

THE MILITANT

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Steelworkers struggle in Ohio
pushes back union busting
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 59/NO. 38 OCTOBER 16, 1995

Simpson jury rejects word of racist, lying cops

BY NAOMI CRAINE

A Los Angeles jury decided unanimously to reject the word of lying, racist cops and voted to acquit O.J. Simpson on two charges of murder October 2. The jury made the right decision.

By the time the jury went into deliberations, the case against the former football star had become, in fact, a trial of the police and their standard method of operation. Particularly damning for the cops and prosecution were audio tapes of their key witness, detective Mark Fuhrman, using repeated racial slurs and bragging about beating up and framing numerous people.

"I think [Simpson] probably did do it," the daughter of juror Anise Ascherback quoted her mother as saying. But "there wasn't enough evidence." The jury voted for acquittal, Ascherback said, "because of Mark Fuhrman."

The murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman was a horrific crime. When their bloodied bodies were found in June, 1994, O.J. Simpson, who had beaten his wife on numerous occasions, became the prime suspect.

The cops did what they always do — they began assembling the case they thought would guarantee a conviction. The rights of the accused, which workers guard jealously, are irrelevant to them.

Fuhrman, by his own admission,

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NAACP sues Minnesota to defend school desegregation

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis NAACP renewed a long-standing effort to defend desegregated schools here, filing suit against the government of Minnesota for violating provisions of the state constitution guaranteeing equal protection under the law and the right to an adequate public education.

The September 19 suit names more than 20 top state officials, including Governor Arne Carlson, the attorney general, and the president of the state Board of Education. It was announced by Minneapolis NAACP chapter president Bill Davis at a news conference on the steps of the Minnesota Judicial Center. The story drew front-page banner headlines in the Twin Cities's main daily newspapers.

Davis explained, "Students in the Minneapolis public schools are receiving an education that is both inadequate as a matter of law because it is segregated and therefore unequal, and inadequate as a matter of fact because it is substandard by any reasonably objective measure."

"We are creating an American apartheid right here in Minneapolis," NAACP chairman Matthew Little added.

A spokesman for the governor termed the suit "counterproductive," and stated the government would "vigorously defend" its record.

The NAACP legal action in Hennepin

Continued on Page 6

Quebec: equality 'yes'

Thousands rally against discrimination, for national rights

BY SUSAN BERMAN

MONTREAL — More than 10,000 people jammed the Montreal Forum for an "Artists for Sovereignty" concert September 30. "We're here tonight because we want equality," François Lamarre, a Quebec government worker, told the *Militant*.

"Oui, oui, oui" (Yes) the crowd chanted, many standing on their seats, before the concert began. The event, featuring many of Quebec's top musical performers, was organized to rally support for a yes vote in the October 30 referendum in Quebec.

"The decisions affecting our lives aren't made by us," Danny Ruel, a construction worker at the concert, explained.

"I'm voting yes because...this is the only way we can defend our national identity and control our own affairs," said another of the thousands of primarily young people here.

The upcoming referendum calls for giving Quebec the "exclusive power to pass its laws, levy all its taxes, and conclude all its treaties" in the framework of a "new economic and political partnership" with the rest of Canada. Quebec's Parti Quebecois government is the main proponent of a yes vote. Large numbers of workers and youth see the referendum as a tool to win the necessary power to fight the systematic discrimination that Quebec's French-



Students carrying Quebec flags in Montreal march against education cutbacks September 20

Militant/Colin McKay

speaking majority has faced since the founding of the Canadian state.

"The federal government wants to cut old-age pensions. With the 'Oui,' we will be able to make our own decisions about unemployment insurance, welfare, and so on," said Hélène Dion. "Voting yes is a matter of dignity. We've been pushed around long enough."

Over 80 percent of Quebec's population of 7 million is French-speaking. Quebecois, 22 percent of Canada's population,

constitute the largest oppressed nationality in Canada. Discrimination on the basis of their language has meant inferior living conditions for Quebecois and increased profits for capitalist employers in Canada.

Through several decades of battles against discrimination and for workers rights, Quebecois succeeded in combating many aspects of their unequal status. With the deepening capitalist crisis, however, conditions facing Quebecois are deteriorating.

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March to end the U.S. economic war against Cuba



- ◆ End the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba
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- ◆ Normalize relations with Cuba
- ◆ Respect Cuba's self determination

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In **Chicago**, contact the Chicago Cuba Coalition (312) 663-0527 • In **San Francisco**, contact the October 14 Coalition to End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba (415) 437-5501 • In **New York**, contact the October 21 Cuba Coalition at Cuba Information Project (212) 227-3422.



IN BRIEF

500,000 teachers strike in Russia

More than half a million teachers in Russia went on a nationwide strike September 26 to protest unpaid wages as well as low pay. According to London's *Financial Times*, the strike was "triggered by severe government underfunding of social services."

Millions of people in Russia have been stung by Moscow's effort to impose an austere budget. Coal miners, who have not been paid for several months, are threatening to launch a national strike in the next few months.

Strike action at Air France

The cabin crews at Air France organized strike action against the French national airline to oppose concessions on work practices and lower pay for new employees. The workforce is opposed to the reorganization measures demanded by the company chairman, Christian Blanc. The airline has lost more than \$2 billion since 1993, when a militant strike in 1993 forced the former Air France chairman to resign.

Italy's ex-prime minister on trial

Giulio Andreotti, former prime minister of Italy, went on trial September 26 faced with charges that he was linked with the Mafia and was an accessory to the murder of Mino Pecorelli. As a journalist investigating Mafia connections in politics, Pecorelli was allegedly blackmailing Andreotti.

Capitalist politicians in Italy have been wracked by scandals over the last several years. Andreotti's trial follows a series of corruption cases that have resulted in the jailing of scores of elected officials.

Thousands protest in S. Korea

Hundreds of thousands of students boycotted classes and nearly 700 students rallied September 29 at Seoul's Sogang University demanding punishment for former South Korean presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, who they say were responsible for the 1980 Kwangju massacre. Chun and Roh were generals who headed the junta that sent troops to crush the pro-democracy rebellion of hundreds of thousands of people in Kwangju.

South Korea's 130,000 cops were put



Women in Okinawa demonstrate in protest of the rape of a schoolgirl by U.S. soldiers. The case has renewed fight of Okinawans against U.S. military bases.

on alert. They attacked the students in several cities, culminating months of protests against the massacre of more than 200 civilians in the uprising 15 years ago. Hanchongryon, a nationwide student group, called for a two-day boycott of classes September 29 to pressure South Korea's National Assembly to invoke a special law to prosecute the two former presidents.

Beijing keeps Iran nuke deal

The Chinese government announced September 29 that it was suspending the sale of two nuclear power reactors to Tehran "for the time being," not canceling the deal as reported by U.S. officials two days earlier. Reza Amrollahi, the head of Iran's nuclear agency, stated in May that he had signed a contract and made a down payment on the reactors in 1994.

The U.S. government has decried the deal since 1993, when the China News

Agency reported an agreement to build nuclear power stations in the Iranian province of Khuzestan. Tensions between Beijing and Washington rose recently, after the U.S. government decided to change 16 years of official policy and allow the president of Taiwan to visit the United States. Beijing considers Taiwan one of its provinces.

Japanese women protest base

"American soldiers still think that they are occupying part of Japan," said Yoko Sumiyoshi, a member of the New Japan Women's Association who was one of 300 women at a September 30 rally protesting the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three U.S. GI's in Okinawa. On September 29, the three soldiers were charged with rape and handed over to Japanese authorities.

Anger over the case has spread and some landlords say they do not want to renew contracts with Washington for use of their land by the U.S. military. The contracts expire in 1996 or 1997. Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota said he would refuse to grant new land rights to the U.S. military despite the handover of the servicemen. "When you consider the family of the victim [the indictment] doesn't mean it's all over," he said.

Tokyo to revamp bank system

The advisory committee to Japan's ministry of finance issued a report September 27 to shore up Japan's crisis-ridden financial system. The committee recommended setting up a new agency to dispose of bad debts. The report came a day after Japan's banking system was

jarred again by the announcement that Daiwa Bank, a major commercial bank, took a \$1.1 billion loss from unauthorized bond trading.

The country's deposit insurance fund, similar to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the United States, was wiped out by the recent bankruptcies of two large credit unions and a bank. Japan's finance ministry reports that the financial institutions are carrying nearly \$400 billion in bad loans.

Paris explodes second bomb, sends more cops to Tahiti

The French government exploded a second nuclear device in the Pacific October 1. The blast on Fangataufa Atoll was several times more powerful than an earlier test at Moruroa Atoll. Paris contends that eight tests are needed to check its nuclear arsenal.

Fearing the angry response of residents of Tahiti and other islands in French Polynesia, Paris flew 180 additional riot cops into the area September 27. Thousands poured out into the streets to protest the first nuclear test September 5 and to oppose French colonial rule. The police force now deployed around the Tahitian capital Papeete now totals more than 800.

Coup attempt in Comoros

Bob Denard, a French mercenary, led a coup attempt against the government of the Comoros Islands September 28. The mercenaries took over the main army compound and captured the country's president, Said Mohamed Djohar. The Comoros, an island nation of 500,000 located between Mozambique and Madagascar, gained independence from France in 1975.

Denard became a mercenary in 1961 and led campaigns against the anticolonial forces fighting for independence in the Congo, Angola, and Zimbabwe when it was white-ruled Rhodesia. Denard also worked in the service of the hated Shah of Iran and the old apartheid regime of South Africa. Denard fought in the French army against the liberation movements in Vietnam and Algeria.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Self-determination for Quebec

The fight against discrimination and for national and language rights for the Quebecois is a struggle that deserves the support of working people around the world. The 'Militant' brings you coverage of this fight, along with the fightbacks against government austerity programs and attacks on working peoples' rights in Quebec and in all Canada. Don't miss a single issue!



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

'The British gov't has blood on its hands'

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON — In a landmark ruling the European Court of Human Rights condemned the killing of three Irish activists by British SAS troops in Gibraltar, a British colony on the southern tip of Spain, in 1988. The Court found that there was no justification for the shooting deaths of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann, and Sean Savage. The ruling has added weight to the claim, long made by fighters for Irish freedom, that the British army operated a "shoot-to-kill" policy in the course of its military occupation of Northern Ireland.

The action of the European Court comes after years of struggle by the relatives of the three victims to secure condemnation of the killings and to win compensation. Douglas Hurd, then British Foreign Secretary blocked the relatives from taking the Ministry of Defense to court in Britain. In 1991 a High Court in Belfast refused the relatives a judicial review of the government's decision to block their claim for compensation.

Niall Farrell, brother of Mairead Farrell, welcomed the ruling and said that it was now clear to everyone that the British government "has blood on its hands."

Britain's 'dirty war'

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams explained that "this guilty verdict is only the tip of the iceberg in Britain's 'dirty war' in Ireland; a war in which almost 400 people have died at the hands of the British state forces."

"There is now a clear need for an independent and internationally based judicial investigation into all disputed killings by British forces," he continued.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine denounced the Court's verdict as "ludicrous," while John Major ordered

government officials to prepare options for Britain's response. These are expected to include pulling out of the European Convention of Human Rights, and ending the right of British citizens to appeal to the European Court.

Only Turkey has had more claims against it than Britain in the European Court. The court's rulings are not binding and it did not request that the British government pay compensation to the relatives, only their legal costs.

In parliament, Labour Party spokesperson Jack Straw said that the government was bound to observe the decision, provoking a sharp exchange with Heseltine. Mo Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesperson later claimed that Heseltine had distorted Labour's position.

Immediately following the killings in Gibraltar, Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister, tried to justify the deaths by claiming that army experts had defused a 500 pound bomb found in the victims' car. But government sources were quickly forced to admit that the three were unarmed and that no bombs were found.

Spanish police aided the British government in its attempts to justify the killings.

Mass protest against British action

Several days of mass protests in Belfast followed the killings in 1988. Tens of thousands took part in the funeral procession, which was estimated to be the largest since the funeral march for hunger striker Bobby Sands in 1981.

Three participants in the funerals of Farrell, McCann, and Savage were killed by gunmen at the Milltown Cemetery. The armed assault took place in full view of two British helicopters that hovered overhead.

The European Court ruling has fueled discussion among working people in the



British troops patrol streets in Northern Ireland in 1993. London is under increasing pressure as its "dirty war" against Irish freedom fighters comes to light.

United Kingdom about the role of the British army in Northern Ireland. At the factory where this reporter works several workers of Irish descent welcomed the ruling. One of them commented that "this has been going on for years, it's about time Britain was condemned for its violence." Another explained that "the suffering of the Irish has been hidden from people in this country for too long."

Other workers, however, expressed support for the British government. Following a discussion one of the foremen demanded to know what different workers on his section thought of the ruling. One worker from Sri Lanka said that he thought the SAS were correct to shoot Farrell, McCann, and Savage because they were "terrorists," but even he added that Britain was the source of the problems in

Ireland, "just like they've messed up other countries that were once British colonies."

The European Court ruling was welcomed by Amnesty International and by the Irish government in Dublin.

The Irish republican newspaper *An Phoblacht* commented that "not since the court's judgment on torture in internment camps in the Six Counties in the 1970s has Britain been so internationally exposed."

In a further development in the days following the European Court's ruling the British government has been condemned by a British High Court for, "unreasonably and unlawfully" delaying the parole hearings of the five longest serving Irish political prisoners. Each has completed 20-year terms and could only be legally imprisoned if the Parole Board recommended their continuing detention.

\$17,000 raised so far as Militant Fund takes off

BY PAUL MAILHOT

After the first full week of the Militant Fund drive, supporters of the socialist press are nearly at the \$17,000 mark, and many areas report plans to get on schedule next week. The 10-week effort began on September 23 and will end December 3. To be on target for this scoreboard, supporters in each city should have sent in 10 percent of their goal.

Because the *Militant* is a working-class newspaper, it cannot depend on the contributions of wealthy individuals or big advertisers to survive. Hundreds and hundreds of donations from workers, farmers, and youth make it possible to keep the paper coming out and presenting a working-class voice in politics.

While we are off to a good start, backers of the *Militant* should strive to keep up the momentum, keep on schedule, and even get ahead. The funds are needed now!

The staff of the *Militant* and its sister Spanish-language monthly publication *Perspectiva Mundial* are getting a lot of help from supporters in Brooklyn, New York, to organize the drive to raise over \$125,000. Every week volunteers from Brooklyn take responsibility for entering payments on a computer and keeping track of our progress. A special team is on hand Tuesday evenings after 5:00 p.m. to make sure the payments that arrive by express mail to meet the weekly deadline are entered in time for publication in the *Militant* chart.

"Careful attention is paid to each individual contribution," said Nancy Rosenstock, an airline worker and member of the International Association of Machinists in Brooklyn who is coordinating the volunteer work. "Checking the name, address, pledge, and amount of every payment that comes in is a big job. But if it is

done well we can really chart the progress we are making and where we need to step up our efforts."

Supporters of the Militant Fund in Brooklyn also put together information for the column that will accompany each week's scoreboard. The aim of the weekly column is to share ideas on how the drive is being organized in local areas — events that are being planned for the fund, what unionists and young people have to say about the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and plans for reaching out to new people to raise money.

To help local areas keep better track of the collection of pledges in their areas, the Brooklyn volunteers plan to send out periodic mailings to all fund coordinators with updated lists of contributors and payments, along with forms to facilitate sending in regular payments.

Many supporters are now planning for special Militant Fund rallies to boost financial support for the socialist press. In some cases national speakers will be available for these events, but supporters in local areas will want to draw primarily on worker correspondents in your region who have been reporting on developments in the class struggle for the *Militant* from Cuba, Japan, Mexico, and other countries, as well as from labor battles in the United States. Around the world, *Militant* supporters who have recently traveled to Ireland for sales and reporting, to India for a Cuba solidarity conference, to the Cuba Lives youth festival, and elsewhere are potential Militant Fund speakers.

Putting a program together that includes a talk on the big political developments that the *Militant* covers every week, along with short speeches by supporters of the paper, will be a big boost to our fund-raising efforts.

Just a reminder: All checks, made out to the "Militant Fund," should be received at the Militant Business Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays to be counted in the scoreboard. Inquiries about the fund and notes for upcoming *Militant* articles should be faxed to the Pathfinder Bookstore in Brooklyn at (718) 399-3492.

\$125,000

Militant Fund

	Goal	Paid	Percent
\$125,000			
Australia	\$400	\$20	
Britain			
London			
Manchester		\$20	
Canada			
Montreal		\$7	
Toronto		\$5	
Vancouver			
France		\$4	
Greece	\$50		
New Zealand			
Christchurch	\$650	\$262	40%
Auckland	\$2,470	\$640	26%
Wellington	\$80		
Puerto Rico	\$100	\$100	100%
Sweden	\$750		
United States			
Philadelphia	\$6,000	\$2,510	42%
Twin Cities	\$6,500	\$2,518	39%
Salt Lake City	\$3,800	\$1,275	34%
Atlanta	\$4,500	\$1,450	32%
Birmingham	\$3,700	\$657	18%
Newark	\$8,000	\$1,167	15%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$1,455	15%
Los Angeles	\$10,000	\$1,487	15%
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$725	11%
Houston	\$3,500	\$350	10%
Boston	\$5,000	\$475	10%
Greensboro, NC	\$1,800	\$170	9%
Detroit	\$6,750	\$550	8%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$525	8%
Miami	\$2,500	\$155	6%
New York	\$7,500	\$285	4%
Cleveland	\$2,100	\$71	3%
Pittsburgh	\$5,000	\$150	3%
Washington, DC	\$3,300	\$60	2%
Des Moines	\$3,200	\$50	2%
Chicago	\$7,000	\$100	1%
Peoria, IL	\$2,000	\$25	1%
Morgantown, WV	\$2,600	\$25	1%
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Labor news in the 'Militant'

From the Detroit newspaper strike to labor struggles around the world, the *Militant* is invaluable for working-class fighters. Subscribe today!

Bomb trial suspects railroaded to prison

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, a blind Muslim cleric, was convicted on October 1 of masterminding a plot to blow up the United Nations headquarters, the Lincoln and Holland tunnels leading into New York City, the George Washington Bridge, and the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). No physical evidence linking him to any crime was presented by the U.S. government prosecutors.

Nine others along with Rahman were railroaded to jail on Civil War-era seditious conspiracy charges, which carry a 20-year sentence. In all, the 10 defendants were found guilty on 48 of 50 counts brought against them.

"The message here is put a Muslim on trial and they'll convict him," Rahman's lawyer Lynne Stewart told the *Washington Post*. The verdict was a victory for fear and prejudice, she said.

"I don't feel this case was decided on the facts, on the evidence," added Valerie Amsterdam, an attorney for another of the defendants.

Rahman, who is 57 years old and an outspoken critic of the Hosni Mubarak regime in Egypt, was arrested in 1993 and has been held in a New York jail since then. He now faces the possibility of life in prison without parole.

In a case of double jeopardy, the jury also convicted El Sayyid Nosair, one of the 10 defendants, of the 1990 murder of Meir Kahane, a right-wing politician from Israel. Nosair was acquitted of these murder charges in a state trial in 1991.

The sedition trial was linked to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, in which six people were killed and scores wounded, although the defendants were not accused of that crime. The key witness in the case was a self-admitted liar, Emad Salem, who received more than \$1 million for his services as an FBI informer.

Salem admitted in early March at the U.S. District Court in Manhattan that he had lied to almost everybody he ever met. Salem told the court how he built his life around a tangled web of deceit, which included lying to his wife, his mistress, and intelligence agents in the United States and in Egypt, where he was born.

Salem also worked part-time for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, snitching on undocumented workers in exchange for the government's assistance in obtaining work permits for his family and citizenship for himself. Salem, who testified for a month, is now in the federal witness relocation program, where he receives a \$2,700-a-month living allowance.

Salem rented a garage in Queens that was wired for surveillance by the FBI to entrap the defendants. In one videotape showing several defendants supposedly concocting a "witches brew" of explosives, Salem is boasting about his skills as an explosives expert, advising the alleged conspirators on technical matters.

Three of the four defendants who testified explained they thought they were preparing to go to Bosnia to help Muslims fight the Serbs. The fourth defendant stated that he was duped into believing that he was aiding plans to attack a Serb



Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman in Brooklyn in 1993. Rahman was railroaded to prison along with nine others. U.S. government offered no physical evidence in trial.

warehouse in New York where arms were stored. "They baited these guys with Bosnia and halfway through they switched to talking about American targets," said Amsterdam.

The evidence against Rahman was "scant," as the *New York Times* put it. "It still remains unclear who was calling the shots," admits the *Times* in a news analysis of the trial, "nor did the public learn much." At the same time the big-business editors of the paper were quick to hail the verdict as "justified."

The only evidence linking Rahman and still-to-be prosecuted Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the so-called mastermind of the World Trade Center explosion, were a few

telephone calls. Yousef is scheduled to stand trial for the blast early next year.

The last time the U.S. government attempted to silence critics of its policies through a seditious conspiracy trial was a case against a group of Puerto Rican nationalists in Chicago in 1987. Under these undemocratic charges a person can be railroaded to prison without having committed any criminal act. The conviction is based solely on conspiring "to overthrow, or put down, or destroy by force the government of the United States." The law was enacted after the Civil War against supporters of the old slavery and "amended in 1918, with Socialists and anarchists in mind," says the *Times*.

Former Algerian president Ben Bella backs Curtis

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "I have the honor of asking you to grant parole to Mr. Mark Curtis," Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the workers and farmers government formed in Algeria following a revolution in 1962, wrote to the Iowa State Board of Parole September 22.

Ben Bella is 79 years old. He spent 10 years in prison under French colonial rule. When the workers and farmers government was overthrown in 1965, he was thrown back in prison for the next 15 years.

Ben Bella also wrote directly to Curtis offering his continuing solidarity and support and wrote to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, saying, "Count on my help, even though modest. Be brave, in friendship, Ben Bella."

Ben Bella is one of hundreds of political activists, unionists and supporters of democratic rights who have written to the Iowa Board of Parole in the last two months urging that Mark Curtis be freed on parole.

Curtis was a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union who was beaten by Des Moines police and framed up on charges of rape and burglary in 1988 while participating in a public

campaign to defend 17 co-workers from El Salvador and Mexico seized in an immigration raid at his plant. He is a long-time political activist and member of the Socialist Workers Party.

"Speaking as a member of the Canadian working public who has been made familiar with the case of Mark Curtis," wrote Tim Bettger, a miner from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, serving time in a frame-up for his union activity while on strike, "I fail to see the justice or the anticipated rehabilitation by the handling of his or any other case in this manner."

Unionists from many other countries also have written the board. "Curtis is a trade union fighter and a socialist not a rapist," wrote Vasilis Papis, a member of the Garment, Textile and Leather Workers Union in Athens, Greece. "He has served more than the average prison term for the crimes he has unjustly been convicted of. Keeping him longer in jail only shows the political nature of this case."

Delay is due to political activities

"Our workplace club has followed, for some years now, the case of Mark Curtis," wrote Bert Jagerby, club chairman of the Swedish Foodworkers Union at the AB

Pripps Brewery in Bromma, Sweden. "Whatever the discussion about the legality, or otherwise, of Mark's conviction, the fact is that Mark Curtis now fills all of Iowa's requirements for conditional release, on parole."

"The only reason we can now see for any more delay, in Mark's release, is due to his political and union activities, as all other requirements have been met," he added.

"Our Union Federation of Postal and Telecommunications Workers asks you respectfully to grant Mark Curtis the right to freedom on parole," wrote Annick Coupé, secretary general of the French federation. "We have followed the evolution of this case for several years and we are convinced that Mark Curtis is the victim of a judicial frame-up for his political ideas."

A number of political leaders in France have also added their organizations' voices to the call for Curtis's freedom.

"Under the laws of Iowa, he meets, to our knowledge, the conditions to be 'free on parole.' This is why in the name of the rights of man, we ask you to grant to Mark Curtis the right to this freedom on parole," wrote Roland Wlos in a letter on behalf of the Committee in Defense of the Freedoms and the Rights of Man in France and in the World.

Patrick Baudouin, president of the International Federation of Human Rights, wrote that the organization has been "particularly attentive to the developments in the international campaign to win freedom on parole for Mark Curtis." He explains that they continue to support the request that Curtis be granted parole as soon as possible.

Political persecution

"I am urging you to grant parole to Mark Curtis without further delay," wrote Dion Martin, regional organizer of the National Distribution Union in the Central Region of New Zealand. "It is becoming obvious to international observers like myself that this delay amounts to nothing short of political persecution."

"Having studied the facts of the case I am convinced of the innocence of Mark Curtis and believe that justice demands his immediate release," wrote Maurice Quinlivan, coordinator of London Saoirse, an international organization fighting for the release of Irish political prisoners. "I do

hope you will look favourably on my plea and grant Mark Curtis immediate parole."

Activists in Iowa and across the United States also continue to send letters to the board.

"I have followed Mark Curtis' case for over a year now," wrote Juan Estrada, vice-president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Perry, Iowa, and president of the Perry League of United Latin American Citizens. "I became interested in his case when I saw how he was beaten by the cops and when I learned that he was a union activist in a meat packing plant and had spoken out in defense of the rights of immigrant workers at a meeting in protest of a raid by the Immigration and Naturalization Service."

"He has certainly been kept in jail and denied parole as punishment for his political views," Estrada continued. "Any non-political person with a similar record in prison would have been paroled by now. Please! Do the right thing now. Parole Mark Curtis."

Roxanne Gould, an activist in the fight for justice against the police murder of Kimberly Frazier in Sioux City, Iowa, wrote, "Obviously, Mark Curtis has been seen as a threat for some time by those entities who support the status quo, such as the FBI, for his political activities around the civil war in El Salvador, the management at Swift's meatpacking plant, and the Des Moines Police Department for his socialist beliefs and activities, particularly around immigrants' rights."

On September 22 Richard Trujillo, vice-president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 in San Jose, California, forwarded a petition signed by 48 delegates and guests who attended the 51st international convention of the union in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"The case of union brother Mark Curtis has prompted our interest and serious concern. We respectfully submit, brother Curtis should be paroled immediately. He has definitely earned it," the petition stated.

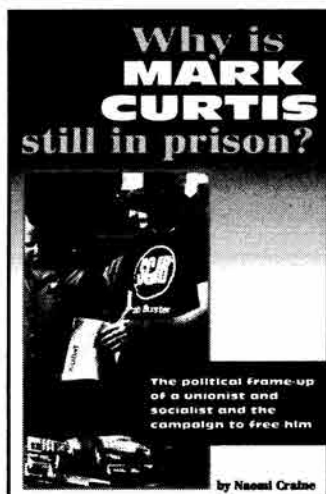
The defense committee is continuing to gather letters to present to the board until October 17, when the parole board is planning to meet and decide whether to grant Curtis a hearing this year.

Letters can be addressed to the Iowa State Board of Parole and sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, for delivery.

Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?

The Political Frame-Up of a Unionist and Socialist and the Campaign to Free Him

by Naomi Craine



Mark Curtis is a union activist and socialist who was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time he was involved in a struggle to defend 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers arrested in an immigration raid at the packinghouse where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa. This new pamphlet explains what happened to Curtis, and the stakes for workers, farmers, youth, and other democratic-minded people in demanding his release.

Pamphlet, \$6

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Or contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

Reach out for new readers!

Join the Militant
subscription drive

Militant 1,950
Perspectiva Mundial 525
New International 750

S E P T E M B E R 2 3 - N O V E M B E R 1 9

Sell 'Militant' subscriptions, build October Cuba actions!

BY LAURA GARZA

After a week of concerted effort to meet new people interested in reading the socialist press, the international circulation drive is off to a good start with sales of 240 subscriptions to the *Militant*. This puts us just about on schedule with 12 percent of the goal of 1,950 in hand. Several areas are discussing raising their target for the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* as we have already sold 116 out of our goal of 525, some 22 percent!

During the next two weeks getting out the socialist press will be part of a stepped up effort to build regional actions against U.S. policy toward Cuba. Events are set for Chicago and San Francisco on October 14 and New York City on October 21. Getting out leaflets and posters publicizing the actions is part of what each team that goes out to a worksite or campus will be concentrating on along with showing people the unmatched coverage of the Cuban revolution that the *Militant* provides.

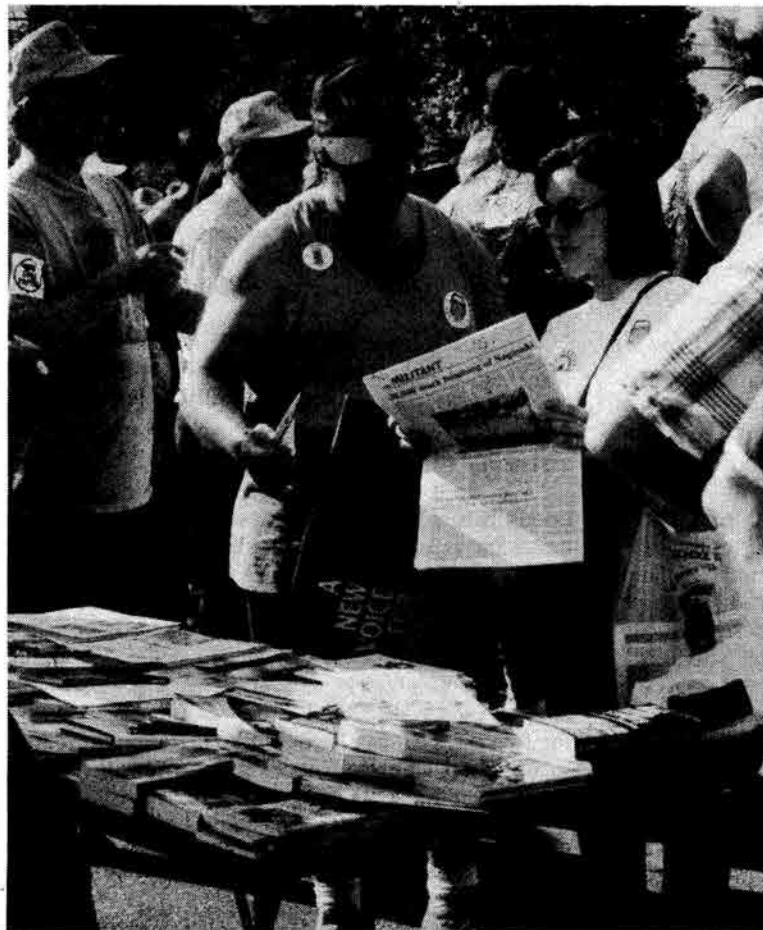
Some extra attention will have to be paid to promoting *New International* magazines. Featuring them prominently on literature tables and having one or two along on door-to-door sales has helped to draw attention to them. Having the several editions of the magazine that have been published in French and Spanish every time we go out is one lesson drawn by socialists campaigning in New York. Teams that went to Harlem, the South Bronx, Chinatown, and Queens all found French-speaking workers interested in revolutionary literature and plans are being made to stock up on French titles for the rest of the drive.

Reports of the response the socialist press is getting should be sent in each week. All subscriptions received in the offices of the *Militant* by Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. will be counted in the scoreboard. Each area should also fax in a report on how many copies of the *New International* have been sold.

ATHENS, Greece — Four supporters of the *Militant* organized five sales in the opening week of the circulation drive. This included two visits to the town of Elefsina, sight of some of the largest shipyards of the Eastern Mediterranean. Workers there are facing threats of layoffs and closing of the shipyard.

The team also distributed flyers at a construction workers rally for a forum sponsored by the supporters of the *Militant* and the Pan African Association of Greece on "The Economic Crisis and the Fight for Immigrant Rights." Close to 50 people attended the event including immigrant workers from a dozen countries. They joined in the discussion and debate that went on into the evening in three languages on the roots of racism in Greece and Europe, and on how immigrants can fight for their rights.

A high school student bought a



Militant/John Steele

Selling socialist press at rally to support Detroit newspaper strike

subscription to the *Militant*, and a copy of "Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War" in Greek was sold. Supporters of the socialist press have taken a goal of selling 15 copies of the Greek version of that article, and six have been sold so far. Forum participants bought several other titles on South Africa, Cuba, and Palestine, and more than a dozen of the translations of articles from the *Militant*. Two renewals of *Militant* subscriptions have also been sold recently.

Georges Mehrabian
and Natasha Terlexis

LOS ANGELES — Six teams were fielded to political activities on the first Saturday of the campaign to win new readers to the socialist press including one to an affirmative action teach-in held at the United Auto Workers Local 148 hall where one *Militant* subscription was sold.

Another team participated in a march and rally in Oxnard, an agricultural town northwest of Los Angeles. Several months ago, a group of women workers at the Nabisco plant in Oxnard filed sex discrimination charges against the company. Among their complaints was the fact that the company wouldn't allow them to leave the line to use the bathroom. Some of the women became ill with bladder infections.

Not long after the suit was filed, the company announced plans to close the plant. The workers, mostly immigrants from Mexico, fought back. Their local of the Teamsters union organized a march to demand jobs and justice. Members of the Teamsters, the National Organization for

Women, and the Chicano student group MEChA spoke at a rally after the march. Eight subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold and two to the *Militant*, as well as three copies of *Nueva Internacional*.

Pat Nixon

ATLANTA — A team went door-to-door in a Mexican neighborhood in Dalton, a center of the carpet industry in northwest Georgia. INS agents had raided several carpet mills the week before, and workers reported that in one case nearly the entire second shift of more than 100 people was arrested.

Four people eagerly signed up for subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*. A young *Militant* subscriber living in Dalton joined the sales team and said he was impressed by how receptive the immigrant workers were to the discussions we had and to the socialist press.

Marla Puziss

TWIN CITIES, Minnesota — It's not just the lead articles that sell the *New International* magazine. We sold a copy of no. 5 in English to a city truck driver in Madison, Wisconsin. He'd graduated from the university with a degree in Portuguese five years ago and was attracted to the article, "Why Cuban Volunteers Are In Angola." The article discusses the role of Cuban troops in helping to deal a decisive blow to the army of apartheid South Africa when it invaded Angola. He was so pleased with his find that he went and bought coffee for the team.

Michael Pennock

END OF WEEK ONE

City	Militant goal	Sold	%	PM goal	PM sold	NI goal	NI sold
United States							
Indiana	10	3	30%	0		0	
Cleveland	40	9	23%	10	3	15	
Philadelphia	75	16	21%	15	1	15	
Birmingham, AL	49	10	20%	5		15	
Salt Lake City	50	10	20%	15	2	15	
Twin Cities, MN	70	12	17%	12	2	20	3
Chicago	65	11	17%	20	5	25	2
San Francisco	98	15	15%	30		60	1
Miami	60	9	15%	20	6	30	
Denver	7	1	14%	3	1	3	
New York	120	16	13%	40	20	55	4
Newark, NJ	130	17	13%	35	13	40	1
Seattle	70	9	13%	15	3	20	
Atlanta	55	7	13%	18	6	15	
Greensboro, NC	55	7	13%	10	1	10	
Houston	55	7	13%	20	5	16	
Brooklyn	160	20	13%	50	12	50	
Peoria, IL	32	4	13%	2		8	
Detroit	65	8	12%	10	2	20	1
Des Moines	50	6	12%	25	4	20	
Los Angeles	120	12	10%	75	18	75	3
Pittsburgh	65	6	9%	5	1	15	1
Boston	40	2	5%	8	2	16	5
Washington, DC	45	1	2%	15		20	
Cincinnati	8		0%	2		2	
Morgantown, WV	48		0%	2			
New Haven	5		0%	1		2	
Tucson	5		0%	2		2	
Total U.S.	1652	218	13%	465	107	584	21
Britain							
London	35		0%	10	1	25	3
Manchester	40	7	18%	1	1	20	0
Sheffield	12	1	8%	1		3	
Total	87	8	9%	12	2	48	3
Canada							
Toronto ^	50	1	2%	10		25	
Vancouver	45	4	9%	6		20	
Montreal	50	4	8%	12	1	30	
Total	145	9	6%	28	1	75	0
Greece	5	1	20%	1		4	1
Sweden							
Malmö	2	0	0%	2		1	
Stockholm	20	3	15%	15	3	20	2
Total	22	3	14%	17	3	21	2
New Zealand							
Auckland	18		0%	1		5	1
Christchurch	8	1	13%	1		3	
Wellington	2		0%	0		1	
Total	28	1	4%	2	0	9	1
Australia	15	0	0%	3	1	12	2
France	6		0%	5		20	
*Iceland	10		0%	1		3	
Puerto Rico	2		0%	6	2	4	
International Total	1972	240	12%	540	116	780	30
Goal/Should be at	1950	244	13%	525	66	750	94

* tentative goal ^ increased goal

IN THE UNIONS

IN THE UNION						
Australia						
AWU-FIME	2			0		0
Canada						
USWA	5		0%	0		2
New Zealand						
MWU	2		0%	0		0
Sweden						
Metal union						
United States						
IAM	59	3	5%	9	1	17
UAW	65		0%	10		17
USWA	28		0%			
UTU	58		0%	3		17
U.S. Total	210	3	1%	22		51

NAACP desegregation suit

Continued from front page

County District Court was joined by seven public school students, four Black and three white, from pre-school to junior high school levels.

Two days later, the St. Paul NAACP announced it may sue that city's school system in response to a discriminatory pattern of low test scores, high drop-out rates, and disciplinary action against Black students.

Davis told the Minneapolis news conference that the main elements of a favorable court decision would include a desegregation remedy involving school districts in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Minneapolis school system is currently 62 percent Black, Latino, Asian, and American Indian, while the suburban schools are overwhelmingly white.

The NAACP also stressed continued use of busing, plans for improved student achievement, and increased access to integrated housing throughout the area.

Government pushes school vouchers

These goals come in the midst of mounting bipartisan efforts to abort the current Minneapolis desegregation plan, and a full-court press by Governor Carlson to win approval for a "school voucher" plan that would devastate the public schools.

Such attacks cap a more than two-decade tug-of-war between partisans and foes of equal education in the public schools here.

In 1972, the NAACP sued the city of Minneapolis for segregating the public schools. Under pressure from recent civil rights victories nationally, Federal District Court Judge Earl Larson mandated school desegregation.

In 1973, the State Board of Education adopted a plan for Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth, Minnesota's three largest cities. Larson considered the case closed in 1983. But by 1989, the board began reconsidering its proposal.

In June of this year, in an effort spearheaded by Minneapolis mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, a liberal Democrat, the Minneapolis Board of Education voted to gut the 22-year-old desegregation plan in favor of "community schools"—the mayor's cosmetic term for the segregationist code of "neighborhood schools."

The new plan, set to take effect in 1997, eliminates all busing except for students who choose "magnet" schools. Given the pattern of segregated neighborhoods, public education would inevitably revert to a dual school system, one predominantly

white and another predominantly Black, Latino, Asian, and Indian.

The historic 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court held that such systems were "inherently unequal" because of racial discrimination.

"There are going to be people who think we're trying to undermine decisions of the past," stated Sayles Belton, who is Black. "but we've got to take risks."

While willing to take the "risk" of ensuring segregated schools for Black and other minority students by ending the already inadequate plan currently in force, the mayor and her backers have yet to explain how affordable, integrated housing in predominantly white neighborhoods for tens of thousands of Black, Latino, Asian, and Indian families will be built to sustain nonexistent, desegregated "community schools."

The State Board of Education has yet to rule on the Minneapolis decision. But recent inaction by the board on formal reports of growing numbers of schools out of compliance with its own desegregation guidelines — schools that have become increasingly resegregated — indicate its likely course.

At the same time, led by Governor Carlson, the big-business media continues a public relations campaign for "school vouchers."

This scheme would offer parents public moneys to choose private or religious schools for their children, in the name of "choice," violating the constitutional separation of church and state.

The aim of the voucher gimmick is to slash funding for the public schools, leaving them underutilized, understaffed, and in disrepair. The schools would become prisons for remaining students whose working-class parents, despite "stipends," would be unable to afford the rising cost of increasingly privatized education.

A new poll here, announced in the wake of the NAACP suit, found that 75 percent of respondents favored "neighborhood" schools, and 57 percent backed the "voucher" system.

By demanding the government live up to the letter and spirit of the law, the NAACP's Davis said, "We are swimming against the tide."

Earlier this year, the Connecticut Supreme Court upheld the legality of the massively segregated Hartford public school system, in an NAACP lawsuit filed along similar lines as the newly launched legal challenge here.

In July, the state of Missouri and the Kansas City school board ended court-ordered state funding for busing, despite proof that the result would be resegregated schools.

In Boston, opponents of an affirmative action plan at the prestigious Boston Latin public high school launched a campaign in August to overturn an admissions policy that grew directly out of the 1974-76 desegregation battle.

Most recently, on September 12, Federal District Judge Richard Matsch ruled in favor of a decision by elected officials in Denver to end busing to achieve desegregation and return to a "neighborhood school" system.

"Having neighborhood schools back helps us to rebuild the neighborhoods," stated Denver's Democratic mayor Wellington Webb, who is Black.

"Black neighborhoods were also shattered by busing," asserted Donna Good, Webb's educational assistant.

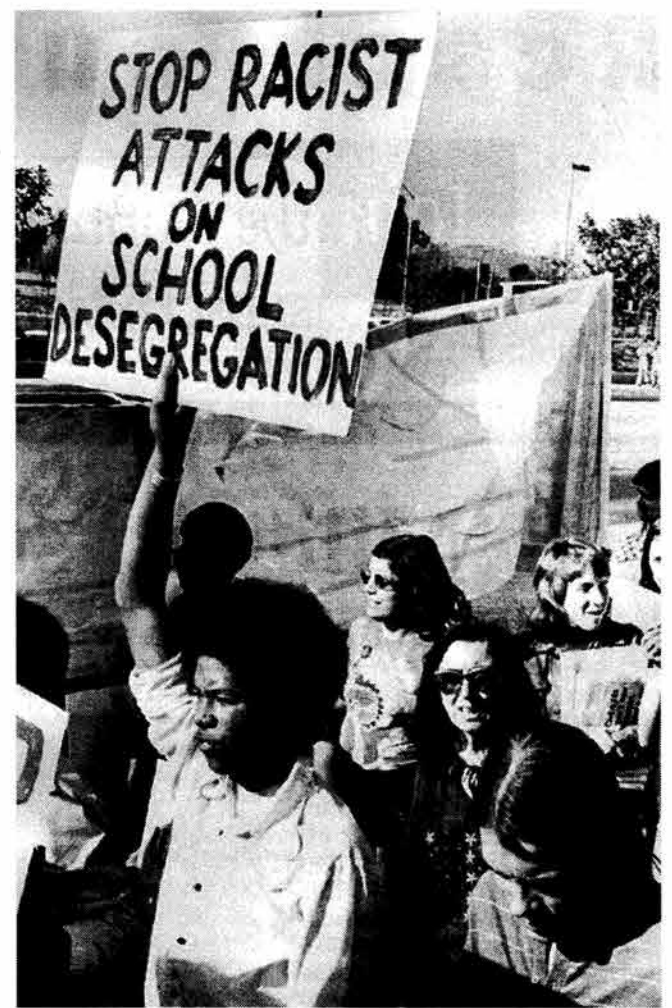
"We want to see integrated neighborhoods before [neighborhood schools] occur," Davis of the Minneapolis NAACP said in response to Twin Cities proponents of an end to desegregation.

'Neighborhood schools'

"If their neighborhood schools were inadequate," Davis stated, "they would be the first ones to say 'I would like my child to be taken wherever necessary to get a good education.'"

In the recent Minneapolis school board primary election, Socialist Workers candidate Michael Pennock, a chemical worker at 3M in suburban Cottage Grove and a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 6-418, stood out among 23 candidates as the only one who defended desegregation and opposed voucher-based attacks on the public schools.

"I grew up in the 'old South,' and I heard the rhetoric of 'neighborhood schools,'" Pennock said at several meet-



Boston rally in support of school desegregation in 1970s. Minneapolis NAACP suit is part of fight across the country to defend gains of previous antiracist struggles.

ings and candidates debates. "They were advocated by segregationist bigots like [Alabama governor] George Wallace and [Georgia governor] Lester Maddox. Now we may have a mayor who is Black, but the result will be the same — segregated schools and working people divided by the bosses' government."

"There needs to be a fight," Pennock stressed, "to explain why equality in education is in the interests of all working people. The same forces who want to 'voucher' public education to death start by attacking desegregation. And working people won't be able to stop the Democrats and Republicans from privatizing public education unless we unite to defend desegregation."

Pennock told the *Militant* he "fully supports the Minneapolis NAACP's suit against the government of Minnesota."

Jon Hillson is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 9198 in Roseville, Minnesota.

Profit sharks take over Pennsylvania public school

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — The Turner Elementary School in Wilkinsburg, just outside of Pittsburgh, became the first public school in the country to be operated by a private company with its own staff September 5.

In March, the Wilkinsburg school board hired Alternative Public Schools Inc. (APS), a company run by two Nashville, Tennessee, businessmen who have never run a school. The company promised that for \$5,400 a child (the board says it currently spends around \$8,000) it would lengthen the school year, provide before- and after-school programs, organize individualized learning plans, and improve student achievement.

The Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), which represents the Wilkinsburg Education Association, immediately filed suit on behalf of the teachers at Turner. As a result of the privatization 15 teachers were laid off and 9 were reassigned, in spite of the fact that there was a contract between the school board and the teachers union.

The community is split on the issue. "I think it is going to be a good thing, because I think the children now will have a chance to learn," one parent told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

At the same time a group of Wilkinsburg residents has gotten together to oppose the privatization scheme. They call themselves Wilkinsburg Residents Against Profiteering (WRAP) and are working with the union to get the courts to overturn the school board decision. Supporters of WRAP and union teachers protested outside Turner Elementary on

the first day of teacher orientation, August 28. Picket signs said, "Keep Turner public" and "No scabs."

The Wilkinsburg case is just one of many attacks on public education and the teachers unions that are occurring around the country.

In Michigan, teachers are fighting in court to overturn a new state law that would levy fines if they strike. In Chicago, a state law froze salaries for 18 months and took away the union's right to bargain over issues such as class size. In Indiana, the State Teachers Association will not be able to bargain with school districts to assess fees to nonmember teachers, even though those teachers receive the benefits of any contract negotiated. And in California, Governor Pete Wilson has called for eliminating lifetime tenure and repealing the entire state education code, which includes protections for teachers and their retirement system.

In Wisconsin, so-called school reform has taken the form of promoting school vouchers. In 1990 the state legislature allowed Milwaukee to grant \$3,600 coupons to children of families earning less than \$26,000, to be used toward private school tuition. In July of this year the legislature extended the voucher program so that they could be used at religious schools. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the teachers union went to court and got an injunction stopping the program. In a lively *Militant* Labor Forum held here September 15, these issues were addressed in a panel discussion.

Butch Santicola, director of organizing

for the PSEA, explained that privatization is "simply education for profit." He explained that the Landmark Legal Foundation, a national conservative group, is representing Alternative Public Schools and the Wilkinsburg school board in court at no cost to the litigants. Santicola said privatization is an attack on the right to a public education, as well as the rights of teachers to bargain collectively.

Eugene Beard Jr., the chairperson of the education committee of the Pittsburgh NAACP, also addressed the forum. He spoke against the voucher system. Pennsylvania governor Thomas Ridge had proposed that vouchers of \$1,000 be given to parents to send their children to any school of their choice. This was defeated in the state legislature last spring, but will come up again next year.

Beard said that since most private schools charge between \$3,500 and \$12,000 a year for tuition, a mere \$1,000 would not help poor and especially African-American families. He pointed out that the voucher system is not a real "choice" system, because the private schools have the right of refusal.

"Tell me," he said, "are the well-to-do public schools in Fox Chapel or Mt. Lebanon [suburbs of Pittsburgh] going to accept all the Black children from the inner city who want to go there?"

Beard also stressed the hypocrisy of those opposed to busing. Now the opponents of public education want school choice — going out of the neighborhood if necessary. "They'll bus for every special reason except integration," he said.

Edwin Fruit, a member of the Interna-

tional Association of Machinists and the Socialist Workers Party, said that privatization is part of the attacks on rights won by working people and the unions.

"The replacement of union with nonunion employees is not new to the labor movement," he said. "The United Mine Workers went on strike in 1992-93 against what they called double-breasting. Mine owners would close down a union-organized mine, open it up under another name, and then hire nonunion workers. USAir, where I work, did the same thing. They operate their commuter airlines under another subsidiary. The company forced out all the regular employees and then hired new people at half the pay."

Fruit called for fully funded schools regardless of location, that education be free through college, and that teachers be protected and have full rights of collective bargaining. "Discrimination does exist today and we need affirmative action, including quotas, as well as busing to achieve integration."

As for Wilkinsburg, the battle will be fought in the streets and in the courts. After a Common Pleas Court judge held the Wilkinsburg school board in contempt and ordered it to rescind its contract and rehire furloughed teachers, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court stayed the judge's orders. On September 18 the State Supreme Court began hearing arguments on the legality of the contract with Alternative Public Schools.

Edwin Fruit is a member of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 1976.

Union support grows for Detroit strikers

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

DETROIT — "A little truth-telling, even if it seems to give ammunition to striking workers, is in order here," said *Crain's Detroit Business* in scolding the Detroit Newspaper Agency for refusing to allow an audit of its circulation for the 10-week strike period.

The Audit Bureau of Circulation, a non-profit association representing 4,200 newspapers and magazines, advertisers and ad agencies nationwide, had requested the audit. It provides the circulation figures to advertisers interested in purchasing ads in print media.

Since the beginning of the strike by six unions at the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press, strikers have disputed the company's circulation figures. The unions estimate, for example, that some 300,000 readers have canceled their subscriptions. The company says the number is only 100,000.

The company began publishing both daily papers September 18 for the first time since the strike began in mid-July. The move was designed to show readers and advertisers that things were "back to normal" despite the strike. But their stonewalling on the audit raised eyebrows even among their friends in business circles.

"That Detroit Newspapers has declined an ABC audit suggests the numbers are worse than advertisers and readers have

been led to believe or that distribution has been so random that no one really knows how many papers have been delivered," *Crain's* wrote in a September 25 editorial. "In any case there's an integrity issue here. Newspapers are supposed to be in the business of telling the truth, regardless of how unpalatable it may be."

With negotiations at a virtual standstill and an injunction limiting pickets at the main printing plant, the striking unions and their supporters have stepped up their campaign against retail stores advertising in the scab papers. Each week a different chain is targeted and leafleting teams hit as many outlets as possible. Significantly, Farmer Jack and Kroger, the two largest grocery store chains in this area, have kept their ads out. Montgomery Ward recently pulled its ads as well. But many other large retailers continue to advertise.

Solidarity is growing

Union support is growing. In the first out-of-state trip to win support for the strike, John Castine, a Newspaper Guild reporter, spoke to 85 Minneapolis unionists September 25. Castine was given more than \$10,000 in donations to the strike fund from the Twin Cities Central Labor Council. Detroit Guild members will be speaking to unions in Boston and Seattle in the coming week.

Two semi-trailers rolled up to the strikers' food bank on September 28 with

much-needed donations of food, including 1,500 hams, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters. "We fought the Pittsburgh Press battle here a few years ago, so we feel a special allegiance to newspaper strikers out there," said conference president John Morris. Pennsylvania Teamsters plan another shipment this week.

The next day a truckload of food arrived from Teamsters Local 715 in Chicago.

Strikers on the picket line September 30 expressed frustration at the lack of progress in the negotiations. But when asked how the unions' struggle is going, the response was upbeat.

"I think we're stronger now than when the strike began" said Mike Pasella, a mailer from Teamsters Local 2040. "You get stronger when you have this much support behind you."

"I've been going to the car haulers' picket lines on my days off from picket duty and if I hear of anyone else going out on strike, I'll be there too."

Saturday all-night pickets continue

On Saturday nights the unionists target distribution centers where the Sunday edition is parceled out to delivery trucks and carriers. Picket lines are smaller than the mass mobilizations at the Sterling Heights plant in early September, but they have succeeded in delaying trucks for several hours.

Darlene Chippewa and Tracey Neubacher work at the Priority Mail Center in Romulus, where Chippewa is a shop steward for the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). With Saturday nights off, they've been coming to the picket line at the DNA's distribution center in Southfield.

"There aren't any papers at work," said Chippewa, referring to the widespread boycott of the two dailies. Occasionally a diehard sneaks in a sports section, and his co-workers take him to task for it.

"I come out to keep the crowds big, to keep the cops from attacking," said Scott MacDonald, a union carpenter, as he walked the line at the Clayton Street distribution center in southwest Detroit, October 1 about 6:00 a.m.

Clayton Street was MacDonald's third picket line stop that night. Union picket captains had dispatched several hundred pickets to several distribution centers after they had gathered at the Riverfront printing plant. When trouble broke out at Clayton Street, MacDonald, who'd been at the Southfield distribution center, eagerly responded to a call for help even though it was 3:00 a.m. and he had no idea where Clayton Street was.

What had alarmed picket captains at Clayton was an aggressive move by Vance Security. For the first time since the strike began, two dozen of the company's

Continued on Page 15

Cuba is at center of Latin America studies meeting

BY BRIAN TAYLOR
AND BRIAN WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Discussion about Cuba was at the center of the 19th International Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) held here September 28-30. Nearly two dozen workshops on Cuba took place at the gathering, which was attended by some 2,000 people, including students and professors from Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, and campuses across the United States. A delegation of about 30 people came from Cuba.

Political debate broke out at several of the workshops related to Cuba. At one of these, panelist Phillip Brenner, who is opposed to the U.S. embargo, argued that "the blockade doesn't have much real impact on Cuba" because of Cuba's growing trade ties with Latin America. He said the embargo will eventually be lifted through

pressure from U.S. businessmen and other governments, and that organized public opposition will be ineffective in changing U.S. policy.

Brenner downplayed the embargo by alleging that "it's not clear that the Cuban government really wants the embargo lifted."

Another panelist, Julio Carranza of the Center for the Studies of the Americas, rejected this argument and called for "the immediate lifting of the embargo." Several in the audience also took issue with Brenner's statements.

Rafael Noriega from the Cuban Interests Section, who was attending as an observer, said that Cuban revolutionaries are "ready to face the challenges of the future" that would be posed by economic and political ties to the United States, including greater capitalist investments and attempts by capitalists to politically influence Cubans. "Our revolution is strong enough," he declared.

Another panel discussion, on Cuba in the Americas, included Richard Nuccio of the State Department's Cuba desk. Nuccio defended U.S. policy by saying Cuba was a dictatorship. At the same time, Nuccio acted friendly toward the visiting Cuban scholars and portrayed the administration's policy as reasonable compared to the Helms-Burton bill.

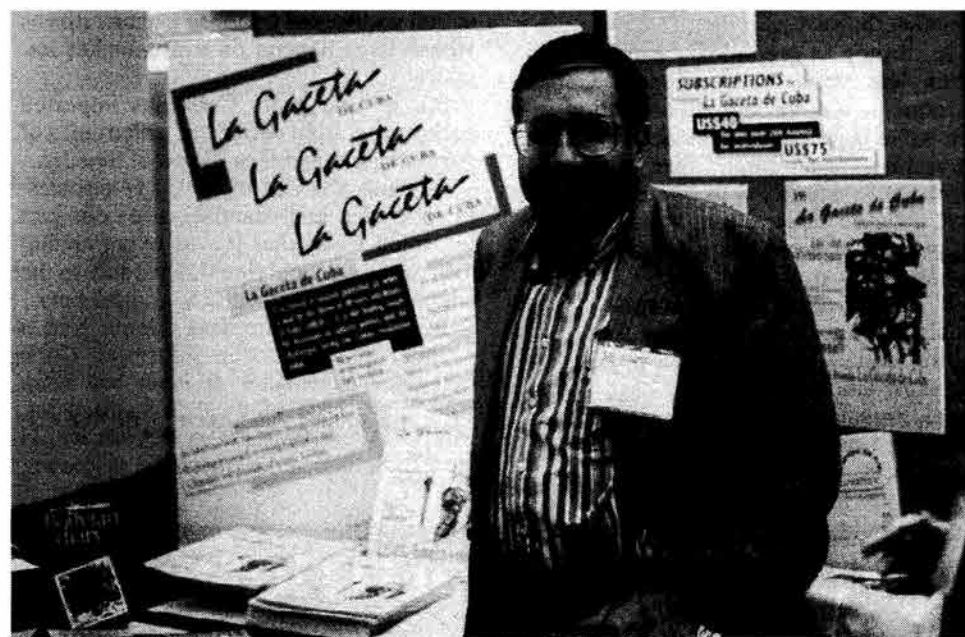
One panelist, Nelson Valdes of the University of New Mexico, who is Cuban-American, said, "OK, let's talk about democracy." He argued that the U.S. government, while posing as democratic presided over growing poverty and social problems, while undemocratically restricting travel to and from the island by Cubans.

Aurelio Alonso, of the Center for the Studies of the Americas, said the real issue was Cuba's right to self-determination. "What right does the United States have to act like its policies against Cuba are an 'internal U.S. matter?' These policies are a violation of our right to sovereignty."

Opponents of the Cuban revolution unsuccessfully tried to get LASA to adopt resolutions attacking the Cuban government.

Among those participating at the LASA conference were Norberto Codina, editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, a bimonthly journal of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba that features lively discussion and debate on culture and politics. Dozens of people expressed interest in *La Gaceta*.

Some had previously known of the publication and were excited that it was going to be more accessible to people in the



Militant/Janice Lynn

Cuban poet and editor Norberto Codina at LASA conference at start of U.S. tour

United States. Many said they plan to subscribe to the magazine through their college departments.

Twenty-five people bought single copies of *La Gaceta*. Volunteers distributed hundreds of recently updated brochures highlighting some of the articles that have appeared in recent issues of the magazine. Several Cuban guests at the conference volunteered to publicize and circulate *La Gaceta*.

Representatives of Pathfinder Press, which distributes and sells subscriptions to *La Gaceta* in the United States, hosted a reception at the LASA conference for Codina. A number of conference participants stopped by for further information and dis-

cussion with the Cuban poet and to find out more about *La Gaceta*. A professor from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. said he is planning to purchase an entire set of *La Gacetas*.

Immediately following the conference, Codina began a month-long tour of several U.S. cities, beginning in Washington, D.C. where he will speak about Cuba and read poetry at various local campuses in the Maryland, D.C., and Virginia area. A number of professors at the LASA conference signed up to help set up speaking engagements for Codina in Los Angeles, Houston, and New York.

Martín Koppel contributed to this article.

NORBERTO CODINA TOUR IN TEXAS

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1) Fri., Oct. 13, 8 p.m. Showing of the Russian movie "I Am Cuba" directed by Mikhail Kalatosov. Museum of Fine Arts. For more information, call Museum: (713) 639-7350. 2) Mon., Oct. 16, 6 p.m. Reception to discuss culture and the arts in Cuba. University of Houston Parliament Room of the University Center. 3) Wed., Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m. A celebration of Cuban culture including music and poetry, followed by a forum. University of Houston, University Center Arbor. City-Wide Forum. Art and Culture in Cuba Today. Wed., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. Rice University, Physics Amphitheater (entrance #1 at Sunset and Main St.). For information, call (713) 524-1664 or (713) 527-8750.

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Codina Tour sponsors in Texas: Cuba Coalition of Houston; Ada Edwards; Dominican Sisters; Guatemala Support Network; Latin American Committee, Presbytery of New Covenant; Professors: María González, UH, Sociology; Lane Kauffman, Rice University, Hispanic and Classical Studies; Tom Kleven, Thurgood Marshall Law School. For information, call (713) 648-9909.

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Cuba demands an end to U.S. embargo

Continued from Page 16

ison with a similar voyage from the United States amount to 215,800 dollars from Europe to Havana and 516,700 dollars from Asia to Havana.

Since the Torricelli Act came into force, many shipping companies are demanding higher freight charges, claiming that after docking at Cuban ports their vessels are not admitted into U.S. ports for a six-month period.

These shipping companies have quoted concrete examples such as the case of the state of Virginia, USA, where the authorities have included in their official documents for operations within the port, a declaration that the vessel concerned has not docked at a Cuban port for a period of 180 days prior to its arrival in the United States.

The blockade has been specifically targeted at hindering Cuban export products, one of the scarce sources for obtaining hard currency for the country. This has hit the sugar industry, one of the fundamental pillars of Cuban industry, particularly hard.

Deterioration of sugarcane

The progressive deterioration of sugarcane cultivation over the last four years has been significantly influenced by the deficit of chemical products (fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides) required for its harvesting and by the fuel needed to maintain the high level of mechanization attained in the past...

According to preliminary estimates, in 1994 the total loss to the Cuban economy — taking into consideration income that is no longer in evidence and the additional spending due to the blockade — amounted to one billion dollars, a figure representing approximately 50 percent of the country's total imports during that year.

If the blockade did not exist, Cuba would not only be able to use those one billion dollars to increase its imports by the same amount, but would have access to additional financial sources currently prohibited as a consequence of its negative effects.

The continuing and recently escalated aggressive measures against Cuba on the part of the United States are designed to cause a "downward spiral" effect on the economy, i.e., to provoke a progressive reduction in the availability of resources to the point of total economic collapse. The promoters of this policy calculate that it would induce such widespread deterioration in living conditions that spontaneous public demonstrations would inevitably follow, thus putting an end to the revolutionary social process initiated 36 years ago, this being the main objective of the last nine U.S. administrations' foreign policy in terms of Cuba.

Due to the factors detailed previously, and in particular to the effect of measures designed to further increase the U.S. blockade of Cuba, a progressive deterioration in the daily intake of important dietary elements has been noted. Taking as a base food consumption in 1989, by the year of 1993 there was a loss in the daily per capita diet equivalent to 40 percent of fats, 67 and 62 percent of vitamins A and C respectively, 22 percent of iron and 19 percent of calcium.

Nutritional deficits are especially notable in sectors of the population such as pregnant women and children up to five years of age. Incidences of anemia are increasing among pregnant women and children between six months and five years of age.

One particularly dramatic case is the situation confronted by those Cuban citizens whose lives depend on a pacemaker implant.

For several years Cuba has imported pacemakers from two firms: Teletronics of Australia and Siemens Elema of Sweden.

Towards the end of 1993, Teletronics, in spite of a long-standing sales contract informed Cuba that it was experiencing difficulties in supplying this product to the country as it contained U.S. components.

In July 1994, Siemens Elema sent a written communication informing Cuba that their pacemaker division had been sold to St. Jude Medical INS., St. Paul, MN, USA, and future sales requests would have to be directed to them. As is known,

no company located in the United States can sell its products to Cuba.

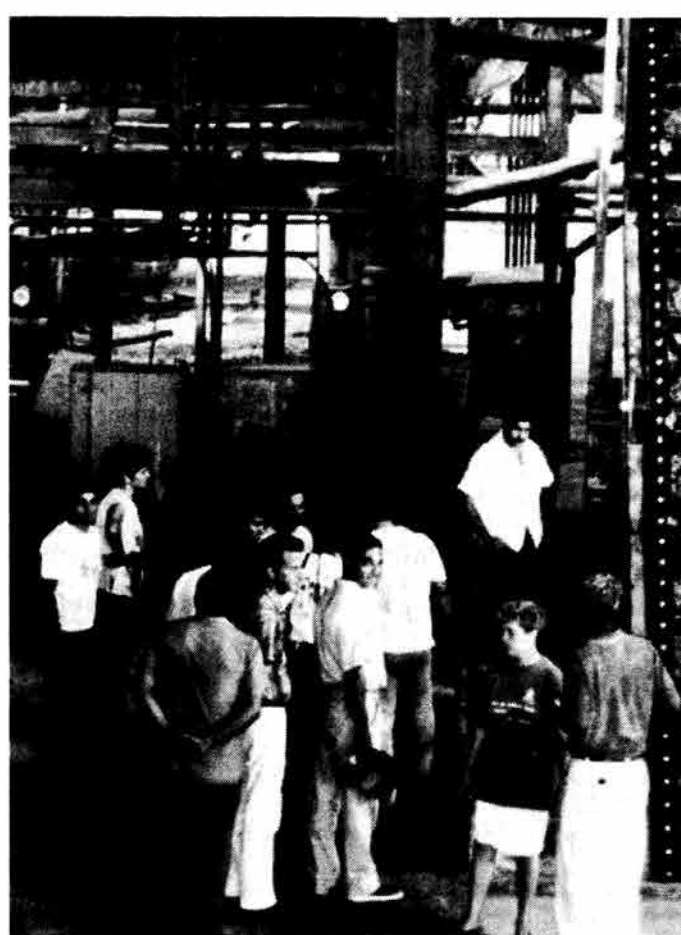
That is to say, Cuba's two regular suppliers of pacemakers have ceased to supply this vitally important medical aide....

In 1993, some 30,000 Cubans traveled to the United States on family visits, the majority of whom brought medicines back with them on returning. Some of the Cubans resident in the United States who visited Cuba did the same. Estimates on the volume of medicines as family aid received by Cubans resident on the island in 1993 is to the order of approximately 300 tons.

From August 20, 1994, this situation was made extremely difficult when the U.S. government issued new restrictions which damage the whole spirit of family reunification and the basic right of Cubans resident in the United States to freely travel to their country of origin....

Even though parts of the text [of the Helms-Burton bill] could be modified, the U.S. federal authorities have made clear their intention to overthrow the government freely and sovereignly elected by the people of Cuba.

In her letter of April 28 of this year, Wendy Sherman, assistant secretary for legal affairs in the State Department, pointed out to Benjamin Gilman, president of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, that "...We (the United States) will continue with our embargo as a means of pressuring the regime into making reforms..."



Militant/Laura Garza
Sugar processing plant at full operation. Washington's embargo accelerates deterioration of sugarcane harvest.

This statement is a clear manifestation of the present U.S. administration's position on Cuba.

For three consecutive years the General Assembly has shown its support of this just aspiration, with its adoption of Resolutions 47/19, 48/16 and 49/9. For this reason Cuba maintains its hopes that the United Nations will undertake the role assigned to it to bring an end to this injustice.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again convey to you my greatest respects.

Roberto Robaina

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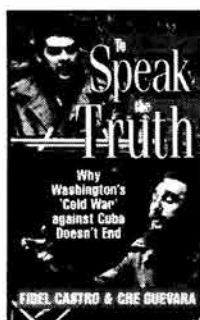
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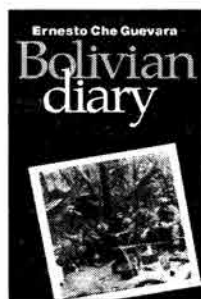
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'The Cuban people make solidarity a way of life in society'

The article below appeared in the September 20 issue of the *African-American Voice* in Decatur, Illinois, under the headline "Cuba Vive!" (Cuba Lives). The paper also ran half a dozen photographs from the international youth festival.

BY FRANKIE TRAVIS

In early August, I visited Cuba as a delegate to the "Cuba Lives" International Youth Festival, which attracted some 1300 people from 67 countries to Cuba for a week of solidarity and education.

Along with three other central Illi-



noians, I travelled to Cuba to see the country for myself. Over the past couple of years, as a locked-out Staley worker who has travelled throughout the United States telling others about our struggle, I had met several Cuban trade unionists and youth leaders who had visited the U.S. seeking to improve their country's relations with this country.

One thing I've learned in our two-year struggle against Staley is that trade unionists in this country have to join together with others around the world who are

fighting for the same human rights we are fighting for here.

For seven days I visited Cuban factories and trade unions, and talked with Cubans from all walks of life. I spent three days living with a Cuban family, and was not in any way restricted in where I went or whom I talked to. Based on a full week of listening to and observing the Cuban revolution, I was greatly impressed with the extent to which the Cuban people made Solidarity a way of life in their society.

Over 90% of Cuban workers belong to trade unions, which play an active role in the day-to-day governing of the society, from decision-making in the workplace to voting in free, multicandidate elections.

Although the legacy of several hundred years of colonialism and slavery cannot be completely eradicated in the three decades since 1959, when the Cuban revolution triumphed, the Cubans have eliminated institutionalized racism and have gone a long way towards building a society where people are not judged or treated according to the color of their skin.

African National Congress President Nelson Mandela told the Cuban people when he visited there in July 1991, the revolution's "consistent commitment to the systematic eradication of racism is unparalleled."

I had the opportunity to speak with several of the 300,000 Cubans who served in Angola between 1975 and 1988 to aid that country in defending itself against the in-



Delegation of participants in international youth festival from Colombia. Youth from 67 countries came to see how Cubans defend their socialist revolution.

vading South African apartheid army. Proud of the two years he had fought in Angola, one Cuban in his fifties explained to me that "the Cuban people are committed to fighting against racism everywhere in the world."

On the final day of the trip, I participated with 600,000 Cubans in a spirited march through Havana to protest the U.S. economic blockade on their island and in support of the revolution. Contrary to the charge you hear in the United States that Fidel Castro is a dictator who forces the Cuban people to participate in such events, it was clear to me that the march

was a tremendous outpouring of Solidarity. It was one of the most spirited, voluntary and enthusiastic mobilizations I have seen anywhere.

The Cuban people need and want our friendship and Solidarity. Some day I hope to return to Cuba and to take other union brothers and sisters with me on another mission of solidarity.

Frankie Travis is a locked-out Staley worker and a member of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 7837. (This trip was supported wholly by fund-raiser not UPIU).

Youth learn about Cuba, return to fight embargo

The article below appeared in the September 27 - October 3 issue of *The City Sun* in New York under the headline "Youth from around the world attend Cuba's youth festival."

BY DAVID BERG

"Cuba lives and will continue to exist despite the shameful and covert aggressions [of the U.S.]," said Victoria Velasquez. "If we have to struggle, we will



struggle."

Velasquez, the president of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, was speaking at the closing day of the International Youth Festival. "Cuba Lives." During the festival, over 1,300 mostly young people from 67 different countries spent a week in Cuba, Aug. 1-7, and learned how Cubans have continued to defend their socialist revolution, despite Cuba's economic crisis.

The festival was sponsored by different youth organizations in Cuba, including the Federation of University Students and the Union of Young Communists.

The biggest delegation, of over 250 people, came from the United States. Other large delegations came from France, Spain and Brazil. Delegates came from as far away as South Africa, Western Sahara, China and Vietnam, to name a few.

"I've been a student of the Cuban Revolution for a long time," said Steven McCauley, 27, of New York. "But I want to go to Cuba to see for myself what the revolution is really like." McCauley's desire to learn more about the Cuban Revolution was typical of the delegates.

One of the highlights for the delegates was participating in a march of 500,000 Cubans on Aug. 5 in support of the revolution and calling for an end to the U.S. embargo. Despite a massive downpour that started almost exactly the same time as the march, the spirits of the marchers re-

mained high, as they chanted "Cuba Yes, Blockade No" and "U.S. out of Guantanamo (the United States has had a military base in Guantanamo, Cuba for over 80 years, despite overwhelming opposition by the Cuban people.)"

The march took place down the Malecon, a major boulevard along the ocean in Havana. It ended with a rally at the spot where, exactly one year ago, over half a million Cubans mobilized to defend the revolution against a small group of people who killed a police officer while trying to hijack a boat to go to the United States.

The difficulties Cuba faces today

While in Cuba, the delegates toured factories, schools, hospitals, farms and other facilities. The delegation spent up to three days attending several different workshops in the different provinces of Cuba. The topics for the workshops included "Democracy And Participation"; "Culture And National Identity"; "Young Women"; "Employment"; and "Development And The Environment". Both the international delegates and a few hundred Cubans participated in the discussions. In addition, the delegates stayed with Cuban families while they were in the provinces, giving them an opportunity to talk to thousands of different Cubans in the neighborhoods they were staying in.

The delegates learned of many of the difficulties Cuba faces today. For 33 years — almost the entire life of the Cuban Revolution — Cuba has been subject to an economic embargo by the United States that prohibits trade between the two countries. In addition, the United States government has intimidated and prevented many other countries from trading with Cuba.

Since the beginning of the revolution in 1959, when the Cuban people led by Fidel Castro, kicked out U.S.-backed military dictator Fulgencio Batista, the U.S. government has waged a vicious campaign against Cuba. In addition to the embargo, the U.S. also bans travel to and from Cuba. Most of the U.S. delegates had to receive journalist credentials to travel to Cuba, one of the few legal ways to travel to Cuba for U.S. citizens.

From the beginning of the revolution

Cuban workers and farmers have fought to free Cuba from the miserable living conditions and colonial dependence that the underdeveloped world faces today. As part of this fight, Cuba nationalized all ownership of big business, most of which were U.S. owned in the early 1960s. By ridding themselves of capitalism Cuban workers and farmers have been able to control the resources of their own country. One of the most noted examples is that, throughout the revolution, Cubans have received health care and education for free. The nation's inhabitants speak proudly of having one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world (9.2 per 10,000 births), as well as the fact that Cuba has wiped out illiteracy, homelessness and prostitution.

The U.S. government responded to the Cuban revolution violently, organizing an armed invasion of Cuba in 1961 at Playa Girón (the invasion known as the Bay of Pigs in the United States). The U.S. fire-bombed Cuban sugarcane fields (the main export of Cuba) and attempted to assassinate Cuban leaders. In 1989, Cuba entered what is known in the country as "The Special Period", when the Soviet Union collapsed and Cuba lost over 70 percent of its trade virtually overnight. This has caused severe hardships and shortages in Cuba both of basic necessities such as milk, chicken and other foods, and also of oil, machinery and other products needed for industrial and agricultural production.

With capitalism, some social problems

Many of the delegates shared the feelings of Hazel 27, a Salvadoran native now living in Montreal, Canada, who was very impressed by "Cuba's success in The Special Period not only in keeping the advances they have made, but improving them. People everywhere around the world should hear about it."

During The Special Period, Cuba has not had to close one school or hospital, and has even been able to make progress in providing medical care to its people. Gabe Siert, 15, of Sioux City, IA, commented on Cuba's strong determination to overcome The Special Period after visiting a facility in Havana to train athletes for international competitions. "It doesn't matter what they're doing ... they want to

train and win!" In addition, "They want other people (from other countries) to come and train ... they are willing to help their competitors ... they send people around the world to train athletes they will compete against in the Olympics." Siert said he was looking forward to finding out from Cubans why they provide so much help to people in other countries, while under going their own economic crisis.

As the delegates saw, though, Cuba is no utopia. Since The Special Period started, Cuba has had to make concessions to capitalism, like opening tourist hotels and allowing for some capitalist investment. Most Cubans feel these measures are necessary to get currency from other countries, although the measures created social problems — such as the reappearance of prostitution — that haven't existed in Cuba since before the revolution.

Tanya Zakrisson, 21, from Toronto, Canada has been studying biology in Cuba for the past year. Although she had seen and experienced many of the problems of Cuba in The Special Period, she said her year in Cuba has "reaffirmed my beliefs 100-fold ... that the U.S. embargo is wrong and that the Cuba is a good example for other countries."

Future solidarity actions between Cuba and activists in other countries were also discussed at the festival. Many of the U.S. participants were helping to plan for the October 21st demonstration in New York City which will protest the United States' continued embargo against Cuba. For more information about the demonstration, call the National Network on Cuba, at (212) 227-3422.

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Protesters assail social cuts in Canada

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — Some 7,000 people demonstrated here September 27 at the opening session of the Ontario legislature to protest the actions of the new Conservative government in Ontario, led by Premier Mike Harris.

The government, elected June 8, is slashing welfare rates by 21.6 percent and embarking on a series of major cuts to health care and education. It has announced its intention to act soon to repeal Bill 40, passed by the previous New Democratic Party (NDP) government, which banned the use of replacement workers in strikes. The new government also plans to repeal the NDP's Employment Equity Act on affirmative action.

All these issues became the focus of the demonstration, which was principally organized by the Labour Council of Metro Toronto after being initiated by the Embarrass Harris Coalition. More than 40 local antipoverty and antiracism coalitions, women's groups, labor unions, community groups, and political organizations endorsed the action.

At least 17 busloads of protesters came from outlying cities in Ontario. Unions such as the Canadian Auto Workers and local labor councils provided the buses for the most part, even though organizers had not issued a call for a province-wide action. A minivan filled with members of the Regroupement des chômeurs et chômeuses du Québec (Quebec Coalition of the Unemployed) came from Montreal with their banner.

Health-care workers used their lunch hour to come to the rally amid reports that several hospitals are slated to be closed. Scores of building trades workers also participated. Chris Thurott of the Toronto-Central Ontario Construction and Building Trades Council spoke to the rally, explaining how repealing Bill 40 and legalizing the use of replacement workers in strikes would encourage the bosses to step up their challenge to unions, and pointed to the current strike by 4,000 drywall workers.

Many in the crowd were unemployed workers. Linda Douglas, living on welfare with a young daughter, said, "I'm willing to work but there's nothing." Another woman on welfare explained, "I don't care how strong the unions are, they can be privatized. They're trying to get people like us to go get their jobs."

Native people also participated in the action, in part to protest the Ontario government-approved police raid last month on Chippewa Indians occupying Ipperwash Provincial Park. Dudley George, a Chippewa Native, was killed by police in the cop action. Jay Mason, of the Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native People, demanded an independent inquiry of George's killing. "We want the



Militant/John Steele

Around 7,000 people rallied against government's slashing of health-care and education programs September 27 at opening session of the Ontario legislature.

OPP (provincial police) charged with murder," he said.

Many students from high schools and colleges also participated, with Heather Bishop of the Canadian Federation of Students addressing the protest.

Police attack demonstrators

At the end of the rally, some in the crowd surged passed the barricade and

started to climb the steps of the legislature. At that point, 80 policemen started swinging clubs and spraying the protesters with pepper gas. Maria Frangos explained that as the group got near the top, police warned them to leave. "Before we had a chance to react, they took their batons and just randomly started hitting us. We weren't being violent, we just wanted to get in."

Kenworth strikers reject concessions and keep picket lines up in Quebec

BY MONICA JONES

STE-THERESE, Quebec — Workers at the Kenworth truck assembly factory here voted overwhelmingly to reject new concession demands by the company October 2 and continue their strike, now into its eighth week.

Most of the 750 factory workers on strike attended the meeting and 90 percent voted to refuse the company demands. Earlier the same day, 100 office workers voted against similar proposals by the same margin. Both groups are members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 728.

Kenworth has raised the stakes in the strike by announcing that it wants to place its company rules into a new contract. Many workers at the meetings likened the regulations to prison conditions.

The list of rules is 22 pages long. Making a phone call during working hours would be forbidden. Foremen would be al-

lowed to contact the company nurse to determine if a worker absent for a medical or dental appointment made an effort to schedule it outside of work hours.

Two late arrivals or early departures from work would be recorded as one day absent. If a worker is absent three times in 120 days without adequate justification in the eyes of the company, he or she could be fired.

Quebec receives heavy snowfall five months of the year and workers drive long distances to the factory.

"This latest move is an attempt to strip away the strength of the union and its ability to protect its members. It's totally unacceptable," said one office worker on the picket line after their meeting.

The strike began on August 8. The workers are seeking pension improvements and want to raise the monthly retirement pay over three years from \$28 per month per year of service to \$43. Ken-

The government reaffirmed its intention to repeal the Employment Equity Act and Bill 40 during the legislative session that day. They are also considering a proposal from an employers group demanding that part-time workers set up separate bargaining units from full-time workers.

The government also reaffirmed massive cuts to health care and education. Two days later a government advisory body released its report recommending 12 hospitals in the Toronto area be closed or merged with others. At least 3,000 health-care workers would lose their jobs.

In addition to the 21.6 percent cut to welfare, the Harris government promised to introduce "workfare," under which all recipients except the disabled, seniors, and single mothers with young children would be required to perform uncompensated community service or enroll in training programs.

In numerous comments to reporters, both Harris and his community and social services minister, David Tsubouchi, said those facing cuts should get a part-time job to make up the difference between the old and new rates. At one point, Tsubouchi said that if parents complain that their kids are going hungry, then the Children's Aid Society might have to remove them.

Harris later disavowed those comments but when pressed on whether the new rates will allow recipient families to feed their children, Harris alternately said, "I hope so," "I don't know," and "I'm sure it will be enough."

worth is offering an increase of \$2 per year.

"I've never seen anything like this and I've worked here for 31 years," said Raymond Masson while waiting for the result of the factory workers' vote. "We were on strike for eight months in 1978 but this is different. Anyone can get sick. They are trying to tighten the screws like never before."

"We need a decent benefit plan," he explained further, "but they want to cut, cut, cut." The company wants to limit prescription drug coverage to \$1,200 per year per person.

"The stronger the vote tonight the better position we will be in," Masson said.

Kenworth is stepping up pressure against the strikers. It has announced a "layoff" of 575 workers, which strikers first learned about through an article in a local weekly newspaper. A company spokesman said work on "class 8" trucks, the main vehicle assembled here, was being transferred to Renton, Washington. Workers began receiving layoff notices by registered mail on the day of the union meetings.

But strikers are standing up to the company's hard line. Daily picketing across the entrance to the factory began on September 20. Most vehicles trying to enter the plant on that morning were delayed. Police intervened to move back strikers and they have been patrolling the entrance ever since.

A small number of model T300 trucks are being built and bosses regularly drive them across the picket line on test drives.

Yvan Bourgeois and Jean-Pierre Guay, presidents of the plant and office locals respectively, made a surprise visit to the factory with a representative of the provincial government Department of Labor on September 22.

Following the visit, the union applied for a court injunction against Kenworth alleging 20 violations of Quebec's anti-sab law. That law, in place since 1977, prohibits companies which operate under Quebec government labor jurisdiction from hiring replacement workers during a strike.

"They want us to return to the 1950s," one worker said as he left the union meeting, "but we are going to win because we're not giving up."

Diana Newberry is a member of the Young Socialists in Brooklyn, New York.

Monica Jones is a member of CAW Local 728 on strike at Kenworth in Ste-Therese.

—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD—

YS joins in 'Militant' sub drive

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS or to join, write P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009. Tel: (212) 475-6482, Fax: (212) 388-1659.

BY DIANA NEWBERRY

BROOKLYN, New York — Young Socialists, along with other supporters of the *Militant*, are taking to the streets around the country to get subscriptions of the *Militant* newspaper into the hands of as many young people, students, and workers as possible. Young Socialists are jumping into this drive wholeheartedly.

In San Francisco, YS members attended a reunion held for people who went to the Cuba Lives festival this summer. At the event two subscriptions were sold to young activists who attended the festival through Global Exchange and are now involved in building the October 14 action to end the embargo against Cuba.

Young Socialist member Sylvia Vil-las, from Miami, went on a *Militant* subscription team to Gainesville, Florida,

where she gave a reportback from the Cuba Lives festival. The team she participated in sold a subscription to a student at the University of Florida.

They also met up with a couple young people, Josh Utley and Ian Schleiffer, who are interested in building a Young Socialists chapter in Gainesville. Utley recently returned from a trip to Ireland, where he bought a *Militant* at a Sinn Fein demonstration.

Seven people at the university also signed up for the August 1996 youth brigade to Cuba, which is a project being organized by a task force of the National Network on Cuba.

Vannessa Knapton, a Young Socialist member in Los Angeles will be going to visit newspaper strikers in Detroit, Michigan, on October 7. Knapton, a high school student from East Los Angeles, and Mark Friedman, a member of the International Association of Machinists, plan to participate in *Militant* sales teams to the picket lines. They will also visit universities, and go door to door to workers' homes to introduce them to the socialist press.

YS members in Los Angeles will also be participating in a statewide mobiliza-

tion to defend affirmative action on October 12, called by Four Winds Student Movement.

The mobilization will include rallies and teach-ins at college campuses and universities throughout the state. This will be a special target day for all Young Socialists in California to get *Militant* subscriptions into the hands of young fighters. YS members will also use that day to sell subscriptions to the *Militant* and *La Gaceta de Cuba* at Glendale Community College and California State Los Angeles. Norberto Codina, a Cuban poet and editor of the magazine *La Gaceta*, will be speaking at both campuses.

In Seattle, Washington, YS members are planning a regional team to sell subscriptions to the *Militant* in Portland, Oregon, on November 4-5.

Through making an extra effort to get out to working-class communities, speaking to students at the universities, and participating in political events, Young Socialists are meeting youth who are interested in joining the fight for socialism.

Quebecois fight for national sovereignty

Continued from front page rating.

Despite the fact that Quebec is Canada's second most populated and industrialized province, it is proportionally the poorest. In 1993, 20.7 percent of Quebec's population was living below the poverty level. More than 800,000 people in Quebec are forced to live on welfare and Quebec has one of the highest rates of official unemployment.

Quebec's per capita income falls below both Ontario and British Columbia. In Montreal, the largest city in Quebec and second largest in the country, median family income ranks 23rd out of Canada's top 26 cities. The three cities ranking below it are all in Quebec.

Language discrimination

For many years, employers used language discrimination to ghettoize French-speaking workers in lower paying jobs.

Despite gains made in winning affirmative action laws to make French the language of work, advances along these lines have stagnated over the last five years. The right to negotiate or deal with employers in French has been one of the demands in three recent strikes in the Montreal area.

Discrimination against Quebecois has also meant inferior education and health care. "The only way education will get better is with a victory for the 'Yes' because the power will be here in Quebec," a student at the University of Quebec in Montreal told the *Militant*.

Unlike every other province, the Canadian constitution stipulates that Quebec have two religious public school systems — one Catholic and one Protestant. For many years, the Catholic school system was predominantly French-speaking and the Protestant system was predominantly English-speaking. Even though today both systems have French- and English-language divisions, the historic English network continues to be of higher quality.

The Quebec school system remains the most segregated in North America and a pillar for maintaining language divisions. Quebec has one of the highest high school dropout rates in Canada. English speakers in Quebec are twice as likely to get a university diploma as French speakers.

"We need a secular school system, one that is neutral and French-speaking," commented Lamarre at the Artists for Sovereignty event.

Massive education cuts being carried out by the Parti Quebecois government are making the situation even worse.

Government cuts on social gains

The hospital system is also segregated according to language. The English-language hospitals, backed up by private endowments, provide better quality care. The Quebec government has voted to close down seven hospitals in Montreal,



Montreal rally in the 1980s in support of French-language rights. Many workers and youth favor yes vote on the referendum as a vehicle to fight discrimination.

precipitating a series of hospital workers' protests and a debate on government policy.

"The hospital closures are necessary," Lamarre argued. "They aren't cuts, but a reorganization of health services."

But other supporters of a yes vote in the referendum disagree. "The hospital closures are the most difficult thing to accept because they hit the most vulnerable," Dion said. "I don't think our leaders are the best. Many workers and students who support the referendum express distrust of the Parti Quebecois government because of its massive attacks on social programs."

Systematic discrimination

It is the systematic discrimination against Quebecois, and its impact on the daily lives of working people, that lies behind popular support for Quebec national rights and a yes vote in the referendum. As long as the situation remains, the Quebecois fight against discrimination will continue to be a central question in Canadian politics.

Recently the two largest locals of the Canadian Auto Workers union in Quebec — at General Motors and Pratt

and Whitney — voted unanimously for a yes vote on the referendum.

Laurent Beaudoin, president of Bombardier, is one of the most vocal proponents of the no vote amongst Quebec's top capitalists. Beaudoin sent letters to his employees urging them to vote against the referendum in order to save his business investments and their jobs. Workers responded angrily to the letters, seeing them as blackmail.

When Quebec Liberal leader Daniel Johnson, who heads the "no" campaign, toured Bombardier's La Pocatière plant, several workers had hand-painted signs by their work sites with "OUI" written in big letters. The supervisor came to take the signs down, but not before they got picked up on national television.

"He (Beaudoin) shouldn't get mixed up in what workers are thinking. We have the right to our ideas and I think he shouldn't interfere," explained Bernard Rossignol, one of the workers. "Businessmen can give their opinions but they should give them as individuals."

The Quebec Federation of Labor announced that it will hold a discussion and vote on the referendum in all of its locals.

LAND, LABOR, AND THE CANADIAN REVOLUTION

By Michel Dugré
In *New International*
no. 6

\$10.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014, Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3.00 to cover postage and handling.

Cuba titles attract attention at China conference

Hundreds of participants in the Non-Governmental Organization Forum on Women in Huairou, China, stopped to take a look at the book table of socialist literature set up in the Global Pavilion, a center where women from every corner of the

the Population Explosion by Joseph Hansen were quickly sold out. Hansen argues that capitalism, not overpopulation, is the cause of poverty, unemployment, crowded living conditions, health problems, and the destruction of the environ-



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

By Maggie Trowe

world distributed information on their organizations and sold handicrafts to help finance the trip to the conference. The forum was held in conjunction with the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in early September.

Conference participants bought literature in English, Spanish, French, and Farsi. The best-selling title was *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today* by Mary-Alice Waters. "You mean these books about Cuba are published in the United States?" asked one woman who stopped by the table. Participants bought seven copies of the pamphlet in three languages. Other titles on Cuba that were sold included *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, *The Second Declaration of Havana*, and *Che Guevara Speaks*.

Not surprisingly, titles on women's liberation were among the most popular. These included six copies of *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara and three copies of *Feminism and the Marxist Movement* by Mary-Alice Waters, as well as *Sexism and Science*, *Abortion Is a Woman's Right*, and *Surrogate Motherhood, Women's Rights, and the Working Class*.

Many people wanted to discuss the question of population control. Three copies of *Too Many Babies: The Myth of*

ment, and that women should have the elementary right to decide whether and when to have children, and how many. Some who dropped by the table argued forcefully against this thesis, while others were convinced to read the pamphlet by discussing the issues with the socialists staffing the table.

There was a big demand for titles in French, as many of the 2,500 participants from Africa came from French-speaking countries. There was also a sizable delegation of women from France, a number of whom had come on a train from Europe to China.

Chinese forum participants, as well as volunteer translators from Beijing University and the Foreign Languages Institute, were also interested in the books, and bought several English- and Spanish-language titles. Some Chinese workers from the conference maintenance crews and food concessions also stopped by on their breaks.

Thirteen copies of *New International*, the Marxist magazine of politics and theory distributed by Pathfinder, were sold. Issue no. 7, which contains "Opening Guns of World War III," an article by Jack Barnes on the U.S. war against Iraq, attracted the most attention.

In all, forum participants bought 76 books and pamphlets.

"This is a thinking bookstore," one young woman said upon visiting the Pathfinder booth at the annual Seattle Bumbershoot arts festival. Among the \$150 worth of books sold was a copy of *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky, purchased by a young woman who works as a nanny.

Another worker, who is part of a Teamster organizing drive in Seattle, recently bought a copy of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* at a local bookstore. Two weeks later he stopped by the Pathfinder bookstore to join the Readers Club and to pick up several more titles, including *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics*, and *American Railroads: The Case for Nationalization*.

Pathfinder supporters in Newark, New Jersey, set up a table at the New Brunswick Book Fair in mid-September. The fair attracts local residents as well as students from Rutgers University. Fairgoers bought \$210 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets, including 14 copies of the Pathfinder catalog.

The titles sold included: *Teamster Rebellion*, *On the Jewish Question*, *Woman's Evolution*, *Mother Jones Speaks*, *Their Morals and Ours*, *In Defense of Socialism*, three copies each of *The Communist Manifesto* and *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*.

Simone Berg in Newark and Lisa Ahlberg in Seattle contributed to this week's column.



Youth from Hong Kong gather around Pathfinder table at Women's Conference in Beijing. Works on the Cuban revolution were popular among participants.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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

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

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Support Detroit News and Free Press Strikers: Fight Union Busting! Speakers: Representative, Newspaper Guild #69 (LB Press-Telegram); Pat Nixon, member, Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; Mark Friedman, member, International Association of Machinists and others. Fri., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. (2 blocks west of Vermont). Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

tion: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Che Guevara and Malcolm X. What We Can Learn From Their Ideas and Example. Speakers: Veronica Poses, Young Socialists; Iván Rosero, Young Socialists; Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers candidate for Miami City Commission. Oct., Fri. 13, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. donation: \$4. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

International Protests Slam Nuclear Bomb Tests in South Pacific. Speakers: Rev. Ken Studer; Larry Ginter, farm activist. Fri., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Reportback from U.N. Conference on

Women in Beijing. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Militant correspondent at Beijing conference, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Defend Desegregated Education in the Twin Cities. Support the NAACP Lawsuit. Speakers: John Shulman, Lawyer for NAACP lawsuit; Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party, author of *The Battle of Boston*, member of the United Steel Workers of America. Thurs. Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. (east side of Hwy 280, on 16A bus line). Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Hear the socialist candidates: Deborah Liatos for

Mayor; John Staggs and Hattie McCutcheon for City Council at large. Guest speakers: Marie Laforest, Haitian Student organization; and Luis Quiles, student at Temple University. Sun., Oct. 15, 5 p.m. Dinner 4 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$6. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington's Escalating Intervention in the Balkans. Speaker: Brian Williams, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 27. Fri., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 1930 18th St. N.W. (corner of Florida and 18th St., entrance on Florida). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

CANADA

Vancouver

Bosnia and the UN Peacekeeping Fraud. Speaker: Mike Barker, member Hospital Employees Union. Fri., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Steelworkers force bosses to suspend production

BY TONY PRINCE

WARREN, Ohio — Failing to break the resolve of steelworkers on the picket line here, the bosses at Warren Consolidated Industries (WCI), formerly owned by LTV Steel, announced on September 29 that it would temporarily suspend production. This is a major setback to the company's efforts to run the mill with scab labor and defeat United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Locals 1375 and 6824.

The union members are "fighters," says Roger Mays, a millwright at the plant who was attending a rally at the union hall September 30. "We will stay at this until the end, whatever it takes."

WCI's announcement came after escalating violence by company goons increased workers determination to stand up and fight. The violence itself was an indication of the increasingly desperate situation of the company, as its attempt to bust the unions have faltered.

WCI management locked out the 1,700 members of the two Steelworkers locals August 31, five hours before the contract expired. The company also hired the union-busting outfit Nuckols, Inc., to bring in strikebreakers and run the mill.

In announcing the suspension of production, WCI President James Stack tried to put the onus for violence on the union. "We have decided that the only way to protect our employees and the community against any further violence is to temporarily stop operations.... We are committed to restoring peace," he piously stated.

Similarly, big business dailies like the *Akron Beacon Journal* and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* painted the company as the helpless victim of violent strikers. The *Plain Dealer*, for example, reported, "A guard was shot last week, and there were continuing incidents of rock throwing, smashed windows and threats, the company said." The paper reported nothing about the steelworkers on the picket line who were run over by scab vehicles or those union members shot at by company officials. Several strikebreakers have had their guns confiscated and police found other weapons inside the plant.

Company violence

At 6:30 a.m. September 26, Dennis Church, a worker on the picket line at WCI's front gate, was hit by a car driven by a scab and thrown 12 feet. Another picketer, Del Richards, told the *Warren Tribune Chronicle*, "He intentionally ran him over. All week they've been trying to run people down. They're the scum of the earth." A similar incident provoked an angry response by union members and their supporters September 13 after a strike-breaker ran over a picketer. Several hun-

dred steelworkers mobilized and stopped all traffic in and out of the mill. An injunction against the union now limits the number of workers on the picket line.

In an attempt to paint the victim as the criminal, the police requested shields and riot helmets at a meeting of the Warren City Council September 27. They also complained that several police cars have gotten flat tires from nails near the picket line. The union countered by demanding that the city enforce an ordinance that was passed in the early 1970's prohibiting replacement workers and professional union busters. The law has never been enforced.

Solid unity, not "picket line violence," and the overwhelming support steelworkers have received in this highly unionized industrial town has forced the company to retreat from its assault on the union.

The company's decision to halt production is the culmination of a series of setbacks. WCI tried to be the first integrated steel mill to operate with scab labor since the USWA consolidated its presence in the industry decades ago. From the beginning the WCI workers have won broad support. Just three days after the lockout several thousand people marched on Labor Day in support of the steelworkers. On September 17 at least a thousand people participated in a march and rally called by the Women's Support Committee.

High school students have gone out to area shopping malls to pass out leaflets about the strike. Students at Youngstown State University are planning meetings on campus to get out the word about the strike.

The union hall on Elm Street N.E. is a



Militant/Sheila Ostrow

Solidarity march organized by Women's Committee of locked-out steelworkers

hub of activity. The women's committee has set up a kitchen and commissary there, and union members are continually present, getting food or coffee, discussing the progress of the fight, signing up for committees and tasks.

Bosses surprised by solidarity

The WCI bosses have been taken aback by the unexpectedly strong resistance they have gotten from the workers and their supporters. The company is now showing signs of disarray. The President and CEO,

John Scheessele, who had only been in his post for a year, resigned September 20. Scheessele cited "personal reasons" for his resignation.

The union is planning to maintain the picket lines until a new contract is won. A major union rally will take place in Courthouse Square in Warren October 8 at 2 p.m. USWA President George Becker and United Auto Workers president Steve Yochikich are scheduled to speak. The union is publicizing this rally throughout the region and urging a big turnout.

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CALENDAR

CANADA

Vancouver

International Day of Solidarity With Cuba. Demonstration against the blockade at the U.S. Consulate. Tue., Oct. 10, 5 p.m. 1095 W. Pender.

Solidarity meeting at Chilean Co-op, 7:30 p.m. 3390 School Ave.

Sock it to 'em — The garment workers union, UNITE, took Chipman-Union, a Georgia sock-maker for Adidas, to court for harassing and firing workers orga-

to save his job.

power company stations.

continuing a two-decade trend of stagnant wages."—News item.

benefits totaling \$564,020.



Harry Ring

nizing into the union. The company put supervisor Jerry Luncford on the stand to swear that he never victimized workers for union activity. But, instead, he tearfully testified the opposite was true. He said he lied in an affidavit

Hurts his trigger finger — "The younger generation, they have no respect for the police. It's almost like we're enemies. It makes me feel bad." — Jessie Washington, a San Francisco cop who shot William Hankston in the back of the head while arresting him. Washington says his gun went off accidentally.

Ride 'em cowboy — It was the ultimate free-market saga, Russia's Northern Fleet owed a state electric company \$4.5 million, so the company shut off the power to one of its nuclear submarine bases. (One reactor overheated when its cooling system shut down.) Power was restored when armed sailors showed up at two

Get your own army — "The fact that military people can come to our premises and dictate their terms at gunpoint causes great indignation and anxiety. They still have to pay for electricity.... We have to settle this one way or the other." — Spokesperson for the Kolenergo electric company in Russia.

Could become a pattern — "American employers, boosting their efficiency with layoffs, hiring freezes and new technology, this spring posted their biggest gain in productivity in nine years. But figures ... also showed that the improved business performance failed to translate into significant increases for American workers,

If that doesn't work, try canceling it — According to Bulgarian TV, some 1,500 people, hyped by mediums, gathered at an airport to await the spaceship arrival of extraterrestrials who would help the country pay its \$12.9 billion debt.

Academic give and take — The cost of going to college increased 6 percent this year, double the inflation rate. Meanwhile the presidents of six private colleges pocketed more than \$400,000 last year, and 19 others racked up more than \$300,000. Boston University pres John Silber, an understandably vociferous partisan of free enterprise, led with wages and

And if he came without pants? — In Columbia, South Carolina, a judge refused to permit a woman lawyer to plead a case because she was wearing pants. Declared the judge: "If a man were to come to my court without a tie, I'd ask him to put on a tie."

Thought for the week — "Hanford is an ecological jewel. To date, we have found two new plants and seven new insects — mostly bees and leafhoppers." — Biologist Curt Soper, enthusing about previously unknown life forms at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the defunct nuke weapons plant which left a large legacy of plutonium pollution.

How N.Y. 'Daily News' strike confronted bosses

On October 25, 1990, after demanding millions of dollars in concessions, the *Daily News* locked out 2,200 workers, forcing them to strike. After 148 days on the picket line they returned with their unions intact, though the nine unions involved approved contracts that included concessions of \$70 million and major job cuts. Below is an excerpt from a book titled *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the rank-and-file Machinists and gains for the labor movement*. It is from a chapter titled "Capitalism's march toward war and depression" based on speeches given by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes. This section discusses the strike against the *Daily News*. The book is copyright © by Pathfinder, 1991, and reprinted with permission.

Since the middle of the 1980s, as resistance by the working class and unions in the United States has evolved, a pattern has emerged. Despite the difficulties, despite the blows, workers and unionists in the United States pushed to the wall by the employers' assaults have found ways to fight. Layer after layer of workers have managed to avoid simply being handcuffed, chained, and prevented from organizing to defend themselves. They have done so even when the bosses and labor bureaucrats have combined to block them from using standard union tactics that have brought victories throughout the history of the labor movement — that is, even when they are blocked from organizing union power and solidarity to shut down production.

As workers have moved into action in the face of these odds, other working people have expressed solidarity with their battles. Important experiences with rich lessons on how to forge unity, overcome divisions, and wage an effective struggle have begun to be accumulated by a small vanguard of fighters in the labor movement. These defensive efforts are waged from a position of weakness. The ranks are not in a strong enough position to push aside the current labor officialdom and replace it with another leadership that has an alternative, class-struggle strategy. Their efforts have to take place largely within the limits of the strategy imposed by this ossified bureaucracy. But this fact makes these experiences no less important as the

arena where rank-and-file fighters find each other and test each other.

All this is being experienced right now as the *Daily News* strike unfolds in the greater New York City area.

This is a strike that began in October 1990 as one of the most cold-blooded, brutal, militarily organized lockouts by management in years. The union officialdom hoped against hope that this fight would not happen. As a result, the ranks of the drivers, press operators, and other unionized employees were forced into a fight without any preparation. The ranks have no democratic union structures through which to organize, make decisions, argue out tactics, strive for greater unity among themselves, and reach out for broader solidarity from the rest of the labor movement — in order to bring their real potential power to bear.

Management, on the other hand, was well prepared. Production never stopped. The *Daily News* didn't miss a single edition. It had scabs lined up months in advance to do everything from writing copy, to typesetting and printing the papers, to transporting them throughout the metropolitan area. The scabs were at their posts within a matter of minutes — together with armed thugs to go after the unions. The rest of New York's big-business media joined in the company's violence-baiting of the unions.

But then something happened that management had not anticipated. They could write the paper, print the paper, and truck the paper with "permanent replacements." But they couldn't get working people to buy it! The working class in the New York area pulled together to keep the *Daily News* off the newsstands. They put pressure on the owners of the newsstands they patronize not to carry the scab paper; they argue with them, try to convince them. Some of these small shopkeepers have put up solidarity signs announcing, "We don't carry the *Daily News*."

Workers argue with co-workers on the job and with friends and family members not to buy the paper. They've made buying the *Daily News* an immoral, rotten, unconscionable act for any working person with an ounce of decency, human feeling, and solidarity. Unionists have volunteered to go out and ring doorbells to urge people to cancel their subscriptions.

There are thousands of retail outlets that carry daily newspapers in greater New York. Prior to the strike, the *Daily News* was the second-largest-selling metropolitan daily in the country. Yet, today it's difficult to find a newsstand that carries it. This was not accomplished by centralized organization. It took the actions of tens of thousands of workers and unionists. Newsstand owners found that carrying the *Daily News* was considered an insult by regular customers — people they've gotten to know, made friends with, depend on for steady business. These kinds of factors play a role in labor and other social struggles, and they are having a big impact on the *Daily News* strike....

The *Daily News* strike is just the most recent example of the pattern that has emerged from the labor struggles in this country in recent years. It is an uneven pattern, one with gaps and breaks. But the pattern is nonetheless clearer today than when it began to take shape in August



Militant/Marc Lichtman

Unionists rally to support New York *Daily News* strikers in December 1990

1985 with the strike of the packinghouse workers against the Hormel Company and other battles in meat-packing over the following eighteen months to two years.

Since then there have been other fights.... All have been defensive in character, waged by workers pushed deeper and deeper into a corner by the employers. They've had various outcomes: some substantial setbacks or defeats, some stand-

offs, a few victories....

But through all these fights you can watch not just the cumulative impact of the assaults, but also the cumulative effect of workers finding ways to resist for slightly longer, or surprising the employers a bit more with what they are able to accomplish, and thus giving greater confidence to other layers of the working class who will find themselves in struggle.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

October 16, 1970

Price 10¢

NEW YORK — Four rat-infested, overcrowded municipal jails, their cells jammed with Black and Puerto Rican inmates most of whom are awaiting trial, became the setting last week for a full-fledged prison revolt as several thousand embittered prisoners seized hostages and laid down demands for lower bails, speedier trials and an end to intolerable conditions.

The rebellion erupted in the Long Island City branch of the Queens House of Detention Oct. 1 and spread with chain-reaction swiftness to jails in Brooklyn, Manhattan and briefly to Rikers Island.

The revolt ended in a double cross. While [Mayor John] Lindsay met with a prisoner's delegation inside the Queens jail Oct. 5, outside, correctional officers attacked the inmates who were attempting to surrender. Guards wielding nightsticks, iron pipes, pickaxe handles and baseball bats converged on several hundred surrendering inmates in a bloody assault as three horrified reporters watched. The attack came shortly after Lindsay had promised no reprisals if the 300 inmates surrendered peacefully.

Three thousand community residents demonstrated at the Brooklyn jail Oct. 3 and it was clear that large segments of the community sympathized with their brothers inside.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 13, 1945

The drive of Allied imperialism to crush the rising colonial movement for independence in the Far East continued this week on the two fronts of Indo-China and Java. In both lands the imperialists sought a "truce" with nationalist forces.

In Java, the British made four landings at Batavia. Some 1,700 liberated Dutch prisoners of war have been armed. Another 10,000 Dutch troops are now en route from "Europe and America," according to a Netherland diplomatic spokesman in Australia.

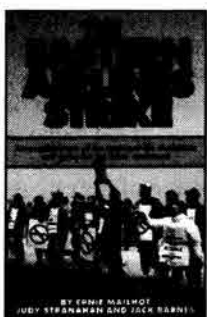
Meanwhile the Indonesian Republic has taken over some of Java's principal cities, including Soerabaja and Bandoeng. In these cities, which have not yet been attacked by the Allies, the Japanese despots lost control to the nationalists.

The picture in Indo-China is essentially the same. A "truce" was negotiated with the Annamese nationalists. Before the "truce" was reached, the British in Saigon, using mortars, machine-guns, and rifles drove the Annamese from the outskirts of the city. The Japanese, fighting under Allied orders, killed 40 to 50 Annamese on September 39.

Two French battleships arrived at Saigon October 3. French paratroopers broke up an unarmed demonstration of 1,500 Annamese in Saigon October 7, while in Paris, spokesmen of the nationalist movement were arrested for demanding freedom for Indo-China.

THE EASTERN AIRLINES STRIKE

Ernie Mailhot, Judy Stranahan, and Jack Barnes
The story of the 686-day strike in which a rank-and-file resistance by Machinists prevented Eastern's anti-union onslaught from becoming the road to a profitable nonunion airline. \$9.95



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All out for Cuba actions!

Like the wolf who had high hopes of eating Little Red Riding Hood, Richard Nuccio of the State Department's Cuba desk went wearing a smile to the conference of the Latin American Studies Association in Washington, D.C. The intervention by the State Department was aimed at making more acceptable, and therefore more effective, the continuation of Washington's policy of using force, threats, and hunger against the Cuban people to bring them to their knees.

While Clinton, like eight other U.S. presidents before him, is for keeping the dagger aimed at Cuba's revolutionary workers and farmers, the White House is portraying itself as the reasonable alternative to Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Dan Burton. These capitalist politicians are sponsors of a bill to tighten even further the U.S. government embargo against Cuba.

There is another side in the Cuba debate that more and more people are willing to consider — that of demanding an unconditional end to the decades-long policy of hostility directed toward the island country.

During the next two weeks there are important opportunities to win new forces to support the right of Cuba's people to their sovereignty, independence, and the socialism they freely choose. On October 14 in Chicago and San Francisco, and then on October 21 in New York, actions will demand an end to the U.S. government's economic war against Cuba. The protests will call for an end to the embargo, the right to travel to Cuba, for normalizing relations with the island nation, and for respect for Cuba's right to self-determination.

Actions in defense of Cuba will be taking place not only in the United States but around the world in October, following a call from a world solidarity conference in Havana last year. Demonstrations are planned for October 14 in London, Stockholm, and many other cities.

The best answer to the White House and to Helms and Burton, and the most important aid for Cuba, is to use the time remaining to make these actions as successful as possible. These events, the efforts of united action by many groups, are an important part of building a movement in the United States that will stand firm in defending Cuba and will attract others to this important fight.

From workers on strike in Detroit and Peoria, Illinois, to students marching to defend affirmative action in California, there are fighters who will be interested in learning more about a whole nation of people that has stood and fought effectively in defense of its sovereignty for more than three decades. More people can be convinced to join the actions if word is gotten out, with leafleting, posterage, and visits to organizations, work sites, and campus and community meetings.

While building for the October actions supporters of Cuba's right to survive in some U.S. cities will also have the opportunity to hear Norberto Codina, one of that country's most renowned poets. Codina will be speaking in Los Angeles, Houston, and in the New York area during October and his visit is an opportunity for workers and students to exchange views and learn about the Cuban revolution.

Addressing the United Nations, Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina noted that Washington's policy has been consistent towards Cuba for decades. The U.S. government has "offered us nothing pleasant in the last 36 years," he said. While this is unchanged, what has changed is the interest in Cuba that has come from respect for what its people have fought for in the world.

The October actions are the best opportunity to tap into that interest.

All out for October 14 in Chicago and San Francisco, and October 21 in New York!

Making thought a crime

With little physical evidence, the U.S. government railroaded 10 people to prison based on the words and actions of a well-paid, self-admitted liar. That's the story of the recently concluded New York "terrorism" trial. Found guilty of sedition charges that only "require the government to prove an intention to wage a terror campaign," Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and nine other defendants may spend the rest of their lives in jail.

The verdict in this case is an outrage and should be condemned by all working people.

There were big stakes riding on the case against Rahman and his followers, who were convicted of planning to wage a "war of urban terrorism." The government put its full weight behind obtaining a conviction, which included paying a snitch a sweet \$1 million for his services.

At the same time that Washington's secret police agencies are coming under intense scrutiny because of the Waco disaster, the Ruby Ridge standoff, and other outrageous actions, the U.S. government was out to get a conviction in the New York trial at all costs. They were desperately in need of some victory to try to refurbish the image of the FBI and its similarly sinister siblings.

But the rulers have a problem getting working people to accept the word of their lying informers and cops, that hasn't been solved with the convictions in New York. The revelations surrounding racist cop Mark Fuhrman was the turning point in the O.J. Simpson trial and is giving big-business politicians headaches as they grapple with trying to clean up the image of those who supposedly "serve and protect" — whether they work for the

federal government or the local police department. A "new skepticism" is growing up that is extremely disturbing to the big-business class.

Capitalist politicians have temporarily stalled in their plans to push through new "counterterrorism" legislation. The measure at first sailed through the U.S. House and Senate judiciary committees with little opposition. The bill would have given cops broad new authority to plant wiretaps, make it easier to deport immigrant workers, expand the role of the military in maintaining capitalist rule, and limit most death row inmates to one appeal in federal court. Because of a "new distrust of the FBI," notes the *New York Times*, the push for the law has derailed.

Sedition charges are used to silence critics of U.S. government policy and to intimidate especially those who challenge Washington's plans to launch wars in other parts of the globe.

By tossing out the presumption of innocence and making thought a crime, the capitalist justice system hopes to run roughshod over the democratic rights of working people. Portraying the defendants in the New York trial as Muslim fanatics and international terrorists, the government hopes to convince working people that there are some people, such as immigrants, who have no rights.

The capitalist "justice" system was able to convict Sheik Rahman and his followers for crimes that were never even committed. If allowed to stand it will be a blow to the rights of all. Working people should oppose this assault on our democratic rights.

Jury rejects cops

Continued from front page

searched Simpson's yard without a warrant, where he says he found a bloody glove that was a key piece of evidence. Blood samples and other physical evidence were handled haphazardly — a fact a couple of jurors pointed to in explaining why they voted "not guilty." These procedures are so typical, the cops and prosecutors thought nothing of it. Fuhrman was praised for his work by the prosecutors and higher-ups in the police department.

From the beginning, Simpson's attorneys hammered away at the actions of the police, accusing Fuhrman and other cops of planting and tampering with evidence and of being racist. The defense got a boost when taped interviews between Fuhrman and an aspiring screen-writer were released. In the interviews the cop uses the epithet "nigger" at least 30 times — a word he swore under oath he had not used in 10 years — and describes in graphic detail beating and torturing suspects in a mostly Latino housing project.

After small portions of the tape were presented to the jury, Fuhrman declined to take the stand for further questioning, citing his Fifth Amendment right to avoid self-incrimination.

Not the trial workers get

Simpson didn't get the same treatment working-class people, whether Black or white, receive. A millionaire, Simpson was able to hire several of the best defense attorneys in the country. And Judge Lance Ito allowed him to do what few workers ever get an opportunity to do — present the record of the cops and make it possible to challenge their evidence. Because of his high-priced legal team and the widespread distrust of the Los Angeles police department, Simpson was able to get the fairest trial money can buy in capitalist society.

This stands in stark contrast to what working people face when they find themselves in court. The main cop who testified against framed-up unionist Mark Curtis in Iowa, for instance, had been suspended from the police force in the past for brutalizing suspects and then lying to cover up his actions. The judge, however, ruled that the jury could not be told this fact, let alone review the cop's entire record.

The same week Simpson was acquitted, 10 men who follow the Muslim faith were found guilty of seditious conspiracy in New York on the word of a paid FBI snitch. The prosecution had not one shred of physical evidence against most of the defendants, yet all face between 20 years and life imprisonment as the U.S. government put its full weight behind the frame-up.

Many innocent working people sit on death row, not able to afford high-priced attorneys.

As two young workers on the Santa Fe railroad in Los Angeles — one of them Black and the other white — told a *Militant* correspondent, "If we were on the stand [instead of Simpson], we would have both gone to jail."

Normal functioning of cops, prosecutors

The functioning of the Los Angeles Police Department and district attorneys was no aberration. It is exactly how the cops function across the country, all the time. This has been exposed in recent months not just in Los Angeles but in Atlanta, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere. And the prosecutors work hand-in-glove with the cops. They're an inseparable part of the same system.

"This has been going on for years in our country to the Black people," Bonnie Beasley, a 55-year-old woman in San Francisco, told the *New York Times* following the Simpson verdict. "In every city there is a Fuhrman."

The trial highlighted how discredited the police have become. The *Times* reported September 25 on interviews with dozens of perspective jurors across New York. The big majority said they would distrust the word of the cops. Many of those interviewed cited Fuhrman as an example.

From beginning to end, the big-business press has played up what they call a "racial divide" over the Simpson case, citing the fact that a much higher percentage of Blacks than whites polled said Simpson should be found "not guilty." The key factor in this "divide," however, is class and experience with the cops, not race.

Workers who are Black and Latino bear a disproportionate brunt of police brutality and frame-ups, and therefore know first-hand what the cops do routinely. Many workers who are white also have similar experiences with the cops, and greater numbers do every day. With the Fuhrman tapes and other recent revelations, more workers than ever before distrust the cops' word, including the two white women who were on the jury that acquitted Simpson.

For many people the verdict does not resolve whether O.J. Simpson murdered Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Only O.J. Simpson himself knows that for sure. It is a matter of record that Simpson physically abused his wife more than once. When he was caught, he pleaded no contest and got a slap on the wrist from the court — a \$970 fine and counseling, which he was allowed to do by telephone. This sorry record demonstrates how little the cops and courts really care about wife-beating and other violence against women.

The jury wasn't in a position to correct what the cops and courts failed to do about O.J. Simpson's wife-beating. The choice before them in the murder trial was to accept the cops' tainted evidence or to acquit. They made the right choice.

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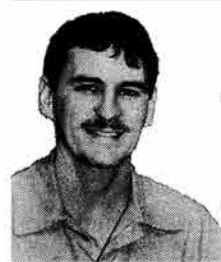
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My mailbag is gauge of support for defense case

"From behind prison walls" is a regular column written by framed-up political and trade union activist Mark Curtis. To write to Curtis, send letters to him at #805338, Iowa State Penitentiary, Box 315, Fort Madison, IA 52627.

FORT MADISON, Iowa — Getting mail is the high point of the average day in prison. In my case, I get an astounding number of letters from people I've never met, but who want to personally let me



Mark Curtis

know that I have their support.

The contents of my mailbag, then, can be a gauge of the support for my defense campaign, and an interesting look at the many different people who are finding out about it. I thought readers of this column might like to hear about some of them.

After an article about the campaign for my parole appeared in the *Des Moines Register*, a man living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, wrote to me. "When you were sentenced, I was running our family hardware store business," he started. "I took an interest in the case but not knowing you personally I didn't seek involvement or enlist support. I read [Bill] Petroski's piece in the morning's *Register* and saw your photo and I'm ashamed that seven years have elapsed; I also wish I had enlisted my support with that of many others at the time of your sentencing.

"If you direct me to John Studer," he closes, "I'd like to contribute something to the Defense Committee." I did direct him to the Defense Committee and he's written a letter on my behalf to the Iowa State Board of Parole.

What this particular letter confirmed to me was that there are people in Iowa and elsewhere who heard about my frame-up

years ago but are unknown to my defense committee. When they hear again that I'm still in prison they see more clearly the political motivations that put me here and keep me here.

From a tiny town in Labrador, on the eastern coast of Canada, came a letter from a Native man who pointed out, "You're not the only person that is struggling with the Justice system. All across Canada the Native people are suffering from this kind of Justice system. Our Chief was locked up for one week without breaking our law."

"Our people have been prosecuted for feeding our children from our Mother Earth. We are struggling against low level flying in our land."

He found out about my case while at a conference for Native rights in Alaska, where he read the pamphlet about it. I had to break out the world atlas to locate the village in Labrador.

I was more familiar with the origin of the message signed by participants in the International Festival "Cuba Lives," since I had visited Cuba almost 15 years ago. About a dozen delegates signed the message after learning of my case from the North Americans who attended. They pledged to "definitely join the campaign for your cause and hope some day justice will come out of it." They also hope I'll come to Cuba when I'm free. I plan on it!

Also from Cuba a letter arrived from the general secretary of the Ghana Students Union of Cuba. He pointed out that "the struggle of the working class is universal," and promised to make known "your name and what you represent throughout Africa."

"I write to send my warm regards to a comrade and victim of capitalist justice," begins a letter from a member of the national executive of Britain's largest civil service union, which represents the workers of the Land Registry. The unionist from Lancashire is a member of Left Unity and he also wrote a letter requesting my release by the Iowa Board of Parole. "Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist from this side of Atlantic," he ends.

To round up this batch of letters comes

one from Farmington, Pennsylvania. The author explains that, "A few weeks ago I was at a rally in Philadelphia to protest the death penalty, and specifically to protest Mumia Abu-Jamal's impending execution on August 17." (Since then Abu-Jamal's execution has been postponed.)

From the rally he "brought home a leaflet from your Defense Committee and I read it with shock and horror. Although after having been involved recently in Mumia's case, I was not as surprised at what happened to you as I would have been a few months ago. It is hard to believe what is happening today in our country which professes 'liberty and justice for all.'"

He and his wife are members of the Bruderhof community movement, a communal Christian organization which came to the United States to escape persecution by the Nazis. Their seven-year-old daughter drew a mountain scene with crayons for me, which is now up on my cell wall.

This small sample shows why it is not at all surprising that such a large number of people have written to the Iowa Board of Parole asking that I be released. The biggest number this year is from peasants

in Brazil, and many others come from people new to this fight and some from places unexpected.

At the annual meeting with my counselor to discuss my parole plan, a positive change in the prison evaluation that is forwarded to the parole board was made. Last year's summary claimed that I have a "significant" psychological problem. The reason? Because I maintain my innocence of the charges against me. This contradicted the most recent psychological evaluation I've had, in 1993, when the visiting psychologist said there were "no issues" in my case and that no further evaluation was necessary. According to my counselor, this year's summary will list no such problem.

There is still time to write to the Iowa Board of Parole on my behalf. The counselor let me know that the Board will be reviewing my case on October 18. If they agree to give me a hearing it would be held here in Fort Madison on November 21.

Thanks to all of you who have written so far!

Detroit newspaper strike

Continued from Page 7

hired guns, dressed in riot gear, advanced outside the gate to attack pickets.

"All of a sudden they formed a column and came out. I think they'd been itching to do it all night. They had their truncheons out," said Kevin Cesarz, a copy editor and member of the Guild. Detroit police at the scene did not stop the attack. Angry pickets drove the goons back inside the gate.

"Our guards moved out to make a pathway to bring the vehicles in. There was no provocation," said Tim Kelleher, vice president, of Detroit Newspapers.

But videotapes of the incident broadcast on Sunday evening TV newscasts showed a different picture. "We finally got on videotape the proof that they've been violent to us," said striker John Collier, whose footage was broadcast on local stations.

Detroit City Council President Maryann

Mahaffey was at the Clayton picket line all night to support the strike and observe the Detroit Police Department's conduct. "There were strikers who were arrested, but I didn't see scabs arrested, and that I find very disturbing," she said.

Meanwhile, Macomb County prosecutor Carl Marlinga has announced that he is conducting a criminal investigation into the activities of the strikebreakers at the Detroit Newspapers Sterling Heights plant on the night of September 2-3. The probe will center on the incident at 3:00 a.m. September 3, when a delivery truck rammed a locked gate, injuring one striker who was pinned under the gate. Marlinga said the charges could range from conspiracy to commit assault to conspiracy to commit murder.

Holly Harkness is a member of the United Auto Workers in Detroit.

LETTERS

'Hats off to good cops?'

It's not only in Philadelphia and Los Angeles that the police and city officials are reeling from ongoing exposures of police brutality, racism, and corruption.

In the largest corruption scandal in the history of the Atlanta police department, six police officers in southeast Atlanta were arrested September 7 on federal charges of accepting thousands of dollars a week in protection money from drug dealers, keeping cash found in searches, diverting foot patrol officers away from dealers, showing dealers where to set up drug houses, and framing up dealers who crossed them. As many as six more officers may be arrested.

Gwinnett County police officer Michael Chapel was convicted September 10 [and given] two life sentences for robbing and killing a 53-year-old woman who had sought his help.

A Cumming police officer, J.D. Swansey, was charged September 6 with murder after beating a car chase suspect to death with a flashlight.

A grand jury indicted a Dublin police officer for molesting a 12-year-old girl.

A former Kennesaw police officer was sentenced September 6 to five years in prison for trying to hire a hit man to kill a 15-year-old girl. Atlanta prosecutors are scrambling as many drug cases involving the corrupt officers may be dismissed.

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* is working overtime to con-

vince working people in Atlanta that these are only a few rogue cops. "Hats off to good cops" was the headline of a recent *Constitution* editorial. Atlanta Crime Commission Chairman Mike Dangerfield says the solution to bad cops is ... more cops: "Increasing the force by some 200 officers ... would reduce stress and temptations to officers!"

Bob Braxton
Atlanta, Georgia

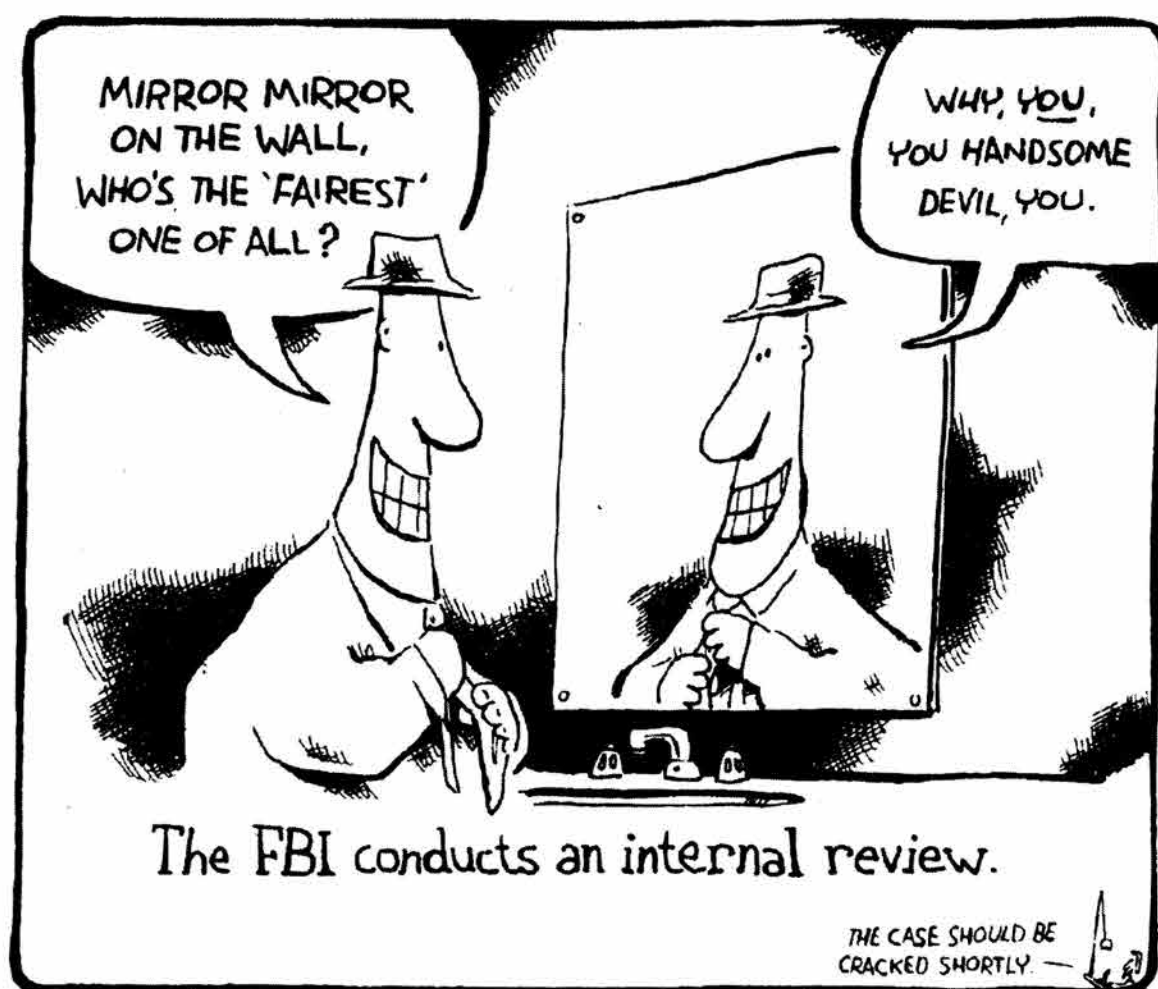
Affirmative action rally

More than 400 people rallied to defend affirmative action on September 19 in Pasadena. The "Unity Rally" was called by Citizens For Affirmative Action And Fairness, a community-based coalition spearheaded by Pasadena mayor Bill Paparian and vice mayor Chris Holden.

The rally was held in front of Pasadena's city hall. Sessions of the Pasadena city council and the local school board had just voted to reaffirm existing affirmative action legislation. The Pasadena mayor and vice mayor opened the rally with brief remarks.

Many at the rally were young people. Three carloads of young activists from the New African Vanguard Movement attended the rally. Half a dozen students from UCLA's African Student Union participated. Students at UCLA are planning protest activities for October 12, to denounce the University of California regent's summer decision to dismantle affirmative in the school system.

Alex, from Garfield High



School, said she came to the rally "to defend affirmative action. There is racism today but they don't want to acknowledge it. Affirmative action provides for equality by making sure individuals get equal opportunity to jobs."

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Em-

ployees (AFSCME) Council #36 and the Pasadena Firefighters Local #809 co-sponsored and participated in the rally. The Altadena chapter of the NAACP and the San Fernando Valley NOW constituted a large presence.

John Evenhuis
Los Angeles, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Cuba demands an end to embargo

Foreign Minister Robaina details devastating effects of U.S. aggression

Following are excerpts of a letter from Cuba's foreign minister, Roberto Robaina, to the secretary-general of the United Nations on the impact of the U.S. economic embargo on the Cuban people. The letter was printed in the August 30 issue of *Granma Internacional*. In the letter Robaina refers to the Helms-Burton bill, legislation aimed at tightening the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support by a vote of 294 to 130 on September 21. It awaits action in the Senate.

H.E. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization

Your Excellency,
For three consecutive years and with the support of a growing number of countries, the General Assembly of the United Nations has passed Resolutions 47/19, 48/16 and 49/9, which express the need to bring to an end the economic, commercial and financial blockade maintained against Cuba by the United States for an uninterrupted period of more than three decades.

In each one of these resolutions the General Assembly has also rejected the extraterritorial nature of the U.S. bases which violate the United Nations Charter and international law.¹

Recently, the international community witnessed new initiatives placed before the U.S. Congress, guided not by any respect for the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, calling for the lifting of the unilateral blockade imposed on Cuba, but containing measures to further extend it.

The Helms-Burton bill, which among its other objectives aims to internationalize the blockade of Cuba, only serves to demonstrate that the cold war still exists for some (document A/50/172, recently circulated, includes an exhaustive analysis of its principal implications).

The General Assembly has been kept informed of the negative effects of these aggressive measures on the Cuban econ-

¹ The United States illegally occupies a portion of Cuban soil, maintaining a naval base at Guantánamo.

Cuban youth begins tour of Scandinavian countries

BY LARS JOHANSSON
AND CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM — Jonathan Manuel Quirós Santos, a leader of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba (UJC), is scheduled to arrive in Stockholm October 11 for a month-long tour of four Scandinavian countries.

Quirós will meet with youth organizations and speak at universities, colleges, and high schools. He has been invited to Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Iceland by the friendship associations in the respective countries.

The youth leader is also scheduled to speak at a national demonstration on October 14 in Stockholm against the U.S. government blockade of Cuba. The protest is the first such demonstration in 15 years and will coincide with similar demonstrations in other countries that were called at an international solidarity conference in Havana in December 1994.

Since the decision by the Sweden-Cuba Friendship Association earlier this spring to initiate the demonstration, a work group from different organizations has met three times to organize and build the demonstra-



Militant/Laura Garza

Cuban workers at sugar processing plant during harvest. Washington's recent aggressive measures against Cuba are designed to induce economic collapse.

omy, as well as on the living standards of the population, and how our relocation of markets has rebounded in a significant increase in acquisition costs, insecurity of supplies and the destabilization of distribution and production.

Information has also been provided on how the anti-Cuba measures applied by the United States have made existing fi-

nancial difficulties more acute, by depriving the Cuban economy of access to international sources of finance.

For Cuba, its scant and costly external finance resources (despite being in the main guaranteed by sugar, nickel and other export items), include in their cost, already elevated due to coming from commercial sources, surcharges of at least

three percent, purely on account of Cuba's "high-risk country" status as a blockaded country. This is given because of the lack of support from the international financial institutions and a substantial number of private agencies, in view of potential reprisals from the United States of America, and because of the business world's general awareness of the extensive range of restrictions under which Cuba has to trade due to the blockade.

In the same way, the U.S. authorities have proceeded to freeze funds released by Cuban companies in order to make international payments, via the controls they exert on an important part of international banking transactions.

On May 13, 1994, the Cuban Fishing Fleet in Canada transferred 45,000 U.S. dollars to the SERVINAES Panama company, in order to guarantee payment of services required by the vessel Golfo de Guahanacabibes boat on passing through the Panama Canal. This transfer was sent by the Toronto Bank, but it never arrived at its destination because the U.S. Treasury Department office for the control of foreign goods retained the money.

Another concrete example of the effects of the blockade on the development of Cuban foreign trade is maritime transportation.

For every journey from Europe or Asia undertaken by a ship involved in trade with Cuba, the additional costs in compar-

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'Going backward is not the answer'

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD

MANCHESTER, England — "Today we see a tremendous campaign to isolate Cuba. That's why it's so important for us to get together, especially for young people, who have a special responsibility to change things."

That's how Cuban student leader Kenia Serrano explained the importance of her speaking tour to the 26 students at Manchester University who attended a lunchtime meeting September 28. The event was chaired by Paul Cammack, a senior lecturer in Latin American Studies. It fol-

lowed a successful meeting in Liverpool the previous evening that kicked off her tour in this region.

In response to questions on the Cuban economy, Serrano explained, "The 1995 budget of parliament has been increased for education, the environment, health, and social services. The new generation is considered a priority. These are our priorities while facing economic hardships; other countries facing this choice have chosen neoliberalism, which means privatization and human beings turned into a commodity. We face a very difficult situation, but going back is not the answer. Each generation has had to face challenges and this is ours."

That evening Serrano spoke to another 30 students at the Manchester Metropolitan University. One of the students there asked her about the significance of the recent Cuba Lives international youth festival, held in August. "For us the youth festival was a tremendous success," Serrano responded. "It was important that youth were able to explain to Cuban families themselves what it was like in their countries, and for the Cuban people to explain to the youth the Cuban reality."

Serrano was the main speaker at the Cuba Lives dayschool hosted by the Sheffield Cuba Solidarity Campaign on September 30. The dayschool was attended by 55 activists from Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, and Lincoln. One of the participants asked a question about bureaucratism and corruption in Cuba.

"I would be lying if I said there is no bureaucratism in Cuba. Especially some of the ways that were brought from the former Soviet Union," Serrano said. "Sometimes people who study a specialty in the Soviet Union copy the ways of behaving and bring them to Cuba. Sometimes we have people even in the Communist Party who don't act the way they should given their positions. Also in the joint ventures it is possible that some opportunist-minded people can be bought."

It is better to discuss these problems and recognize them and deal with them, otherwise the revolution will suffer."

Throughout the day participants entered into lively discussions at workshops on themes such as Democracy and the Cuban revolution, Cuba's environmental policy, the Helms-Burton bill and Washington's economic blockade, Cuba's new economic measures, and challenges facing Cuban women.

At the end of the day participants discussed building support for the upcoming Hands off Cuba march and rally in London on October 14, where Serrano will be speaking. The London demonstration is one of many that will be taking place all over the world as part of international days of action in October.

Joyce Fairchild is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union in Manchester.



Militant/Angel Lariscy

Cuban youth leader Kenia Serrano