 19-year-old machine operator. It should have said that De Cresenza has been a machine operator for 19 years.

2,000 rally to back locked-out Staley workers

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

A dozen cars with United Auto Workers (UAW) flags waving from antennas carried striking Caterpillar

liams, of the Adopt-a-Family program for Staley workers and their families, and United Mine Workers of America vice president Cecil Roberts. A number of unions made financial contributions. □

Striking garment workers in L.A. win support

About 60 people joined an expanded picket line outside the Uni-Hosiery warehouse in Los Angeles June 10. The solidarity action was called in support of a three-month strike against UniHosiery, which produces sweat socks.

Three months ago 80 workers at the factory asked the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Angeles. Also present were members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee.

Two lawsuits by the workers are pending. One suit charges management with sexual harassment. The other asserts that the Latino workers have been treated unfairly by being denied overtime pay and any promotions. □

Cleveland janitors defend union

Members of the Service Employees' International Union (SEIU) Local 47 held a spirited picket line June 20 in front of Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. The workers, many of them Black, Hispanic and women, were protesting plans by the college to hire a nonunion cleaning company, eliminating 70 union jobs.

"I've worked here for nine and a half years," said Alfredo Medina. "It's a good union job with good wages and benefits. Now they want to bring in part-time people and pay them \$4.50 an hour with no benefits."

Mike Murphy, president of SEIU Local 47, explained that the nonunion company only gives its workers 20 hours of work a week but they increase productivity by having the workers wear a vacuum cleaner on their back like a backpack. These "backpacks" have been known to cause back problems and have even caught on fire.

The SEIU, along with other unions, is also in a fight with the city of Cleveland over moves by the administration to privatize many public services.

"We've got a lot of irons in the fire right now," said Murphy. "Many of us in this union think there's got to be a social movement in this country like the civil rights movement to fight for workers."

"Honk your horns!" yelled a group of teenagers who had joined the picket line with their parents. Many car and truck drivers passing by did honk. □



Militant/Cappy Kidd

Solidarity rally June 25 in Decatur, Illinois, to support Staley workers.

ON THE PICKET LINE

workers from UAW Local 974 and their supporters from Peoria to Decatur, Illinois, June 25 to join a rally of 2,000 people in solidarity with A.E. Staley workers.

After working seven months under a company-imposed contract, nearly 800 members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 7837 in Decatur have been locked out for the past year by A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., a corn processing giant. The agreement gutted the grievance procedure, eliminated most seniority rights, and forced workers onto 12-hour rotating shifts without overtime pay.

Teamsters, coal miners, and members of steel, auto, and rubber workers' unions participated in the march and rally. Unionists from 12 states and Canada and students and young people turned out.

The march and rally began around noon at UAW Local 751 union hall where local president Larry Solomon greeted the crowd and explained that the fight by Staley and Caterpillar workers is the same fight. Some 14,000 Caterpillar workers in three states walked out June 21.

"The line is drawn today to stop corporate terrorism," said UPIU Local 7837 president Dave Watts. "We must put these fires out at Cat and Staley, then go to the next fire and put that out."

Several other speakers addressed the crowd, including Barry Wil-

(ILGWU) for help in organizing a union. Almost the entire workforce signed union cards and asked the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to conduct a secret ballot election.

Two days before the NLRB hearing on the election, UniHosiery suspended about 50 of its factory workers, saying it had just discovered their social security numbers were questionable. The company had never questioned the immigrant-status of the workforce before.

Daniel Sosa, a three year veteran at the factory, said, "We were tired of starvation wages, no vacation pay for holidays, and we had no medical coverage. We were not able to miss work due to illness."

"The bosses are not our only enemy — so are the police," he continued. "They back up the bosses and try to sink us. But we will not abandon the picket line. It gives us more conviction to continue. There are two solutions. Either they sign a contract or we shut the company down."

A high point of the picket line was the participation by three members of the Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates.

Other participants came from numerous ILGWU-organized shops, other unions, and from immigrant rights groups like El Rescate and CHIRLA — Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, Los

Union negotiators reach tentative pact with GE

Officials of the 15 unions comprising the Coordinated Bargaining Committee (CBC) voted unanimously June 29 to recommend ratification of a new three-year labor agreement with General Electric to their members. The three-year contract provides wage increases totaling 8.5 percent plus six cost-of-living adjustments. The previous agreement had also raised wages 8.5 percent over three years with five cost-of-living adjustment raises.

The CBC includes the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), United Electrical Workers, and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. IUE members will be voting on the contract through July 6. □

Miners in Canada strike against concessions

Some 365 miners, members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 3019, at Westmin Resources outside Campbell River, British Columbia, remain on the picket line despite the fact the company declared an end to the 14-month-old lockout June 10.

The union bargaining committee had proposed the union go on strike as of 7:31 a.m. June 11. At a June

union meeting with more than 200 members present, no opposition was expressed to the proposal to begin a strike.

The owners of Westmin — which is controlled by Brascan, one of the biggest corporations in Canada — are demanding 70 different concessions. These include pay cuts of up to \$3.01 an hour for laborers, cuts in bonus vacation time, and measures aimed at undermining seniority and safety in the mine.

The Westmin miners have been stepping up their efforts to defeat the company's drive for concessions. On June 3 the CAW Local 3019 Women's Auxiliary organized a march and barbecue in Campbell River.

On the picket line, German and Hadyen Figueroa — brothers who worked as copper miners in Chile before coming to Canada — explained, "We have to stick together, we can't let them break the unions." □

The following people contributed to this week's column: Richard Sorrentino from St. Louis; Gale Shandgold, member of ILGWU Local 482 in Los Angeles; Amy Husk Sanchez, member of United Auto Workers Local 2000 in Avon Lake, Ohio; Beverly Bernardo, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 178 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

LETTERS

High school Model UN

Recently I participated in a Model UN at my high school as the head delegate for Vietnam. I decided very early on that instead of representing Vietnam's actual policy, which is currently very conciliatory towards the U.S., I would instead present a revolutionary socialist policy. I thought that it was more important that my classmates hear someone speak against the U.S. government, as all of the other countries supported or at least went along with that delegation. We wrote our own resolutions; I submitted one on free trade, condemning the protectionism and reactionary moves of the imperialist governments to prevent free trade or make exceptions to it; however, the teacher in charge refused to have it put forth in the Council.

Nevertheless, I accomplished what I wanted on the resolutions of other countries. The U.S. put forth one calling for an end to nuclear weaponry, without mentioning any specific nations; I showed the other delegations that this was in reality a front for its moves against North Korea, and I mocked the hypocrisy of that government, the only one to use an atomic weapon in history. The U.S. also presented a human rights resolution; I condemned that

thinly veiled attack on China and pointed to its connection to American business; in addition, I pointed to several instances where the U.S. is in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They even had the gall to propose a resolution on Haiti, claiming to care about the plight of that nation; I denounced that resolution, too.

I want to thank you, for without the *Militant*, it would have been immensely difficult to accomplish what I did. Your newsweekly informs me of current events and presents a working-class approach to politics, and I used quotes from the *Militant* in nearly every speech. In formulating my positions, writing my speeches, and debating in the Security Council, I hoped to faithfully represent the ideas and opinions of the socialist movement, which the *Militant* stands for. I hope that in two years' time, when I will participate in the next Model UN as a senior, that I can represent Cuba. In any case, the *Militant* will again prove an invaluable tool.

Adam Wolfe
Evansville, Indiana

Ortega's N.Y. speech

About 250 people attended a June 10 meeting here for Daniel Ortega,

Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) secretary general and former president of Nicaragua.

Ortega referred to the grave situation that the people of the south are living through with more hunger, unemployment, and impoverishment, and the total lack of political and economic stability, which is caused by neoliberal policies over the Latin American countries. He calls for nailing down democracy and peace settlements.

The U.S. government is demanding Nicaragua reimburse U.S. citizens, whose properties were nationalized, in 90 days. Otherwise, Washington threatens to cut off economic aid, as well as funds from the World Bank and others. Ortega argues that U.S. citizens affected by the nationalizations should not be privileged before the Nicaraguans that were also nationalized, and all should follow the same law. The current policy of readjustment by the government of Nicaragua, which has lasted for four years, has meant unemployment and recession.

On Cuba, Ortega recognizes the resistance of the Cubans in spite of the attacks. He believes that the embargo against Cuba will be finished the same way as the embargo

against Vietnam.

He ended by saying that the challenges of revolutionaries is to defend the dreams, ideals, and utopians. He affirmed that for the Sandinistas their hopes are not for sale, nor for negotiation.

Jorge Ledesma
Brooklyn, New York

O.J. Simpson story

The media's reluctance to let go of the O.J. Simpson story is related to another phenomenon that may be part of what Greg Rosenberg referred to as the pornographication of politics. It is what some media people call the dumbing-down of the news.

Some see it as running stories that appeal to base instincts which, this notion contends, is mostly what readers care about. But others see it simply as an attempt to foist onto readers stories that have little or no relevance to their everyday lives or to the class concerns of working people.

In recent years industry journals have carried advice from media executives to "go local or die." This concept contends that readers are not concerned about big events elsewhere but only about what happens in their own backyard. As a

result foreign news bureaus are dismantled and international news is stricken from page one. Newspaper staff are encouraged to find neighborhood stories. Articles on jealous lovers, immoral clergy, spectacular car crashes and homicides become standard fare. Some local TV news directors function under the credo "if it bleeds it leads."

This phenomenon is behind the explosion of talk radio and its television component, the Sally, Geraldo and Montel Williams kind of programming, as well as cop and rescue docu-dramas.

A recent example of this phenomenon locally is a story that moved on the national wire a few weeks ago about a suburban Baltimore man whose home burglar alarm rang out of control for five days while he vacationed overseas. It was top news.

Baxter Smith
Baltimore, Maryland

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.

500 demand, 'Free Leonard Peltier'

BY MARY MARTIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Shouting "Free Leonard Peltier," more than 500 supporters of the imprisoned Native American Indian leader marched down Pennsylvania Avenue June 26 to rally across from the White House. They demanded Peltier's release from prison through presidential clemency. Peltier has been imprisoned for 18 years. He was convicted of killing two FBI agents at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala, South Dakota, in 1975 after FBI agents opened fire on an American Indian Movement encampment there.

Though Peltier maintains his innocence and the prosecutor in the case has since conceded the trial did not prove Peltier shot the agents, his requests for a new trial or parole have been denied repeatedly.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, which organizes an ongoing international effort to win freedom for Peltier, sponsored the march and rally. The event coincided with the 19th anniversary of the attack on Oglala. Lisa Farulo, a spokesperson for the defense committee, reported that the march included participants from Germany, the Philippines, France, and the Netherlands. She noted that new layers of young people are starting to get involved in Peltier's defense, citing daily calls and letters to the defense committee's office in Lawrence, Kansas.

Socialist youth get good response at Peltier rally

BY BRIAN MILLER
AND EUGENE FISCHER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C., got a good response from the many young people who came here from different areas to attend the June 26 rally to support Leonard Peltier. The young socialists helped distribute the *Militant* and Pathfinder books at the rally. Sales there included 25 copies and one subscription to the *Militant* and several books and pamphlets.

One young person from West Bend, Wisconsin, had been in Boston a few days earlier, saw fliers for the event, and hopped on a bus to Washington to participate.

Another young participant who stopped by the book table was Dennis Wolfe, a machinist who said he had seen coworkers involved in their union laid off sooner than other workers. Nearly a dozen young people there signed up for more information on the activities of the socialist youth organization.

Brian Miller is a SYOC member in Philadelphia and Eugene Fischer is a member in Washington, D.C.

In a statement read to the rally, Peltier thanked all those who continue to fight for his freedom. "We must stand in unity," he wrote. "When one person's voice is silenced, it is up to the rest of us to cry out."

Speakers at the rally included Alvina Showers, Leonard Peltier's mother, who said, "I know my son and my son is innocent. I am tired of the dirty lies [the government] says about my son."

Also attending the rally were representatives of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. They distributed materials on the case of this union activist, who has been imprisoned for almost six years. Curtis, who worked as a meatpacker in Des Moines, Iowa, was framed up and convicted on rape charges in the midst of a political fight in his plant over defense of immigrant workers facing deportation. Dozens of people stopped by the table to find out more about Curtis's case.

For more information on the Peltier case contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, PO Box 583, Lawrence, KS 66064.



Participants in June 26 rally to support framed-up Indian activist Leonard Peltier

Militant/C. Ostrofsky

Students protest cuts in New Zealand

BY JAMES ROBB

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — A spirited group of 1,500 people marched here July 1, chanting, "What do we want? Free education! When do we want it? Now!"

The demonstration brought together university and technical students, high school students, and teachers. Two groups of high school students marched under their own banners, as did members of the Post Primary Teachers Association, the union of high school teachers.

The action was the latest in a series organized by the Education Action Group at Auckland University to protest the report of the Todd Task Force, a big-business advisory group set up by the government. The task force recommended massive increases in fees paid by tertiary students. Speakers at the rally that followed the march called on Education Minister Lockwood Smith to reject the Todd report or resign.

High fees already force many students to accumulate huge debts. Many participants on the march wore T-shirts showing their personal debt levels. "Debt till death," one placard read.

Protest activity by students across the country has grown significantly this year. Leading up to the July 1 protest, the Auckland University group held weekly organizing meetings, involving representatives of the teachers unions, technical and high school student groups, and others, with the

aim of responding to the wider crisis in the education system. Primary school teachers have issued notice of strike action for mid-July.

One of the most vocal contingents in the July 1 march was a group of more than 100 Maori students. They were mobilized by Te Kawau Maro, which has been organizing to oppose a reported move by the government

to make a final settlement on all Maori land claims, by exchanging Maori land rights under the Treaty of Waitangi for shares in state-owned enterprises as they are sold off. "Our land is not for sale," one Te Kawau Maro placard read.

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

Young socialists fund needs boost

BY BROCK SATTER

NEW YORK — There is only one month left for the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) to meet its goal of raising \$9,000. To date only \$735 has arrived in the SYOC office in New York. While there is some money in the mail and supporters of the socialist youth have pledged an additional \$1,250, more than \$7,000 must still be collected by July 31.

This presents a big challenge to the entire socialist movement. Some have already responded to this challenge. In San Francisco, an auto worker kicked in \$100 at a young socialists forum. In New York, a chemical worker pledged \$250 to the fund drive. More of these kinds of contributions from supporters of the socialist movement are needed for the fund to be a success.

The fund drive is needed to finance the national work of the organizing committee over the summer months, leading up to a national gathering of young socialists during the Socialist Workers Party convention in Oberlin, Ohio, August 3-7. At that meeting the young socialists plan to take another step in building a nationwide organization.

Fund-raising and recruitment

Young socialists groups have been holding fund-raisers in various cities to help meet the goal and to recruit new forces. In San Francisco, young socialists raised nearly \$200 at a raffle during a forum on South Africa by James Warren, who traveled there as part of a *Militant* reporting team in April and May.

In Minneapolis, young socialists raised \$500 during an educational conference July 2-3. Two people joined SYOC there. Along with the other young socialists, these new recruits are planning to go to the Caterpillar picket lines in Illinois and help out with the petition campaign for the Socialist Workers Party candidates in the Minnesota statewide elections. Other socialist educational week-ends are planned in Pittsburgh July 9-10 and New York July 16-17.

In Washington, D.C., young socialists held a picnic where they raised \$50 toward their goal of \$200 for the fund drive. One

participant was a student from Seattle who is studying in Washington, D.C., for the summer and wants to get involved in the young socialists group.

Brock Satter is a member of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee steering committee.

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