

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

530 'Militant' subscriptions to go in drive to win new readers

— PAGE 5

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 62/NO. 40 NOVEMBER 9, 1998

## Defend right to abortion! Protest rightist murder!

Socialist Workers candidates: mobilizations needed

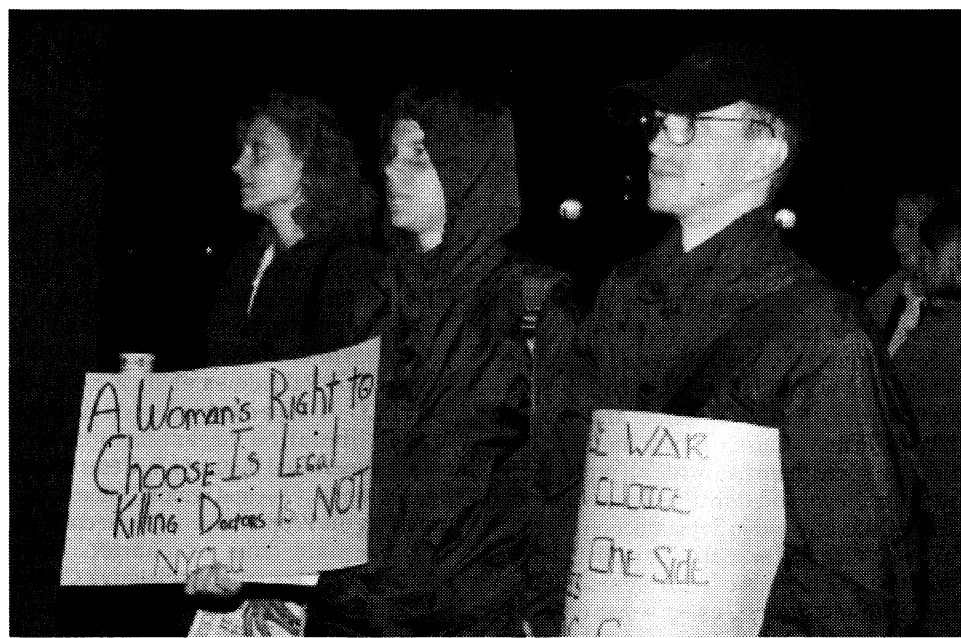
The following statement was issued October 27 by New York Socialist Workers candidates Al Duncan for governor and Rose Ana Berbeo for U.S. Senate.

We join with others in condemning the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian, who was killed by a sniper in his home in Amherst, New York, October 23 after receiving death threats because he performed abortions — a constitutionally protected medical procedure. We call for the arrest and conviction of all those responsible for this heinous crime. Massive protests by working people and others are crucial to pushing back this attack.

Slepian was the seventh doctor, clinic worker, or volunteer escort killed because of their support for the right to choose abortion since 1993. These murders have been accompanied by other acts of terror: the bombing and arson of clinics; physical assaults on doctors, staff and others; picketing of people's places of work as well as their homes; death threats; and other acts of intimidation. Two clinics in North Carolina were just firebombed on September 8.

It is the U.S. government, not just the individual rightists who committed these crimes, that is ultimately to blame for the death near Buffalo. The federal government allows states to pass laws restricting the civil rights of women when they become pregnant, and has stood by while clinics have been bombed and doctors threatened and killed. The U.S. Congress has repeatedly

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Militant/Ruth Nebbia

Demonstration in New York October 27, protesting murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian.

## Hundreds protest killing of doctor

BY VALERIE JOHNSON

NEW YORK — Across North America, supporters of women's right to choose abortion are protesting the October 23 assassination of Dr. Barnett Slepian, an obstetrician and gynecologist who provided abortions in Buffalo, New York. Vigils and rallies have been held from Buffalo to New York

City and Vancouver, British Columbia, and more are planned in the coming days.

Slepian, 52, was shot through the back with a high-powered rifle as he stood talking with his wife and 15-year-old son in the kitchen of their home in Amherst, New York.

The doctor and his family had received

Continued on Page 12

## Response to fund allows downpayment on computer-to-plate machine by Pathfinder shop

BY STEVE CLARK

NEW YORK — "Today the papers were signed and the down payment made to purchase the Agfa Galileo platesetter, the equip-

ment needed to facilitate our efforts to keep Pathfinder books in print, so we can get them into the hands of class struggle-minded workers and youth," Dave Prince told the

Militant October 29. Prince is director of the capital fund aimed at raising \$550,000.

The initial payment was drawn from capital contributions of \$167,450 raised in less than two weeks — between the October 18 celebration in Oakland, California, of the life and political contributions of Paul Montauk, a 60-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party who died earlier that month, and the days just after a round of national meetings over the October 24-25 weekend of members of the SWP and Young Socialists in six industrial unions.

Prince made a special appeal for this international effort at the Bay Area meeting for Montauk, and then spent the following week on the road raising funds in southern California, Texas, and at the meetings held in Des Moines, Iowa, of socialist workers who are members of the United Auto Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, and United Steelworkers of America. Meetings were held that same weekend in Los Angeles of socialists in the International Association of Machinists; the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; and in the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees.

Members of the Capital Fund committee participated in the meetings in both cities. In addition to Prince, that committee includes Nan Bailey of Seattle, Sam Manuel of Washington, D.C., Norton Sandler of San Francisco, Maggie Trowe of Des Moines, and Jack Willey of Chicago. Sandler presented a

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## Teamsters at Anheuser-Busch hold two-day strike

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CHICAGO — The 66 members of Teamsters Local 367 began a two-day strike against Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis, Missouri, October 23. Two thousand members of the three other Teamster locals and union subcontractors at the plant, the largest of the 12 Anheuser-Busch breweries nationwide, refused to cross the picket line.

Since their contract with Anheuser-Busch expired in February 1998, the Teamsters members have twice rejected contract offers. On September 21 the company began unilaterally imposing its "final offer" at all the breweries, affecting 8,000 workers.

This contract increases the subcontracting of maintenance work, guts the jobs bidding procedure, allows the company to arbitrarily assign workers to jobs, and increases the number of part-time and seasonal workers. Overtime pay is provided only after a worker puts in more than 40 hours in a week, and the company has begun implementing additional work rules that are not even in the imposed contract.

The members of Teamsters Local 367 who initiated the strike, the first Teamsters walk-

Continued on Page 11

## Actions will demand: Free Puerto Rican political prisoners now

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — In Florida the Orlando chapter of the Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners is working with various groups to organize two November actions demanding freedom for the 15 Puerto Rican political activists being held in U.S. jails.

The first of these demonstrations will be a picket line outside the Federal Detention Center in downtown Miami on November 14. This is the prison where Puerto Rican independence fighter Antonio Camacho is being held. Besides the Orlando committee, groups who will be participating in the Miami picket line include the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, the Antonio Maceo Brigade, the Socialist Workers Party, activists from the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community, and others.

A week later, November 21, a second Florida action will be held in the Orlando area to protest the imprisonment of Juan Segarra Palmer, who is being held in the nearby city of Coleman. Activists from the Miami area will be traveling up to Orlando for this activity.

Other protests are taking place that week across the United States at prisons where the Puerto Rican independence fighters are incarcerated (see listing on page 11). December 10 is planned as a day of protests nationwide.

COME TO THE

Young Socialists Convention

December 4-6  
Los Angeles



For more information, call the Young Socialists national office (213) 387-3033, or the numbers listed on page 12.

Socialist Workers: Join farmers' struggles — page 8

**Nigeria: hundreds burn to death**

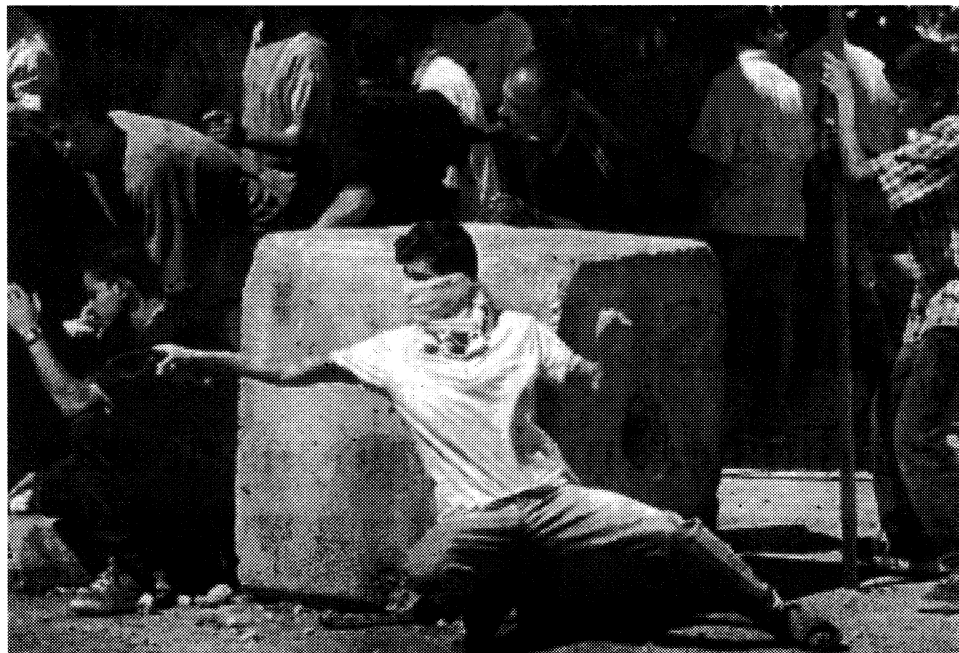
As many as 1,000 people in the southern towns of Warri, and Jesse, Nigeria — many of them women and children — were charred beyond recognition, or were burned and died later from their injuries, when a leaking gas pipe burst into flames October 17. Hundreds more have been burned. Many of those killed in the explosion were attempting to get some of the leaking gasoline either to use or sell. Because fuel is so hard to obtain, cassava farmers could earn a month's income in a few moments of oil tapping. Black market prices are as high as 1,000 percent the normal cost. Oil moguls make billions from exports.

The Texas-based company BJ Services, which had personnel in Nigeria, did little for the first two days of the blaze. After the majority of injuries were already incurred, workmen were sent in to put out the blaze. Firefighters stopped fighting the flames October 19, letting the fuel remaining in the Jesse section of the pipeline burn itself out. This lasted until October 23.

The Nigerian government and the government-owned Pipeline and Products Marketing Company blamed local residents for the explosion. "If you people are complaining of marginalization," said Nigerian ruler Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar on a visit to the tragic site in Warri, "that is not enough for you to go on destroying government property." An article in the October 20 *New York Times* described refineries in Nigeria as "poorly maintained." The government has ruled out compensation for the families, calling them thieves.

**Indonesia: glove workers strike**

About 700 workers struck a glove factory owned by PT Latex Indotoba Perkasa in Medan, Indonesia, nearly 900 miles northwest of the capital city of Jakarta recently, demanding higher pay and better benefits. Associated Press reported strikers were seeking to go back into the factory when they were then pushed away and attacked by dozens of policeman guarding the building. Five people were killed by gunfire. One worker was struck with a bayonet, four others were wounded by rubber bullets, and at least one picket was thought to have been beaten af-



Palestinian youth in Hebron, West Bank, confront Israeli soldiers in mid-October.

ter being taken to a police station.

**Malaysian gov't attacks protests**

Thousands of Malaysian people turned out in Kuala Lumpur to oppose the 17-year rule of Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir. The action was called by bourgeois opposition forces that back jailed and ousted Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. The ruling regime there has made all pro-Anwar protests illegal and threatened mass arrests. Anwar was arrested in September on charges of corruption and sexual misconduct, which he denies. Hundreds of cops were sent in to break up the protest, using water cannons filled with blue-foam pepper spray and firing 50 rounds of tear gas. Some people leaving grocery stores in the area were randomly arrested. Cops followed a group of protesters to a nearby mosque, drenched the house of prayer in pepper spray, and were chased away by those in the mosque. Several hundred were detained.

**West Bank: underneath 'peace' accords polarization sharpens**

U.S. president William Clinton, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) head Yasser Arafat signed a so-called land-for-peace agreement October 23 in Maryland. Under the U.S.-brokered accord, Tel Aviv is to pull back its troops from another 13 percent of the West Bank and release 750 of the 3,000 Palestinian political prisoners. The PLO is supposed to crack down on armed liberation organizations — an action supervised by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency — and remove references of replacing the Zionist state with a secular Palestinian state from its charter. Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian Legislative Council member, said, "There is no confidence in the Israeli government" to make good on the agreements "because we have learned from experience that this Israeli government is certainly not interested in bridging the gap between signing of an agreement and honoring the commitment."

Zionist settlers, the National Religious Party, and other rightists in Israel opposed to any troop withdrawal have labeled Netanyahu's agreement "treason" and a "surrender." Settlers in the West Bank have demonstrated against the pull back, blocking roads. Some in the Israeli government have threatened to topple Netanyahu's coalition regime if any land is given up.

**Tokyo tries bank bailout package**

On October 16 the Japanese government enacted a plan to pour as much as \$500 billion capital into its hobbled banking system, while nationalizing banks too weak to survive. The first that will most likely be taken over by Tokyo is Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd., due to its inability to pay key bondholders. New laws require any bank facing such difficulties to report them to the government, which must then decide whether to nationalize the lender.

Meanwhile, Nomura Securities — Japan's largest investment bank — is axing

2,000 jobs and scaling back some of its international operations in order to compensate for \$2.3 billion lost in the first half of the fiscal year. Daiwa and Nikko, the second- and third-largest investment banks, have taken similar measures.

**Ruble crisis affects Siberia**

The declining value of the Russian ruble threatens to have a devastating impact on the eastern region of Siberia this winter. Essential food and other product shipments sent there will, in some cases, be chopped in half and in remote areas cut off completely. Contributing factors include: a two-thirds fall in the value of the ruble causing import prices to rise in transit and the lack of fuel for nuclear-powered ice-breaking barges that can navigate the frozen streams that pass distant areas in Siberia. Food reserves accumulated over the years are fast running out.

Meanwhile, trade unionists have threatened to launch a national strike if Moscow continues to stall payment on the 21 billion ruble debt owed to workers. Some 44 million Russians — 30 percent of the population — now live below the poverty line.

**Dominicans demand electricity**

One month after Hurricane Georges ravaged the Dominican Republic, hundreds of people in Navarrete and the capital city, Santo Domingo, protested chronic water and electricity outages. Cops were pelted with rocks by some demonstrators at the October 22 actions. Troops were deployed in one neighborhood in Santo Domingo, where they reportedly pulled some youths out of their houses, beat them, then took them in to the police. Cops shot and injured at least one protester and arrested and detained hundreds. The Dominican Energy Corp. claims they restored electricity to 80 percent of the island. Hundreds of people were killed in the hurricane, according to the government, and at least 100,000 have been left homeless. Accounts by many residents put the death toll in the thousands.

**Texas nuclear dump rejected**

After months of protests in Mexico, and in southern Texas, the Texas state environmental commission decided to deny a license to build a nuclear waste dump outside Sierra Blanca, west Texas, near the border with Mexico. Sixty percent of the town's 600 residents are of Mexican descent. The dump, planned for 15 years, would have sat on top of a precarious geological fault line in the area prone to earthquake risks. On October 12 more than 1,000 people, including government officials, protested in Mexico City against the proposed dump. The Mexican government had just reversed its position and declared its official opposition to the construction of the facility, which would store radioactive waste from U.S. nuclear reactors.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

# THE MILITANT

## Defend a woman's right to choose abortion

*The cold-blooded assassination of an upstate New York women's health doctor marks a step-up in antichoice thug activity. Workers and youth from New York to Vancouver are mobilizing to condemn the brutal assault. The 'Militant' covers the ongoing fight to keep the clinics open. Don't miss a single issue!*



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# Indonesia: students, farmers protest economic conditions

BY HANK SCHEER  
AND ELLEN HAYWOOD

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Political rallies, strikes, and land occupations are taking place throughout the Indonesian archipelago, as the economic crisis in this country continues to spiral downward. The parliament building in this capital city was the site of daily gatherings during a brief visit here in September 21-24. On September 21, there was a student demonstration of 1,500. The next day, a delegation of bus drivers was sitting under a large banner in front of the building, while a smaller delegation inside demanded the government subsidize gas and spare parts. There was another protest of 1,000 students from 37 campuses September 23. And on the final day of the trip, farmers demonstrated along with their student supporters.

The gate is closed at the main entrance to the parliament building, where these rallies took place. Barbed wire spirals are sprawled across the road inside. Police with riot shields line the outside of the gate. When there are large demonstrations, truckloads of military forces arrive as reinforcements.

Both student demonstrations demanded President Jusuf Habibie resign and that the government subsidize nine basic necessities, including rice and cooking oil. The government admits that 17 million people are facing severe food shortages, out of a population of just over 200 million. Some 40 percent of the population is officially living in poverty. The currency has been devalued 80 percent since July 1997, and many factories have closed. It was the attempt to end fuel subsidies as part of an IMF-dictated auster-

ity package that sparked an upsurge in protests by students and others against the regime of former President Suharto earlier this year. Under this pressure, Washington and a large layer of the Indonesian ruling class decided it was time to dump Suharto, who had ruled Indonesia with an iron fist since 1965. Habibie, Suharto's vice president, took over as president May 21 in an attempt to restore capitalist stability.

The watchword of the May protests, "reformasi" (reform) has been adopted by the government as an official slogan. Protesters now call for "reformasi total." A popular T-shirt says, "No Soeharto, No Habibie, No KKN," which stands for corruption, cronyism, and nepotism. The back reads, "Students for Total Reform."

## Peasants demand return of land

The peasant demonstration, organized by the Indonesian Farmers Union Federation, attracted farmers from across the island of Java; the Sumatran provinces of Aceh and West Sumatra; and Bali. It was one of at least 10 nationally coordinated actions marking National Agrarian Day and the 38th anniversary of the Basic Agrarian Law. This law was passed in 1960 by the bourgeois nationalist regime of Sukarno as a result of pressure from peasants.

The law was supposed to guarantee two hectares of land to each peasant family. Its passage spurred widespread battles by peasant farmers, including land occupations that intensified in 1964 and early 1965. Many peasant leaders died in the 1965 coup led by then General Suharto and the subsequent massacre of more than 500,000 Indonesian



Militant/Hank Scheer

Farmers protest in Bogor, Indonesia, demanding return of land stolen by the government.

toilers, and the land reform movement was crushed.

The central demand of this year's demonstrations was for the return of land that was confiscated under the Suharto regime to build tourist facilities, industrial complexes, and private estates for government officials. The farmers received little or no compensation. At the protest in Jakarta and another we attended in nearby Bogor, many farmers wore headbands reading "Agrarian Reform" and carried signs such as "Total Reform = Agrarian Reform." A farm leader at a protest in Central Java was quoted in the *Jakarta Post* explaining, "We just want the land, which we tilled for years, to be given back to us so we can grow crops to feed our families during the crisis."

At the Jakarta action, a farmer from West Sumatra was wearing a T-shirt from a farm organization in Aceh. He said T-shirt exchanges have occurred as farmers' coordination and unity has grown.

Students at the University of Indonesia

(UI) organized buses and logistical aid in carrying out this demonstration. Afterward we rode one of the buses back to UI with farmers and students from Sumatra. There, a student took us to one of four large tents erected on campus and used to provide housing for farmers who had come long distances for the demonstration.

One of the farm leaders from East Java related a recent struggle there. Four weeks earlier, he said, a group of landless farmers organized themselves to legally plant crops on idle land. They informed the local authorities as required.

One day as they were working the police came, confiscated their tools, jailed a number of them, and drove the rest off the land. Two weeks later the jailed activists were released. The police said they had not been arrested, just kept for "guidance." The cops added that the land was not idle — it belongs to the national chief of police. The papers here report many other land occupations going on throughout Indonesia.

# Quebec sovereignty is central issue in snap election

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — On October 28, the Parti Quebecois (PQ) government of Prime Minister Lucien Bouchard called a November 30 provincial election for the renewal of Quebec's National Assembly. The timing of this move is clearly aimed at taking advantage of the falling support for the PQ's main electoral opponent, the Liberal Party of Quebec (PLQ) headed by Jean Charest.

Unlike most provincial elections, these are a national event in Canadian bourgeois politics. Charest was the head of the Conservative Party of Canada in the federal parliament in Ottawa. Last March he resigned in order to become the head of the Liberal Party of Quebec, at the urging of large sections of Canada's ruling class who viewed him as the only political figure able to chase the PQ from office in Quebec. Their overt goal was to put to rest the PQ's plan to hold a new referendum on Quebec sovereignty.

Quebec is the second most populous and industrialized of Canada's 10 provinces, with 7 million inhabitants. Of these, 6 million are Quebecois and form an oppressed nationality on the basis of their language, French. For the past six decades, since the movement to form industrial unions in Canada at the end of the 1930s, the struggle by Quebecois against the oppression and discrimination they face has been central to politics in this country.

The PQ is a bourgeois nationalist party formed in 1968 as a split-off from the PLQ, the Canadian rulers' main political instrument in Quebec. It promotes greater powers for Quebec, including up to what it describes as "sovereignty," in the framework of a new "association" to be negotiated with the rest of Canada. It has held two referendums on Quebec's sovereignty, in 1980 and 1995. The first lost by a margin of close to 20 percent; the 1995 vote lost by less than 2 percent — a major political setback for the imperialist rulers in Ottawa.

Following the 1995 referendum, Canada's rulers were divided over how to quell the resistance of the Quebecois. The wing led by Premier Jean Chrétien refuses to make any new concessions to Quebecois demands and has renewed its economic blackmail and ultimate threats of military intervention against Quebec. This has helped fuel a sharp rise of anti-Quebec chauvinist

demagoguery across the country.

Another wing of Canada's ruling class sees this confrontational course as ineffective, and pushed Charest, who was dubbed a "pro-Quebec" politician in Ottawa, to jump into the Quebec arena as the chief representative of Canadian imperialism.

Earlier this year, the publicity around Charest's move and deep anger among working people against the PQ government's assault on health services over the last three years, boosted the Liberal Party of Quebec to 52 percent in the polls, well ahead of the PQ. Seven months later, this initial impact has evaporated. The two parties are currently nose-to-nose.

## Liberals, PQ both push social cuts

Ten days before the election call, the PLQ adopted a new conservative economic program, a shift to the right for this party. They call for the end of what is known in Quebec as the "Quiet Revolution" era — the period when important gains were made by working people in health, education, and other social services through the big struggles they led for union rights and against national oppression in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Charest proposes instead a massive reduction of the size of the provincial state apparatus, a 10 percent tax cut over five years, the deregulation of the labor code, the increased privatization of health services, and the financing of schools and hospital according to their performance. He has repeatedly given as his model the Conservative government of Michael Harris in Ontario, which cut taxes by 30 percent in three years and laid off thousands of working people.

While the PLQ's new economic program was loudly applauded by sections of the ruling class, the PQ and the labor officialdom in Quebec immediately denounced it as a "neoliberal" attack against the social gains of the Quiet Revolution — failing to mention that the PQ government has been responsible for major assaults on the very same services, especially health care.

The second question that came to the fore was that of Quebec itself. For months, Charest opposed any new referendum on Quebec sovereignty, claiming that would be a factor of political and economic uncertainty and a diversion from the real question — jobs and the economy. Unemploy-

ment in Quebec remains above 10 percent several years into an economic upturn. Charest also claimed his election as prime minister of Quebec would make easier to get concessions from the federal government.

Under the impact of this campaign, the PQ adopted in September what it called a "winning referendum" strategy. In other words, not holding a new referendum without having "winning conditions." This was understood by most people as putting it off indefinitely. But in the week leading to the election call, Bouchard stated that the PQ will hold a third referendum if reelected and will make sure to win it.

A few days later, Canada's premier Chrétien said in a front-page interview in the Montreal daily *La Presse* that "the list of Quebec's traditional demands has been fulfilled" by Ottawa over the last five years. Thus, there is no need, he added, to include a clause recognizing Quebec as a "unique society" in the Canadian constitution, a central aspect of the PLQ's constitutional platform. Chrétien went as far as to say that the election of a Liberal government in Quebec City won't change the relations between the two governments that much.

These comments were immediately denounced by PLQ top spokespersons, all federalist parties, and the media in Ottawa and across the country as "a stab in the back" of Charest, as *La Presse* editorialized on October 27. Chrétien felt pressured to retreat, saying that he would consider including the "unique society" clause in the constitution if a federalist party — in other words one that supports the imperialist domination of Quebec by the Ottawa government — were elected in Quebec.

## Ongoing labor resistance

Meanwhile, there are ongoing pockets of labor resistance across Quebec.

On October 23, the negotiating committee representing 4,500 pulp and paper workers organized by the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union broke off contract talks with the giant paper producer Abitibi-Consolidated over the questions of wage increase. These workers have been on strike since June 15 at 10 plants across Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland. After several months, strikers have forced the company to agree to negotiate a common con-

tract for all plants.

On October 24, 15,000 members of the Quebec Teachers Federation (CEQ) marched in Quebec City in one of the biggest and most youthful demonstration of public workers in a decade in Quebec. They demanded the Quebec government negotiate new contracts with 300,000 teachers, hospital workers, and other public workers.

The teachers also pressed their two main demands in the coming negotiations, which they label as "pay equity" — the recognition of experience in their wage structure so teachers with less years of education can eventually reach the same wage maximum — and that they be paid for the number of hours they work in their school, not just in class as is currently the case. The difference could add up to several thousand dollars a year in the first case, and up to 15 hours' pay a week in the second.

On October 26, after a meeting with Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard, top officials of the three main union federations involved in the public sector negotiations announced a "social truce" during the election campaign. The labor officialdom in Quebec have supported the PQ and collaborated with it since the early 1970s.

Available from Pathfinder

## Why Working People Should Support the Fight for Quebec Independence

AN ARTICLE FROM THE MILITANT

By JOHN STEELE

The struggle of the Quebecois for independence, justice, and equality has mobilized thousands of workers and youth against the Canadian imperialist state, cutting across the national divisions imposed by the bosses. This struggle is an integral part of the fight to replace capitalist political power in Ottawa with a workers and farmers government, Steele explains.

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# Sharp shift needed to raise funds for New International

BY BROCK SATTER

NEWARK, New Jersey — At press time, into the sixth week of the New International Fund campaign, we are only at 31 percent of the \$115,000 goal. In the final two and a half weeks, about \$80,000 needs to be raised to reach this goal. This requires a sharp shift by supporters of the Marxist magazine to organize the necessary day-to-day fund-raising work — both in collecting pledges already made and in reaching out to fellow working people and others to contribute to make it possible to print *New International*.

Public fund-raising meetings are now taking place in many cities. In Los Angeles, 100 people attended a forum featuring Ma'mud Shirvani, a Pathfinder editor of Farsi-language books.

Many of those present were socialist workers from around the country who were in Los Angeles to discuss perspectives for advancing communist trade union work in three unions, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, International Association of Machinists, and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Participants at the event raised \$1,290 toward the goal in Los Angeles, and an additional \$830 toward the goals of the other cities where they came from.

In Atlanta, a New International Fund rally will feature Eddie Slaughter, a farmer and activist from Buena Vista, Georgia, and vice-

president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association based in Tillery, North Carolina. Slaughter is a plaintiff in the *Piggford vs. Glickman* class-action discrimination lawsuit by Black farmers against the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Slaughter will share the platform with Doug Jenness, Socialist Workers Party's national campaign director.

Arlene Rubinstein from Atlanta reports she and others are building this meeting by "calling people we met at the Million Youth Movement and at a street festival in the Black business district in Atlanta, where we sold five copies of the *New International* and 30 people signed up for more information." Rubinstein noted that "some supporters of the fund have raised their pledges closer to a week's pay."

In St. Paul, Minnesota, Young Socialists member Mai Thong Yang from Los Angeles will be speaking at a fund-raising event. Her visit is part of a series of events the local YS chapter is organizing, in collaboration with SWP members, to meet revolutionary-minded young people and involve them in political activities, building through this effort the December 4-6 national YS convention in Los Angeles. A dinner will be organized before the New International Fund forum to raise money for travel to the youth convention.

YS chapter organizer Heather Wood re-

ports the YS has been holding weekly classes for youth interested in socialism, through which one person has joined the organization so far. YS members have also been participating in Socialist Workers campaign events; one has taken part in speaking engagements at two high schools. The YS and SWP are organizing speaking engagements at several college campuses for Yang. They will use her trip to take further steps in joining the protests by Hmong youth in the area against racist slurs by a show on radio station KQRS.

In Birmingham, George Williams reports he received two contributions from co-workers where he works at a United Auto Workers—organized plant that refurbishes airplanes.

In Boston, fund supporters sent out a letter quoting endorsements from several people. The endorsers included Robert Struthers, an Amtrak railroad engineer, and Claudia Kaiser-Lenoir, a political activist who teaches at Tufts University. Local fund director Greg McCartan reported that the letter went out to 60 people, and *New International* supporters have been following up with phone calls. "\$105 just came in the mail from three people so far," McCartan reported.

## Fund appeal raises \$167,450; \$385,000 to go

Continued from front page

report to a joint meeting of the three union fraction meeting in Los Angeles, and Trowe presented a report to those gathered in Des Moines.

Initial \$165,000 goal met

"We went into those union fraction meetings with some \$110,000 raised," said Prince. "And we set the goal in Des Moines and Los Angeles of bringing the total up to the \$165,000 needed to make the initial payment on the platesetter. With some further work at the beginning of this week to follow up leads," he said, "we did it!"

"Over the next several weeks," Prince added, "we intend to build on this momentum to raise the \$385,000 required to complete this effort. This includes \$185,000 more for the platesetter, as well as \$200,000 to pay off outstanding loans for the web press used to print the *Militant* and the two Heidelberg sheetfed presses that turn out Pathfinder books."

Members of the capital fund committee will be setting up meetings across the continent with individuals, and with groups of supporters of the communist movement, to

discuss how they can contribute to this international effort. They are looking forward to discussions about the transformation that is currently underway in the production of Pathfinder books and pamphlets, and its place in better preparing the communist movement to respond to accelerating workers resistance worldwide. Maggie Trowe will be coordinating this international effort from Des Moines.

Prince reported that the funds raised over the past 11 days have come from a variety of sources. Contributions totaling \$100,000 were donated by three individuals. The remaining \$66,500 came from 34 contributions ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Some \$7,200 was raised from a special collection at the meeting for Paul Montauk.

"Many longtime members and supporters of the movement are contributing," Prince said, "some for the first time, and others who have done so before. And significantly," he added, "for the first time in a number of years, capital contributions are coming from some of the newer members of the communist movement, drawing these younger generations into this vital aspect of sustaining the institutions and activity of

the revolutionary working-class movement. These funds are used only for long-term capital projects, not day-to-day operating expenses.

"At the meetings of the union fractions, we asked each and every one of the contributors — as well as others who were there — to go back to their cities and make suggestions to the capital fund committee of others in their areas who can be contacted about the fund," Prince said.

Prince explained that each of the six national union fraction meetings discussed and adopted motions reaffirming the tradition in the communist movement that job bonuses from employers are contributed to national campaigns such as the capital fund. "A substantial number of the contributions in the \$1,000-plus range came from such bonuses, which are occasional windfalls above and beyond the regular wage income workers depend on for their livelihoods," Prince said. "Members and supporters of the SWP and Young Socialists make regular weekly and semiannual contributions from their incomes to help sustain the work of the communist movement. But we've had the tradition of donating bonuses in full to special fundraising efforts such as this one.

"At the same time," he told the *Militant*, "the presentations to the fraction meetings in Des Moines and Los Angeles focused not only on these bonuses but also on the possibilities to raise the much larger sums that come from trusts, bequests, and settlements that many individuals come into once or more times over the course of a lifetime. As always, it will take a combination of both to make this particular fund effort a success between now and the New Year," Prince said. (An article on the six national union fraction meetings will appear in a subsequent issue of the *Militant*.)

A joint, volunteer effort

The Agfa Galileo is a computer-to-plate (CTP) system that will make it possible to produce Pathfinder books and pamphlets with a substantial reduction in labor time and materials costs. "A smaller printshop," Prince said, "is absolutely essential to achieve an operation of the size Pathfinder can sustain.

"Miners on strike against Freeman United Coal Company in Illinois, workers fighting the lockout by Crown Oil in Texas, farmers resisting foreclosures on their land, supporters of women's rights protesting the recent murder of a doctor who performed abortions in upstate New York, students and other young people being repelled by the brutality of capitalism and attracted to communism — these and other working people and youth need the experience of past working-class battles embodied in Pathfinder books

## \$115,000 New International Fund Drive

CITY/COUNTRY	GOAL	PAID	%
<b>New Zealand</b>			
Auckland	1,500	885	59%
Christchurch	550	272	49%
<b>N.Z. Total</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>			
London	1,680	840	50%
Manchester	672	0	0%
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>United States</b>			
Des Moines	2,500	1,597	64%
Detroit*	5,000	3,081	62%
Newark	8,500	4,258	50%
Miami	2,500	1,045	42%
Philadelphia	4,000	1,665	42%
New York	12,000	4,106	34%
Boston	4,700	1,566	33%
Pittsburgh	4,000	1,250	31%
San Francisco	11,000	3,425	31%
Seattle	8,500	2,560	30%
Atlanta	2,800	811	29%
Washington, D.C.	4,000	1,150	29%
Twin Cities, MN	7,000	1,840	26%
Chicago	7,500	1,895	25%
Cleveland	4,000	912	23%
Birmingham	3,000	515	17%
Los Angeles	9,000	900	10%
Houston	6,000	0	0%
Other	0	565	0%
<b>US Total</b>	<b>106,000</b>	<b>33,141</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Australia Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
Montreal	665	299	45%
Toronto	1,670	0	0%
Vancouver	665	348	52%
<b>Canada Total</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Iceland Total</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sweden Total</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>INT'L TOTAL:</b>	<b>116,702</b>	<b>35,785</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>SHOULD BE:</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>71,875</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>*Raised goal</b>			

and pamphlets," Prince said. "And their numbers are growing.

"Contributors to the capital fund are part of the effort to make sure the communist movement has the political weapons at hand to meet these expanding opportunities."

Keeping these books in print is a joint effort of the socialist cadre who volunteer in the printshop and some 140 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and communist leagues in other countries who have volunteered to convert the entire Pathfinder arsenal into electronic files. Volunteers send in fully digitized books, with the formatted text, cover, and graphics on a compact disk.

"The new Galileo platesetter," Prince said, "will make it possible for workers in the printshop to use these files to prepare books for production not only without the exacting and labor-intensive work of stripping up film into large flats to burn plates for the presses. The new system will skip film altogether, going directly from the computer files to the plates. This makes it possible for a smaller staff to produce books — both new titles and reprints — much more quickly, with higher quality, and in short runs to reduce storage costs."

The new equipment will also boost the campaign by the shop to increase its commercial sales, which are needed to maintain its financial viability and to keep up necessary skills for producing Pathfinder books.

"We now expect the Galileo to be delivered the weekend of November 21," Prince said. "For that reason, the special 'Red Weekend' initially announced for November 13-15 is being rescheduled for November 20-22. That's when the work will be completed to prepare the special, air-conditioned and humidity-controlled site where the CTP system will be installed."

In addition, Prince said, volunteers are needed right now to begin the essential preliminary electrical work, low voltage wiring, metal work, plumbing, and carpentry to prepare the site. "Tell your readers that if they want to volunteer for one, two, or three weeks during early November — or have any suggestions of someone else who may want to — they should contact the members of the team responsible for talking to potential contributors to the capital fund."

To find out how you can contribute, write to the Capital Fund Campaign, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

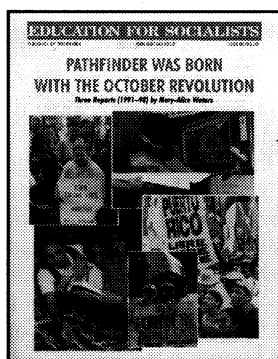
## From Pathfinder

### Pathfinder Was Born with the October Revolution

Three reports by Mary-Alice Waters

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- Pathfinder was born with the October Revolution
- Extending the arsenal of communist propaganda and reconquering the apparatus through revolutionary centralism

An Education for Socialists booklet \$8.00



### Background to "The Changing Face of U.S. Politics" and "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War"

JACK BARNES, JOEL BRITTON, AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

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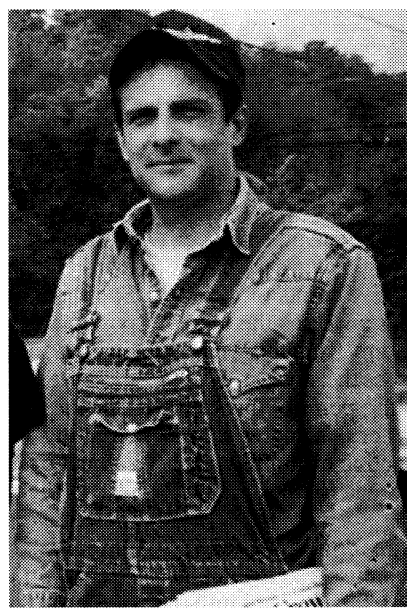
A companion to *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* and to "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War," the 1990 SWP political resolution featured in *New International* no. 11. An Education for Socialists booklet. \$7.00

Available from bookstores listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax: (212) 727-0150. Please include \$3.00 for shipping and handling.

## Why fighting workers and farmers need the 'Militant'

"I am a recent subscriber and very new to socialist ideas, but from the pages of the *Militant* and the books I have purchased at the Pathfinder Bookstore, I can safely say the Democratic party can no longer baffle me. I am now armed with the truth of the working-class struggle. I am also telling the truth to my co-workers and have discovered that the *Militant* views are mostly shared by them. The recent events of Russia's economic crisis proves to me and others that the capitalist are in decline and now more than ever is the time for workers of the world to take control of their own destiny."

Ronald Martin  
member, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 108  
Birmingham, Alabama



Ronald Martin at Crown boycott picket line October 2 in Fairfield, Alabama.

# Concentrated effort is needed to meet 'Militant' subscription goal

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

As we enter the final two weeks of the international subscription campaign, socialist workers and members of the Young Socialists face a serious challenge to sell 530 *Militant* subscriptions, 120 subscriptions to *Perspective Mundial*, and 265 copies of *New International*. With a concerted push, making the goal is possible as reflected in the growing opportunities shown in the reports below to win workers and youth to revolutionary ideas.

"I sold a copy of *New International* no 10, which features the article 'Imperialism's march toward fascism and war,' to my co-worker Lee Roy Oliver this week," said *Militant* supporter Joe Swanson from Des Moines, Iowa. "He is a recent

the paper to students at the University of Maryland, while signing up several students interested in the Young Socialists and the YS convention scheduled for December 4-6 in Los Angeles.

"Nine people at Fresno State University signed up for the YS convention," said Karen Ray from San Francisco. She said a campaign team went there last weekend that included Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate Jim Gotesky, where they sold four *Militant* subscriptions, two subscriptions to *Perspective Mundial*, and five copies of *New International*.

"I went to Santa Rosa where some farm workers told us to set up a campaign table at a flea market," Ray said. "We sold a *Militant* subscription to a Croatian student who bought it based on the headline in a back issue of the paper that read 'U.S., NATO hands off Yugoslavia!' He's been reading a little on Marxism and expressed interest in attending the YS convention."

Ray said *Militant* supporters also went to Mills College in Oakland, where they set up a campaign sign defending abortion rights. "There was total outrage over the October 23 killing of Dr. Barnett Slepian. In a number of discussions with students, many of them linked Slepian's murder with the killing of gay student Matthew Shepard." Ray said a pro-choice vigil has been called for October 31 organized by the National Organization for Women, National Abortion Rights Action League, and others.

"Two young Black women attending the Black Festival at Georgia State University on October 27 decided to subscribe to the *Militant* after hearing my speech to the 150 people in the audience," said Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia. "I received ovations three times during my speech; after I explained the party's support for quotas to enforce affirmative action, after denouncing the murder of Matthew Shepard, and after calling for protests to defend abortion rights in the light of the murder of the doctor in upstate New York who performed abortions."

After his talk, Fein, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1996, said three students approached him to shake his hand and asked about supporting his campaign. One student stated, "It's about time a candidate told the truth about minority issues." Two of the students decided to buy subscriptions to the *Militant* and one of the new subscribers also took information on the upcoming YS convention in Los Angeles. "A number of youth signed up for more information on the YS and the convention and we sold five Pathfinder books at the booth."

Fein said supporters of the *Militant* in Atlanta are planning to attend an anti-Klan rally planned for October 31 in Gainesville, Georgia, and a sales team is going to Charlotte, North Carolina, this weekend to talk to workers on strike against Continental General Tire. Another team will join with other *Militant* supporters from Washington, D.C., to participate in a November 5 strike support rally there organized by the United Steelworkers of America. "We got a glimpse of the guts and potential to fight of some of the poultry workers we met at the Perdue plant in Lewiston, North Carolina, wrote rail worker Stu Singer. "A couple of current and former Perdue workers accompanied us to the plant gate, and 23 workers bought copies of the *Militant* during a shift change. The large majority of workers we talked to are for a union, but a number did not think they could get a union in the plant."

"One union stalwart who came out bought a paper, parked her car, and stood with us at the gate," Singer added.



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

Selling the *Militant* at pro-choice rally. Supporters of socialist press are responding to political events to win workers and youth to revolutionary ideas and make international subscription goals.

subscriber to the *Militant* and said he really liked the editorial in the paper that called for defending civil right of gays." Swanson said Oliver, who is Black, told him, "There are many working people who are gay. I try to treat all as equals, it should not matter if one is gay. It was a bad thing killing that student [Matthew Shepard]. We must take a stand against this killing and have the same kind of response that is needed against cops, who beat up and kill Blacks every day across the country."

Swanson, a member of the United Auto Workers, said the Socialist Workers campaign will be holding an event in Marshalltown, Iowa, featuring Maggie Trowe, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, who is also a meatpacker at the Swift-Montford plant there. "One of Maggie's co-workers from Mexico who is helping to build the event, was one of our top petitioners for our election campaigns in Iowa and Minnesota. She also in spoke at the *Militant* Labor Forum last weekend along with Earl Sime, a member of the National Farmers Union."

Supporters of the *Militant* in Washington, D.C., have jumped into several actions to win new readers to the socialist press and communist ideas. "Young Socialist members Olympia Newton and José Sánchez addressed a crowd of some 50 young people at an October 24th rally to 'Protest police brutality, repression, and the criminalization of a generation,'" reports Janice Lynn. "We sold six copies of the *Militant*, five Pathfinder titles, and one copy of *New International* no. 11."

Lynn said two days earlier a team of activists sold four subscriptions to the *Militant* to students at American University. And on October 21 another team sold 10 copies of

## SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE September 12 - November 8 MILITANT/PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL/NEW INT'L

Country	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Sweden	16	12	75%	8	10	25	26
<b>United Kingdom</b>							
London	40	25	63%	10	9	60	61
Manchester	24	14	58%	2	5	35	29
<b>UK total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>							
Auckland	28	17	61%	1	1	25	22
Christchurch	18	10	56%	1	0	15	11
<b>N.Z. total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>United States</b>							
Philadelphia	35	27	77%	8	5	30	23
Atlanta*	35	26	74%	12	10	40	33
Washington, D.C.	45	33	73%	15	18	45	36
New York*	140	95	68%	60	45	140	118
Miami	40	27	68%	20	8	40	35
Seattle	70	47	67%	20	11	70	39
Newark, NJ	120	78	65%	40	29	100	81
Des Moines*	45	29	64%	25	16	35	16
Chicago	65	39	60%	25	17	58	53
Birmingham, AL	50	29	58%	6	5	40	24
Houston	35	20	57%	10	1	43	17
Detroit	45	25	56%	10	7	40	32
Pittsburgh	40	22	55%	6	7	45	15
Los Angeles	90	43	48%	45	17	70	45
Boston	35	16	46%	20	9	35	29
Cleveland	35	15	43%	10	4	30	23
Twin Cities, MN	65	26	40%	10	4	45	40
San Francisco*	95	35	37%	38	22	90	79
Santa Cruz	10	1	10%	5	0		
<b>U.S. total</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>738</b>
<b>Canada</b>							
Toronto	40	24	60%	5	4	50	50
Vancouver	40	17	43%	5	1	40	40
Montreal	25	8	32%	10	7	40	21
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Australia</b>							
	16	7	44%	3	2	18	9
<b>Iceland</b>							
	8	3	38%	1	0	4	4
<b>France*</b>							
	5	0	0%	3	3	31	24
<b>Int'l totals</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>1339</b>	<b>1035</b>
<b>Goal/Should be</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>975</b>
<b>*raised goal</b>							

### IN THE UNIONS

Country/Union	Militant		%	PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold		Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>Canada</b>							
CAW*	5	3	60%			6	2
USWA	5	3	60%		1	6	1
IAM	8	2	25%	2	0	9	1
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>United States</b>							
UAW	40	26	65%	5	1	20	13
UFCW	10	5	50%	13	7	11	4
IAM	65	26	40%	15	5	25	8
UTU	45	15	33%	3	1	40	12
OCAW	24	6	25%	4	0	12	1
USWA	31	6	19%			13	3
UNITE	5	0	0%	7	7	5	0
<b>U.S. total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Australia</b>							
AMWU	3	1	33%			4	0
TCFU							
<b>Australia total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33%</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>							
EU	4	1	25%			2	0
MWU	1	0	0%			1	0
SFWU	2	0	0%				
<b>N.Z. total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14%</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>							
AEEU	4	1	25%			5	0
RMT	5	1	20%			5	2
TGWU	5	0	0%			3	3
<b>UK total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14%</b>			<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sweden</b>							
OBS	1	0	0%	1	0	1	0

AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU — Amalgamated Manufacturers Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers Union; EU — Engineers Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMW — United Mine Workers of America; UNITE — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union.

# Tehran papers review Farsi translations of Pathfinder titles

Two major Tehran publications, *Ettela'at* and *Zanan*, have reviewed the newly published Farsi translations of two titles published or distributed by Pathfinder Press. *Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War* by Jack Barnes is the lead article in issue no. 10 of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* is by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the Burkina Faso revolution in 1983-87. These were published as books this year by the Tehran publisher Talayeh Porsoo with a run of 2,000 copies each. In September Talayeh Porsoo released the third Farsi-language edition of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, also in a run of 2,000.

*Ettela'at* is one of the two major Tehran dailies distributed throughout Iran and internationally. *Zanan* (Women) is a prominent monthly published in Tehran. Its editorial page explains that "each issue contains articles and reports related to women's issues." *Ettela'at's* review was published on August 18, and *Zanan's* was the Mordad issue — the Iranian month July 21-August 21.

In addition, a new monthly magazine published in Tehran, *Hogouge Zanan* (Women's rights), announced the publication of *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*. The magazine writes on questions concerning women's rights in Iran and around the world.

Translation of the reviews below is by the *Militant*.

*Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War*, reviewed in the Tehran daily *Ettela'at*:

The major changes that have taken place in the world over the last few years have been studied from a variety of points of view. In this book Jack Barnes analyses the evolution of the world economy from the World War II until today and sees the stock market crash of 1987 as a turning point in this development. On the basis of this analysis, he presents a broad perspective of tumultuous upheavals in the world arena for the coming years.

On page 119 of the book we read: "...Washington's war against Iraq revealed growing conflicts among the U.S.-led military alliance. Since then we have seen a few important developments along these lines.... These and related developments in the imperialist countries can help us understand more concretely the road toward World War III, the 'opening guns' of which could begin to be detected during the Persian Gulf War."

*Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War* has been translated into French, Spanish, and Swedish among other languages. It is being presented to Farsi readers for the first time.

Review of *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* in the Tehran daily *Ettela'at*:

This book is composed of four parts. The first two are devoted to an account of the Burkina Faso revolution in Africa and its central leader Thomas Sankara. The third part is a translation of a speech by Thomas Sankara, addressed to a mass rally of Burkinabè women. In this speech Sankara presents the results and perspectives of women's participation in the revolutionary struggle.

The last part of the book is an excerpt from Sankara's "Political Orientation Speech" that puts forward the official position of the leadership of the revolution regarding women's participation in the society.

What makes this book special, differentiating it from other writings on the subject of women's position in the society, is the social context within which these ideas are presented. The book presents experiences of a revolution that opened up a new chapter in the history of the struggles of the people of Africa.

Despite the fact that 10 years have passed since Sankara was killed and his revolutionary government was overthrown, the memory of that revolution and its leadership is alive in Burkina Faso and other African countries, and some of its lessons have found validity on a world scale.

The book is a translation from English of *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*.

*Zanan* in its Mordad (July 21-August 21) issue announced the publication of the Farsi translation of *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*. In addition, the magazine wrote the following brief note about the Farsi translation of *Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War*:

This book is an investigation of the post-World War II global economy, as well as an extensive overview of the world events to come in the years ahead. In the writer's view the "Persian Gulf War" was in fact the opening guns of the imperialist countries for World War III.

## Spain: Pathfinder sells titles on Cuban revolution, Malcolm X, U.S. politics

BY MAXI ORTIZ AND DEBBIE DELANGE

MADRID, Spain — Representatives of Pathfinder Press visited bookshops here and in Barcelona in September with samples of Pathfinder publications in Spanish and English. Some of the buyers were delighted to learn that they could now order from a distributor in Spain, pay in local currency, and expect speedy delivery.

The representatives took orders on the spot for 129 books in the two cities. A number of buyers wanted to look through the catalogue further before ordering. Many of the shops had never stocked Pathfinder books before.

The top seller was the Spanish-language edition of the new booklet *Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity* — Rafael Cancel Miranda on the Fight against U.S. Colonial Rule. Nine were ordered. Also popular were *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X speaks); titles by and about Ernesto Che

Guevara, the Argentine-born leader of the Cuban revolution; and *El rostro cambiante de la política en Estados Unidos*, the Spanish-language translation of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes.

These were also the most popular books at a festival hosted by the Communist Party of Spain, September 18-20 in Madrid. The volunteers staffing the Pathfinder booth there came from France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Sweden. This was the third time Pathfinder supporters have participated in this event.

The booth was one of the liveliest at the festival. A young man who had bought a subscription to the *Militant* last year, Eduardo, said he renewed since, and also bought a copy of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*. "I like the paper and the book," he said. "They show how you can be a part of the working class and the struggles, instead of operating from the outside." People attending the fair bought a total of six copies of *El rostro cambiante*, reflecting the high interest in the class struggle in the United States.

Another sign of this was the sale of 15 subscriptions to the *Militant* or its Spanish-language sister magazine, *Perspectiva Mundial*. All five available copies of *Habla Malcolm X* were sold.

An auto worker from Zaragoza bought a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial* with an article on the General Motors strike in the U.S. "I want to read this magazine since I work for GM, and it shows how similar things are around the world," he explained.

In all, 17 copies of *New Internationalist* and the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional* were sold, the most popular one being the issue on "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism."

Another top seller was *Che Guevara: Economía y política en la transición al socialismo* (Che Guevara: economics and politics in the transition to socialism) by Carlos Tablada, with a total of eight copies sold.

The festival began two days after fighters for independence of the Basque Country

from Spain and France announced a cease-fire. This was a major discussion point and many young people stopped to look at a display of Pathfinder's range of books on the national question, in particular *Lenin's Final Fight: Speeches and Writings, 1922-23*.

The festival included a number of forums and discussion panels. Most controversial was one on the independence struggle in Kosovo at which two of the main speakers were heckled. Jonathan Silberman, a co-author of Pathfinder's *The Truth About Yugoslavia — Why working people should oppose intervention*, contributed to the discussion. His view that all foreign troops should leave the country also

**معرفی کتاب**

گام های امپریالیسم به سوی فاشیسم و جنگ



نویسنده: جک بارنز  
ترجمه: شهره آزادی  
ناشر: نشر طلایه پرسو  
چاپ اول: ۱۳۷۷  
صفحه: ۱۸۷  
ریال: ۶۵۰۰

تعمیرات  
همی که در عرض چند سال گذشته بر جهان رخ داده زنده گسستهای سختی مطالعه شد.

جمله بارز در کتاب «گام های امپریالیسم به سوی فاشیسم و جنگ» تکامل اقتصاد جهانی و از زمان جنگ جهانی دوم تاکنون نیز به تحلیل کرده است و نقطه ی عطف آنرا سقوط بازار بورس جهانی در اکتبر سال ۱۹۸۷ می داند. وی بر این میندازد، چشم انداز کلان تغییر و تحولات جهانی در سال های آینده را ترسیم می کند. در صفحه ۱۱۹ این کتاب آمده است: «... در آن زمان که رانندگان حمله نظامی به عراق را شروع کرده بود، بسیاری از کشانه های رو به رشد موجود در میان متحدین نظامی آمریکا، بر ملا گردید. از آن تاریخ تاکنون شاهد چندین حرکت مهم در این راستا بودیم... این وقایع و سایر تغییر و تحولات انجام یافته در کشورهای امپریالیستی می تواند به ما کمک کند تا دقیق تر به مسیری بنگریم که احتمالی آن به جنگ جهانی سوم ختم می شود و تشکیل یک اولین توپهایش در جنگ خلیج فارس قابل تشخیص بود.»

کتاب «گام های امپریالیسم به سوی فاشیسم و جنگ» تاکنون به چندین زبان، از جمله به زبان های فرانسوی، اسپانیایی و سوئدی ترجمه شده است و بری اولین بار به خوانندگان فارسی زبان تقدیم می شود.

**اختلالی زن و انقلاب آفریقا**



نویسنده: توماس سانکارا  
ترجمه: شهره آزادی  
ناشر: نشر طلایه پرسو  
چاپ اول: ۱۳۷۷  
صفحه: ۹۳  
ریال: ۳۵۰۰

کتاب  
اختلالی زن و انقلاب آفریقا  
ترجمه شهره آزادی  
نظم و تدوین: نسیم است. نو  
نسخه اول و دوم  
مردم انقلاب آزادیبخش کشور آفریقای برون کنگا و افش توماس سانکارا رهبر مرکز آزادی را شرح می کند. قسمت سوم ترجمه سخنرانی توماس سانکارا در میان جمع کثیری از زنان آن کشور است که تاریخ و چشم انداز شرکت زان در صفوف انقلاب را در بر می گیرد. قسمت آخر بخشی از گفتگو جهت گیری سیاسی است که

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کتاب  
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Reviews of the books by Barnes and Sankara as they appeared in the Tehran daily *Ettela'at*.

got a mixed reception. One woman decided to buy a copy of the book after the debate. A total of £741 (\$1,245) worth of Pathfinder literature was sold at the three-day event.

**Helene Millington: longtime fighter for socialism**

Helene Millington, a member of the Socialist Workers Party for nearly 25 years, died following surgery in the Detroit area October 21. She was 86 years old. The Detroit branch of the Socialist Workers Party will be hosting a meeting to celebrate her life and political contributions to the communist movement. For more information call: (313) 875-0100. Messages from friends and comrades who worked with Helene can be sent to the SWP, 7414 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. Fax (313) 875-0932.



**WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND THE AFRICAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE**  
Thomas Sankara

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THOMAS SANKARA

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6 The Militant November 9, 1998

# Cumulative effects of capitalists' profit crisis hit workers, farmers around world

The following excerpts are from "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold," a resolution adopted by the Socialist Workers Party's national convention in August 1988. It assessed the growing instability of the world capitalist system, the coming world economic depression, and the dynamics of revolutionary struggle in the world today. This selection is from a section titled "Cumulative consequences of falling average rate of profits." All of the trends it points to have continued and intensified over the last 10 years. The entire resolution is published in issue no. 10 of the Marxist magazine *New International*. It is copyright © 1994 by 408 Printing and Publishing Corp., reprinted by permission. Subheadings are from the original document.

The imperialists' crisis of capital accumulation will soon enter its third decade. Like the preceding period of capitalist expansion, it has stretched across several business cycles of recession and upturn. Its consequences have been and continue to be far reaching:

## 1. Intensified interimperialist competition

The downward pressure on profit rates intensified price competition among capitalists, including on an international level. This broke down the de facto industrial monopoly held by the U.S. capitalists coming out of World War II.

When the U.S. rulers entered the war they were producing about one-third of the world's manufactures; they emerged less than four years later with that figure having leapt to one-half. That edge in their share of the world market encouraged U.S. capitalists to defer major costly postwar investment in modernization of plant and equipment in industries such as steel and auto. It enabled them to maintain price levels on the world market well above actual production costs, collecting monopoly rents in the form of superprofits.

By the end of the 1960s, however, the monopoly position of the U.S. capitalists had been challenged in one industry after another: steel, auto, farm equipment, electronics, aerospace, computer-related technology, garment, and textile. Initially the U.S. rulers faced increasing competition in the world market primarily from their Japanese, West German, and other imperialist allies. By the 1970s price competition was even growing with industrial capitalists in a handful of semicolonial countries such as South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan. Competition for markets in cereal grains and other farm commodities has come not only from imperialist rivals, but also — as a result of the "green revolution" and a reorientation of agriculture toward the world market — from capitalists in some semicolonial countries. Stiffer competition has forced U.S. and other capitalists to bring prices down on both manufactured and agricultural commodities, reinforcing the squeeze on profit rates.

Marx's observation that "it is the fall in the profit rate that provokes the competitive struggle between capitals, not the reverse" has been confirmed once again by the events of the past twenty-five years.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Overproduction and excess capacity

This interimperialist competition is sharpening in a world capitalist market plagued

<sup>1</sup> *Capital*, vol. 3, p. 365. For how these trends have played out since 1988, see the article, "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War."

<sup>2</sup> *Capital*, vol. 3, pp. 365-67.

<sup>3</sup> Spending in 1993 on what the U.S. Commerce Department itself defines as "expansion"—new factories and buildings that require more workers—ran at little more than half the pace as that during periods of capitalist expansion in the 1960s. Once outlays on cost-cutting computer and information processing equipment are subtracted from equipment expenditures (for the period from the March 1991 upturn in the U.S. capitalist business cycle through June 1994), then investment for that period in new, capacity-expanding equipment actually declined 5 percent and spending on the construction or expansion of factory buildings declined more than 25 percent.

<sup>4</sup> *Capital*, vol. 3, p. 596.



"The toilers of the oppressed countries of Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas have been dealt the heaviest blows by the sharpening of the imperialists' accumulation crisis over the past decade." Above, Volkswagen workers protest announced pay cuts, possible layoffs, in São Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, Dec. 11, 1997.

by overproduction of commodities and excess industrial capacity....

The capitalists continue to have too much industrial capacity. They are plagued by overproduction of commodities: that is, by more output than they can sell at a high enough profit to justify expanding their productive plant and equipment. The employers have made working people pay the price through mounting work reorganization, speedup, plant shutdowns, and layoffs as they drive along the only road open to them: increasing absolute surplus value (lengthening the workday) and relative surplus value (intensifying labor through speedup and adding so-called labor-saving machinery) as much as the relationship of class forces will permit....

As Marx observed about the history of capitalism: "Since capital's purpose is not the satisfaction of needs but the production of profit... there must be a constant tension between the restricted dimensions of consumption on the capitalist basis, and production that is constantly striving to overcome these immanent barriers. Moreover, capital consists of commodities, and hence overproduction of capital involves overproduction of commodities...."

"It is not that too many means of subsistence are produced in relation to the existing population. On the contrary. Too little is produced to satisfy the mass of the population in an adequate and humane way. Nor are too many means of production produced to employ the potential working population. On the contrary.... Periodically, however, too much is produced in the way of means of labour and means of subsistence, too much to function as means for exploiting the workers at a given rate of profit."<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Declining capital investment in capacity-increasing plant and equipment

Over the past decade there has been a sharp decline in the rate of new investment by U.S. capitalists in capacity-increasing plant and equipment. Factory closings and layoffs have registered the competitive pressures on the rulers to shed less-productive capacity. Large amounts of value have been destroyed in the process. But stagnating profits continue to make it less worthwhile for the capitalists to invest in building new factories and purchasing major new industrial technologies that would expand productive capacity. There has been no extensive preparation by finance capital to draw new labor power in substantial amounts into expanded and modernized sectors of industrial production....

Instead of expanding productive capacity, manufacturing investment during the post-1982 upturn in the business cycle has focused on upgrading and retooling a part of existing plants and equipment.<sup>3</sup> This investment in "labor-saving" technology has

resulted, as intended, in brutally labor-intensifying reorganization of work, from meatpacking to paper production. This speedup takes a devastating toll on health and safety, means longer hours for workers who remain on the job, and leads to permanent layoffs for many other workers....

The most important revelation from the October 1987 crash was not what was happening on the world's stock and bond markets, but the destabilizing worldwide impact of what was *not* happening in the expansion of capital investment in capacity-increasing industrial plant and equipment.

## 4. Speculative binge and debt explosion

The post-1982 recovery has been fueled by an enormous expansion of fictitious capital. The owners of U.S. corporations have been issuing "junk" bonds to finance an orgy of mergers and takeovers and sinking their capital in a burgeoning variety of paper securities....

Each additional six months that a downturn in the capitalist business cycle is pushed off by these means will be paid for by an even more wrenching shakeout when the next recession hits. Moreover, at this late stage in the capitalists' falling average rate and stagnating mass of profit, any partial crisis — a recession, another Wall Street crash, major crop failures, Third World debt disaster, or bank failure — could initiate a chain of events that would wipe out today's mountain of paper values overnight, bringing a collapse of the markets to buy and sell them. No degree of lowered interest rates by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board or flood of dollars from the Treasury could stem such a plunge. No matter how easy the money comes, capitalists will only put it to use if it can be converted into capital and invested at a sufficient profit....

## 5. U.S. bank and business failures

Another consequence of the U.S. capitalists' declining profit rate has been registered in the greatest wave of bank and business failures since the Great Depression of the 1930s....

The so-called government bailouts of failing banks and savings and loans institutions are not aimed at protecting the small checking or savings accounts of working people and small business owners. Nor are they intended to prevent foreclosure on the land, buildings, livestock, and equipment of exploited farmers in debt to these loan sharks. The aim is to bail out the wealthy shareholders and bondholders who stand to lose billions of dollars of money capital when these financial institutions collapse....

## 6. Devastation of semicolonial countries

The toilers of the oppressed countries of Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas have been dealt the heaviest blows by the

sharpening of the imperialists' accumulation crisis over the past decade. These countries, which have inherited economies distorted by centuries of colonial and semicolonial domination, are being devastated by an accelerating transfer of values produced there into the hands of the imperialist ruling classes.

Marx pointed out that interest-bearing capital is always "the mother of every insane form." Thus "debts, for example, can appear as commodities in the mind of the banker."<sup>4</sup>

So it has been with the imperialists' debt offensive against the Third World. Lacking sufficiently profitable ways to invest money capital in expansion of industrial capacity, the capitalist rulers from New York to Tokyo and from London to Sydney have foisted gigantic loans onto governments and groups of capitalists in the semicolonial countries. To the imperialist bankers, these mounting debts appear on the balance sheet as massive assets — a "right" to suck in billions of dollars in interest payments each year from the wealth produced by the labor of workers, peasants, and artisans across the world.

These debts, which take the form of pieces of paper, are actually the registration of a social relationship of forces between the exploiting families of finance capital and their states, and the capitalists and governments of the oppressed countries. The compounding interest quickly outstrips the principal, and the whirlpool of indebtedness drains ever more wealth produced by the toilers in the semicolonial countries. As the interest due mounts, the imperialists bring their enormous power to bear on governments in the semicolonial countries, pressing them to squeeze out funds for payments by imposing more and more severe austerity measures on the workers and peasants: currency devaluations, abolition of price subsidies on food and other necessities, wage cuts, longer hours, speedup, and sharp cutbacks in spending for health, education, and housing....

## 7. Farm crisis in imperialist countries

A front-page *New York Times* article in May 1988 made the grotesque claim that "the world's farmers produce vastly more food and other goods than the world can use." In a world where some 10 million people face starvation, hundreds of millions suffer from malnutrition, and hundreds of millions more are ill-housed and ill-clothed, nothing could be farther from the truth. But neither could anything underline so pointedly the consequences both for farmers and all humanity of the intensifying price competition among the capitalists of the major imperialist powers in processing, packaging, transporting, and marketing agricultural commodities....

Working farmers have already been hit by depression conditions. The annual income of more and more of them has been driven below a living wage. Growing num-

Continued on Page 14

## NEW INTERNATIONAL

A Magazine of Marxist Politics and Theory



### In no. 10

- Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War by Jack Barnes
- What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold
- Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution by Mary-Alice Waters
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# SWP: Join farmers' fights against accelerating crisis

BY DOUG JENNESS

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — One of the most debated issues in the governor's race here is what steps to take to alleviate the worsening plight of working farm families. The three capitalist candidates in the race have been going after each other hammer and tongs attempting to show who is more truly the friend of farmers.

Norman Coleman, mayor of St. Paul and the Republican contender, got off to a bad start in this contest in demagoguery when he suggested that "there is no place for the family farmer in the global economy." After an outpouring of resentment from the countryside, he attempted to recoup by championing the "family farm" and promising to use \$150 million of the state's surplus for a one-time payment of next year's first-half farm property taxes.

Hubert Humphrey III, standard-bearer for the Democratic-Farmer Labor Party and the state attorney general, is supporting a temporary moratorium on large factory-style feedlots and a \$340-million cut in property taxes as his central proposals.

Jesse Ventura, the Reform Party candidate, also supports a temporary feedlot moratorium and "significant property tax reform" that will "tax farmers on the actual value of their property instead of the speculated value."

Reflecting the emptiness of the proposals from these candidates, the editors of *AgriNews*, a weekly newspaper oriented to farmers, concluded in an October 23 editorial, "that none of the candidates ideally suit agriculture, and thus no one has earned an endorsement."

## 'End farm foreclosures'

"I couldn't agree more about these three contestants," Tom Fiske, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, stated in a letter to *AgriNews*, which is published in Rochester, Minnesota. "Their proposals are totally inadequate for stopping the loss of farms. They are primarily aimed at dressing up their appearance as candidates.

"However," he continued, "I would like to bring to your attention the proposals that I've been raising in my campaign, which I do think merit support from working farmers and all those who are seriously committed to guaranteeing them the opportunity to continue farming."

Fiske pointed to a four-page statement, "Fighting to Protect Farmers from the Accelerating Crisis," that he distributed to farmers at a state legislative hearing in Sauk Centre on August 27, at a farmers' protest in Worthington on September 19, and at other events.

"First," he stated, "I call for a moratorium on all farm foreclosures. No other candidate on the race has done so."

"I also call for disaster relief sufficient to

compensate for the full loss of crops, livestock, land, and buildings," he explained. "The proposals by Congress and other candidates all offer less than this and are therefore inadequate."

"Another measure I've been promoting, sort of an obvious one it seems to me," the socialist candidate said, "is government-funded low interest credit, with preference to those with the greatest need."

Continuing, Fiske explained that he's not for overhauling or reforming the property tax on working farmers as other candidates propose "but for abolishing it. It's a regressive tax, not based on the income farmers make. My tax program is simple, straightforward, and just," the factory machine operator and trade unionist said. "The only tax should be a sharply graduated income tax on the wealthy — on those who live off the labor of working people."

Fiske said that Humphrey and Ventura's call for a moratorium on big feedlots of capitalist farm enterprises (Coleman opposes a moratorium) "is designed to be a crowd pleaser but avoids coming to grips with what should be done to help protect farmers employing only the labor of their own family from the devastating consequences of price deflation. My party advocates that the government guarantee farmers a market and income for the products of their labor — products that have social value — to meet their production costs and have enough left for a decent living."

"The big difference between me and the other candidates," Fiske explained, "is that I don't approach the problem of farmers as another 'issue,' but from the standpoint of being part of the working class that is fighting to protect itself from the consequences of the growing capitalist crisis and that reaches out to fellow producers with proposals that can help weld a fighting alliance."

There are four additional candidates on the ballot for governor — Frank Germann (Libertarian Party), Fancy Ray McCloney (The People's Champion Party), Ken Pentel (Green Party), and Chris Wright (Grassroots Party) — and one write-in, Leslie Davis (Pro-

tect the Earth Party).

## More coverage for 'minor' candidates

The discontent with the DFL and Republicans, partly reflected in the more than 20 percent support Ventura is getting in the polls, and growing fissures in capitalist politics has resulted in the "minor party" candidates getting more media coverage than has been the case here for more than a decade. To be considered "major," a party must garner at least 5 percent of the vote in the last statewide election.

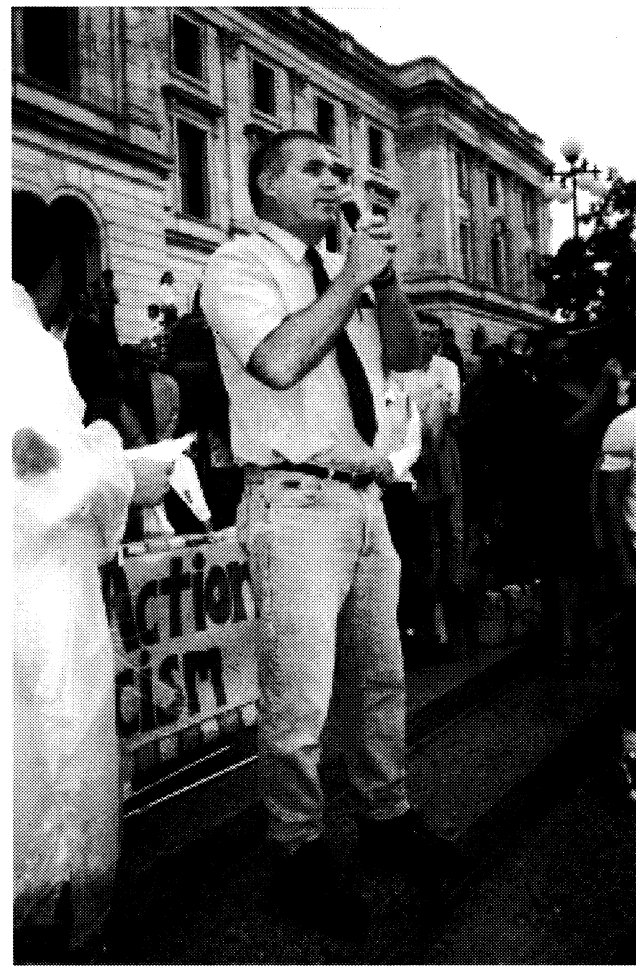
A one-and-a-half-hour debate among the five "minor" parties on the ballot has been broadcast several times on Minnesota Public Radio and was reported prominently in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*.

In addition, the same radio station gave each candidate space for a five-minute statement. KTCA-TV ran a 25-minute "minor party" candidates debate. The *Star-Tribune* has once a week for the past seven weeks run a question posed by the Minnesota Citizen's Forum with the answers of all eight of the candidates on the ballot.

The *City Pages*, a local weekly tabloid, which normally avoids mention of the "minor" parties except for an unflattering jab, ran a major feature with substantial interviews and photos of all six of them in its October 21 issue.

Fiske's campaign has also appeared as part of news coverage on KSTP-TV, on a radio talk show, and covered by two campus newspapers. He has presented a number of statements, along with other candidates, on "E-democracy," an Internet candidate's forum.

Fiske told the *Militant* that in addition to



Militant/Marea Himelgrin  
Socialist Workers candidate for governor Tom Fiske at anti-racist demonstration at capitol in St. Paul August 22. So-called "minor" candidates got more media attention.

making the rounds of shopping centers and street corners, he has spoken at three high schools, one college campus, several community meetings, and two protests against the racist, anti-Hmong broadcast of a local radio station. He has joined support actions and picket lines of striking Northwest pilots and US West workers. "I've also been to Albert Lea, home to several meatpacking plants, including the large Farmland's cut and kill operation. There, I campaigned and introduced the *Militant* in trailer parks where a lot of packinghouse workers live."

In addition to Fiske, the Socialist Workers Party is running John Hawkins for lieutenant governor; Heather Wood for U.S. Representative (4th CD); and Michael Pennock for U.S. Representative (5th CD).

Doug Jenness is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

## — YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD — California students hold teach-ins, rallies to demand affirmative action

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism.

For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O.

Box 20568, Los Angeles, CA 90006. Tel: (213) 387-3033. Compuserve: 105162,605@compuserve.com

### BY NEFTALI PEREDA

SANTA CRUZ, California — Students at the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) held a two-day demonstration that consisted of a rally, march, and teach-ins October 21–22, to protest the end of affirmative action in admissions in the University of California system. Actions at other UC campuses took place the same days.

The Santa Cruz march, which drew close to 250 people, began with a rally at McHenry Library in the center of campus and proceeded through most of the colleges in the university.

It ended at Kresge Town Hall, where about 100 other people were waiting to hear students, faculty, and staff speak out on the need for affirmative action.

The demonstrators shouted slogans, including, "30, 30, 30 years ago, we fought for civil rights, now we'll never let it go!" and, "UC democracy, we see hypocrisy."

Faculty and students at UC Los Angeles took the initiative and began organizing actions in support of affirmative action. Other UC campuses soon joined and it became a statewide protest.

Along with UC Los Angeles and UC Santa Cruz, students at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Davis also held demonstrations. At UC Los Angeles, more than 300 people gathered in front of the student

government offices for teach-ins.

This school year was the first under which the ban on affirmative action was applied to new students, dramatically decreasing in the number of incoming minority students.

The drop in the number of Black students admitted to UC undergraduate programs fell as much as 57 percent. The number of Native Americans admitted plummeted 43 percent and the number of Latino and Chicano students by 40 percent.

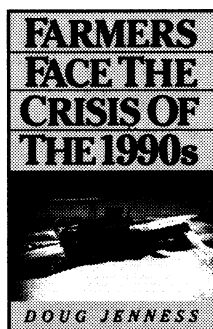
"We're tired of being repeatedly attacked," said one UCSC student. "Propositions 187, 209, and 227 are ways to take away our choices and freedom," he continued, referring to California ballot measures adopted over the last several years curtailing immigrant rights, affirmative action, and bilingual education, respectively.

The Young Socialists at UCSC sold 11 Pathfinder books and pamphlets to participants in the protests, including *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, *America's Road to Socialism* by Socialist Workers Party founder James P. Cannon, and *Che Guevara Speaks*.

One student subscribed to the *Militant*, which counts towards the goal of 10 subscriptions that supporters of the socialist newsweekly here adopted as part of the international campaign to win new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial* and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Neftali Pereda is a member of the Young Socialists at UC Santa Cruz.

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DOUG JENNESS  
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### In New International no. 4

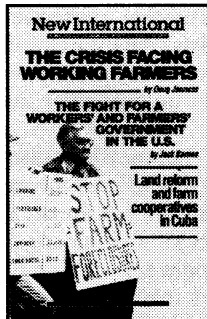
#### The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States

BY JACK BARNES  
The shared exploitation of workers and working farmers by banking, industrial, and commercial capital lays the basis for their alliance in a revolutionary fight for a government of the producers.

ALSO:

#### The Crisis Facing Working Farmers

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# Socialist candidates: 'Steelworkers need international solidarity, not protectionism'

BY JAMES VINCENT

PITTSBURGH — The Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters here have been speaking out to oppose the "Stand Up for Steel" campaign being waged by the steel bosses and the officialdom of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA).

In late October, campaign teams handed out hundreds of statements explaining this stance at the gates of the LTV tin mill in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, and at two plants owned by U.S. Steel Group (USX). The teams were headed by Cecelia Moriarity, the Socialist Workers candidate for governor and a worker at the USX/Clairton Coke Works, and Dorothy Kolis, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, who works at LTV. Both Moriarity and Kolis are members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA).

"The joint campaign by U.S. steel bosses and the officials of the USWA to impose import restrictions on steel produced in other countries is a trap for working people," said their statement (see complete text on page 14). "The steel mill owners claim their 'Stand up for Steel/Stand Up for America' drive is aimed at protecting jobs of steelworkers in the U.S. This is a lie."

Since August the USWA officialdom has organized a national effort to pressure the government to impose protectionist measures against steel imports. In this effort they have received the backing of the largest steel companies. To date 12 steelmakers have joined, including USX, LTV, and Bethlehem Steel. The national campaign includes full-page news ads, radio and TV spots, and leafleting at mill plant gates.

Steelworkers coming out of the mills during shift change showed interest in what the candidates had to say. At LTV, as cars lined up at the gate, many workers waited to talk to Kolis, who works at the mill. "The biggest discussion was on imports and the fight for jobs," said Kolis.

## 'We need international solidarity'

Kolis said the best way to fight for jobs today is to "take steps to strengthen and defend our union. We need to focus on supporting steelworkers and other workers who are fighting the bosses' attacks. This includes the steelworkers on strike at Kaiser Aluminum, Titan Tire in Iowa and Mississippi, and Magnetic Specialties Inc., in Marietta, Ohio, and coal miners on strike against Freeman Coal in southern Illinois."

One LTV steelworker, responding to a campaign sign that read, "30 hours work for 40 hours pay. Fight for jobs today," said, "I like your slogan." Others did not agree with the socialist candidates, but wanted to talk about the ideas the socialists were raising. Ten workers bought copies of the *Militant*.

The following day campaign supporters set up a campaign literature table at the entrance to USX/Clairton Coke Works. Steelworkers at shift change stopped to look at the literature and to meet and talk with Cecelia Moriarity, who works at the coke plant. Many shook her hand and wished her luck. Three bought issues of the *Militant* newspaper.

In response to the protectionist campaign of the USWA officials and steel bosses, one steelworker said, "The company is going to use this come contract time next August."

The Socialist Workers statement shares this viewpoint. "The fight for jobs has to start with international working-class solidarity.... Joining with the bosses in their protectionist campaign will lead us to accepting even more concessions in upcoming negotiations. This is not 'our' industry. It is owned by the steel barons and run to enrich them through our labor power."

A Teamster and former United Auto Workers member who worked at Volkswagen until it shut down in the late 1980s, stopped by the campaign table to talk. Later in the week he attended a public meeting at the Pathfinder bookstore, the location of the Socialist Workers campaign headquarters, and bought an introductory subscription to the *Militant*.

While the socialists were campaigning at LTV, organizers of the "Stand Up for Steel" campaign held a rally in front of the USWA

Local 2227 union hall in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Local 2227 organizes steelworkers at USX's Irvin Works facility. According to the organizers, similar rallies are planned in Alabama, Indiana, and Ohio — all centers of steel production. Two rallies had already taken place in Detroit and Weirton, West Virginia.

## Bosses, union tops hold chauvinist rally

About 1,000 steelworkers, some still in their work clothes, attended the West Mifflin event. A group of 75 rail workers from Lorain, Ohio, members of the United Transportation Union (UTU), came after picketing USX's national headquarters in downtown Pittsburgh earlier that day. They were in town to protest USX's plan to outsource all 170 of their jobs and to bust their union. There was also a noticeable layer of steel bosses dressed in suit-and-tie at the rally. Several mayors were present, including Pittsburgh mayor Tom Murphy.

Entering the rally site, people were asked to sign a pledge "Protect our Jobs — Stop the flood of Foreign Steel into the U.S." The central theme of the rally was "Stand Up for Steel, Stand Up for America," a slogan prominently displayed on the speakers stage and on T-shirts worn by about half of the crowd. Patriotic music blared from the stage sound system.

USWA official Andrew Palm chaired the rally. In his opening comments, Palm said, "We need to lock arms with steel management for a common cause." He talked of the need to "save our steel industry, which is at the edge of a cliff." Later in the program Palm called for "shutting down the borders," marching on U.S. ports to physically stop imports, and for a "one-year ban on foreign imports."

Three Pennsylvania U.S. Congressmen — Michael Doyle, William Coyne, and Frank Mascara — spoke to the crowd from Washington, D.C., via a telephone hookup. Their message: Don't let America be a dumping ground for cheap imports. All three spoke in favor of a resolution introduced in



Militant/Tony Lane  
Cecelia Moriarity, Socialist Workers candidate for governor in Pennsylvania, campaigns at USX Clairton in Pittsburgh, October 21.

Congress by James Traficant, a U.S. Congressman (D), who has demanded a year's cutoff of steel imports from any country that supposedly violates U.S. anti-dumping laws. Ultraright politician Patrick Buchanan, in a recent column titled "Steel Yourself for the Dump," championed "populist Democratic James A. Traficant's" resolution as an "America First" trade law.

USWA vice president of human affairs Leon Lynch spoke on behalf of USWA president George Becker, who was not present. Lynch said the steelworkers union and management must stand together and speak with one voice. The problem, he said, was the inaction of the Clinton administration.

The keynote speaker at the rally was Paul Wilhelm, president of USX, who has been addressing audiences around the country.

Wilhelm said U.S. Steel was "under siege" by "foreign predators. In particular, he singled out Japan, Brazil, and Russia. "This import crisis is like a dagger aimed at the backs of the 4,200 people who work at our Mon Valley Works and Clairton Works," said Wilhelm.

Wilhelm said the crisis facing steel had nothing to do with the "market" because the demand for steel was still high. Rather, the problem is "illegal dumping" by "foreign steel companies," and cheap foreign steel is "the cause of recent layoffs in the industry." He said 100,000 jobs are at stake, out of a work force of 170,000. So far, layoffs have been limited. USX has laid off 100 workers in Monongahela Valley, just outside Pittsburgh.

"We" face a "trade war," said Wilhelm, a "war that we are losing." Wilhelm spent time on the crisis facing the "hot roll" segment of the industry. In 1997 a ton of Russian steel was \$294, now it is selling for as low as \$220, he said.

Steel imports are running 24 percent ahead of last year's record pace. According to the American Iron & Steel Institute, the amount of steel production capacity being used fell to a low for the year at 78.3 percent. Earlier in the

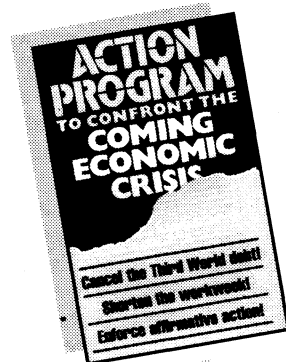
year it was up around 90 percent. Acme Metals, a steelmaker in Illinois, filed for bankruptcy protection on September 29. USX, LTV, and Geneva Steel bosses say they are closing down blast furnaces.

Wilhelm demanded that the industry get help from the government. In late September the U.S. steel industry filed anti-dumping cases against the governments of Japan, Russia, and Brazil. With Washington's help "we plan to win these cases," said Wilhelm.

Most of the steelworkers at the rally site politely applauded the speeches. But the attempt to drum up a rah-rah rally atmosphere came off flat.

A few days after the event, USX announced a 62 percent drop in third-quarter profits, which it blamed on record steel imports and the General Motors strike.

## FOR FURTHER READING

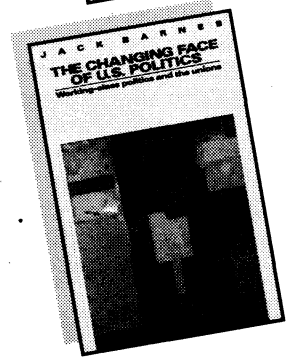


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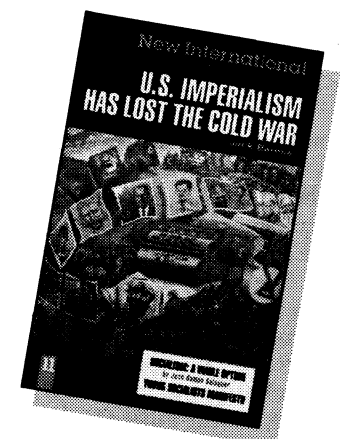
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# New York: Norberto Codina discusses cultural policy of Cuban revolution

BY MIKE TABER

BRONX, New York — Closing his U.S. speaking tour, Cuban poet Norberto Codina spoke at a meeting of nearly 100 at Hostos Community College October 22. Codina is editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, the bimonthly magazine of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) and the country's leading literary and cultural journal.

The event was sponsored by the Student Government Organization, Hostos Center for Arts and Culture, Alex Haley Lecture Series, Director of Department of Humanities Michael Mbabuibe, and college president Dolores Fernández.

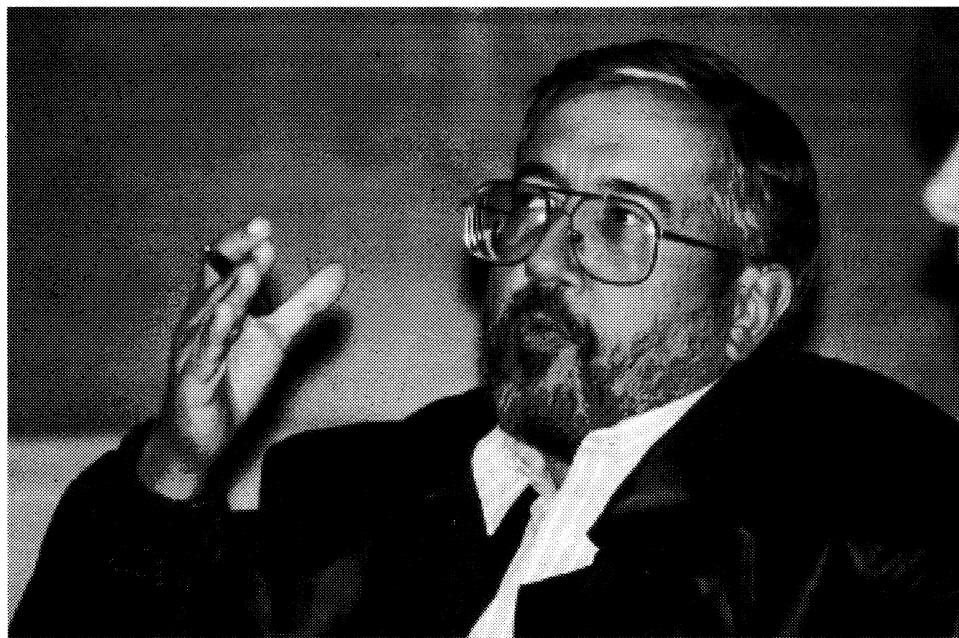
Javier Torres of the student government chaired the meeting and introduced Fernández, who welcomed Codina to Hostos. Student government president Julio Alcántara; Dagoberto López, a Dominican poet, who read two of his poems; and Scott M.X. Turner, an Irish musician who performed two songs related to the Irish freedom struggle, also gave welcoming remarks.

Codina spoke briefly, thanking the organizers of the meeting and the other speakers, and read three of his poems. He then opened the floor for questions.

Asked for his observations on how Cuba is seen around the world, Codina responded, "When we travel abroad we are aware that Cuba represents something very different in the world." He pointed out that on Fidel Castro's recent tour of South Africa, the Cuban president was greeted as a hero by thousands, reflecting not just Cuba's long-time support for African liberation struggles, but the example of the revolution among the people of that country. More than 300,000 Cubans served on internationalist missions in Angola from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s, for example. Cuban volunteer troops helped defeat successive invasions by South Africa's apartheid regime. The crushing defeat the racist regime's troops suffered at Cuito Cuanavale in early 1988 paved the way for the independence of Namibia and gave a new impulse to the battle to bring down the apartheid regime itself.

Another participant asked about the effects of the "Special Period" on Cuban culture. This is the term Cubans use to describe the difficult economic conditions Cuba has faced since the early 1990s, after the loss of favorable trade relations with the USSR and Eastern European countries following the disintegration of the Soviet bloc regimes. The crisis has been exacerbated by an intensified economic war by Washington and the effects on Cuba of depression conditions of world capitalism.

"Before the crisis, things like begging and prostitution in Cuba did not exist. Now these



Editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba* Norberto Codina speaks to 100 students and others at Tufts University, Boston, October 6. He met a similar size crowd at Hostos, New York.

have begun to reappear," Codina said. In addition, "among the young generation there is a high incidence of nonconformity."

"These topics have found reflection in literature and art," he stated. "Cuban culture has been able to treat these problems in all their complexity." At the same time, "there has been a strong desire to preserve the values of the revolution, drawing on the spiritual reserves of human solidarity in Cuban society." This is the opposite of the dog-eat-dog competition prevalent under capitalism.

He pointed out that Cuba has been subject to a "triple blockade." Not only has it been subject to the 38-year-old U.S. embargo and the loss of 85 percent of its foreign trade with the Soviet bloc countries. A third "blockade" has consisted of serious errors by Cuban revolutionaries themselves, Codina said, above all "the copying of economic models from the Soviet Union."

Correcting these errors has been a priority of the communist leadership in Cuba the last decade and a half, beginning with what the Cubans refer to as the rectification process in the mid-1980s. "To be a revolutionary means being critical, not a dogmatic defender of the way things were. It means speaking about problems openly, not painting Cuba falsely, or by exaggeration, as a paradise." Responding to another question, he said that what exists in Cuba is "art that is critical because it is revolutionary."

Asked about freedom of the arts in Cuba, Codina said that there is growing openness in Cuban culture, compared to even a few years ago. "Conservative sectors of society

have attacked this," he stated, reflecting prejudices that still persist. "But there has been a strong reaction from writers and artists who have joined the debate on art and culture." There is no straightjacket on creativity in Cuba, Codina said.

## Cultural policy of Cuban revolution

He gave the example of a controversy surrounding a 1996 theater festival in Camagüey, Cuba, sparked by two plays. One of them, *El arca* (The ark), depicts Noah's Ark, in a symbolic comparison with Cuba today, surrounded by the rising waters of a hostile world. In the play, a young Cuban woman who is a member of the Pioneers asks herself questions about her future. She asks what it means to "be like Che" — a slogan of the Pioneers and other Cuban youth organizations, which often point to the life of Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution, as an example to emulate. Among the questions she poses is whether a prostitute too can strive to "be like Che." Leading journalists in *Trabajadores*, the weekly newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), and others described these plays as counterrevolutionary and criticized *El arca* "for gross manipulation of the figure of Che." This incident led to a full-scale debate in the media on cultural policy, "which *La Gaceta* published in its entirety," Codina said, "including a discussion on censorship."

A polemical article by Abel Prieto, former president of UNEAC and now Cuba's minister of culture, concluded that exchange

Prieto summarized the cultural policy of the revolution by pointing to a well-known speech by Fidel Castro in 1961, referred to as "Words to the Intellectuals." One of the statements in that speech has since become the guideline for Cuba's cultural policy: "Within the revolution, everything is possible. Against the revolution nothing." The perspective presented in that speech, Prieto wrote, was subsequently elaborated on by Che Guevara in *Socialism and Man in Cuba*. In this famous article, one of his last major political writings, Guevara criticized "socialist realism." Following the death of Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin, "socialist realism" became the banner under which artistic expression deemed threatening to the interests of the bureaucratic caste headed by Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union was not only censored but brutally suppressed.

Codina said "the biggest element of censorship in the world is economic power by a wealthy minority. To have people who are illiterate and poor is the biggest form of censorship." Since the triumph of the socialist revolution, Cuba has taken big strides to eliminate these ills.

## Combating antigay prejudice

Codina was asked his opinion about the murder of Matthew Shepard, the gay student in Wyoming killed by right-wing thugs, and how attitudes on homosexuality in Cuba are reflected in the country's culture.

More revealing about the depth of antigay prejudice, promoted by the powers that be in the capitalist world, than the murder of Shepard itself, Codina replied, was the picket at his funeral by a group of right-wing protesters chanting "No tears for queers."

"Although Cuban society has a homophobic component," he stated, "nothing in Cuban history since the revolution even remotely compares to this incident." Even with the prejudices that still exist, such an act would meet "not only universal repudiation from all sectors of Cuban society but with disbelief that human beings are capable of committing an act of such a character."

Antigay prejudices were strongest in the early 1970s, which Codina referred to as the "dark period" of Cuban culture. "Thankfully these prejudices are disappearing in terms of culture." The question of homosexuality has begun to be presented in the arts and in society more openly than ever, he said, giving the example of the Cuban film *Strawberry and Chocolate*, as well as other works.

He pointed out that today many Cubans who "were marginalized in the 70s for being gay are playing prominent roles as international ambassadors of Cuban culture." At the same time, some of the worst "machosensors" of the past, who used to play on antigay prejudices to justify limits on freedom of speech and expression, packed their bags and left Cuba for capitalist countries as economic difficulties mounted during the Special Period. This confirms Lenin's observation, Codina said, "Scratch an extremist, and you'll find an opportunist."

Several students at the end said they appreciated the candid exchange.

## San Francisco: dozens hear Cuban editor

BY OMARI MUSA

SAN FRANCISCO—Cuban poet and editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba* Norberto Codina kicked off his three-day visit of the San Francisco Bay Area October 9 with a meeting of more than 80 students and faculty at the University of California in Santa Cruz. The audience was mostly Latinos. The campus Latin American and Latino Studies department sponsored the event.

Codina began by reading several poems and then opened the floor for discussion. One of the first questions was whether the Cuban revolution would survive the death of Cuban president Fidel Castro. "We are all mortal," Codina responded. "Our revolution is a revolution of the whole people. It is much more than just one individual, it is 11 million strong."

Another participant asked about tourism and the impact of its growth in the last decade. "Tourism provides the largest amount of hard currency," Codina said. "This hard currency allows us to buy oil and other products. So in this sense it is very beneficial. On the other hand," he continued, "it has contributed to increasing inequalities. Some benefit from the dollars they receive from tourists as tips. We are constantly in discussions trying to minimize the bad effects of this phenomenon."

In response to another question on the impact of the U.S. economic war on Cuba, Codina noted that Cuba now has economic

and diplomatic relations with more countries than at any time since the revolution. "In this arena the position of the U.S. government is isolated. But I don't think Washington will give up on the blockade."

The next evening, Codina spoke at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts in the city of San Francisco. The center is known throughout the Bay Area as a gathering place where discussions on art, literature, and politics in Latin America take place. The meeting was chaired by Andrés López, the center's artistic director.

A large group of students took part in this event from San Francisco State University. Their class is organizing a January trip to Cuba. "What effect did the collapse of the Soviet Union have on art and culture?" one of these students asked Codina.

The crisis precipitated by the abrupt end of trade relations in preferential prices with the Soviet Union "affected us materially," Codina responded. "Most important was the drastic reduction of the number and breath of books we could produce. It dropped from 16 million copies in 1989 to 1.5 million two years later. We are now up to about 7 million copies. This has had a big impact on students and the availability of books. They are not as cheap as they once were."

The role of culture and the revolutionary process was also a theme at the meeting at the University of California, Berkeley, which 35 people attended. The event was

sponsored by the Ethnic Studies, African-American Studies, and Spanish/Portuguese departments. Ling-chi Wang, director of Ethnic Studies, introduced Codina, and Laura Pérez of Chicano Studies chaired.

"What is the role of socially committed literature in Cuba," asked one of the students. "In the early years of the revolution there was a strong push for this type of literature," the Cuban editor responded. "It later saturated Cuban society and there was a strong reaction against it. It became too narrow and restrictive. Culture is determined by its quality. A bad political poem is not only a bad poem, it is also bad politics."

Codina also said that in the last decade artists and writers in Cuba have engaged in dialogue with their Cuban counterparts living in other parts of the world. "Cuban culture is not limited to our experience and works in Cuba," he noted. "Cuban culture and themes are produced wherever Cubans live. There is a growing interchange and this is good for the Cuban nation."

Participants raised questions on the discrimination against gays, Blacks, and women, and whether there is censorship in Cuba.

Well-known Puerto Rican writer and poet Piri Thomas and his companion Susan Dodd Thomas hosted Codina throughout his stay in the Bay Area. Susan Thomas translated Codina's remarks during the meeting at the Mission Cultural Center.

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# Teamsters strike

Continued from front page

out at Anheuser-Busch in 22 years, are the oilers and firemen who run the power house.

"This contract is no good for our local," said Henry Peebles, a member of Local 367 who has worked at the plant's powerhouse for more than 20 years. He said that outsourcing of jobs was the main reason for the strike.

While the company promises the union members jobs for the life of the contract, they may be forced to move to other departments, such as the bottling plant where they would have no seniority.

Truckers who deliver beer to local distributors refused to drive their trucks beyond the Teamsters picket line. Managers took the trucks into the plant, filled them up, and returned them.

The brewery continued to operate during the strike. Nonunion workers and management ran the production lines. The company claims it had been training them for more than a year.

A meeting was held between company officials and Teamster representatives from

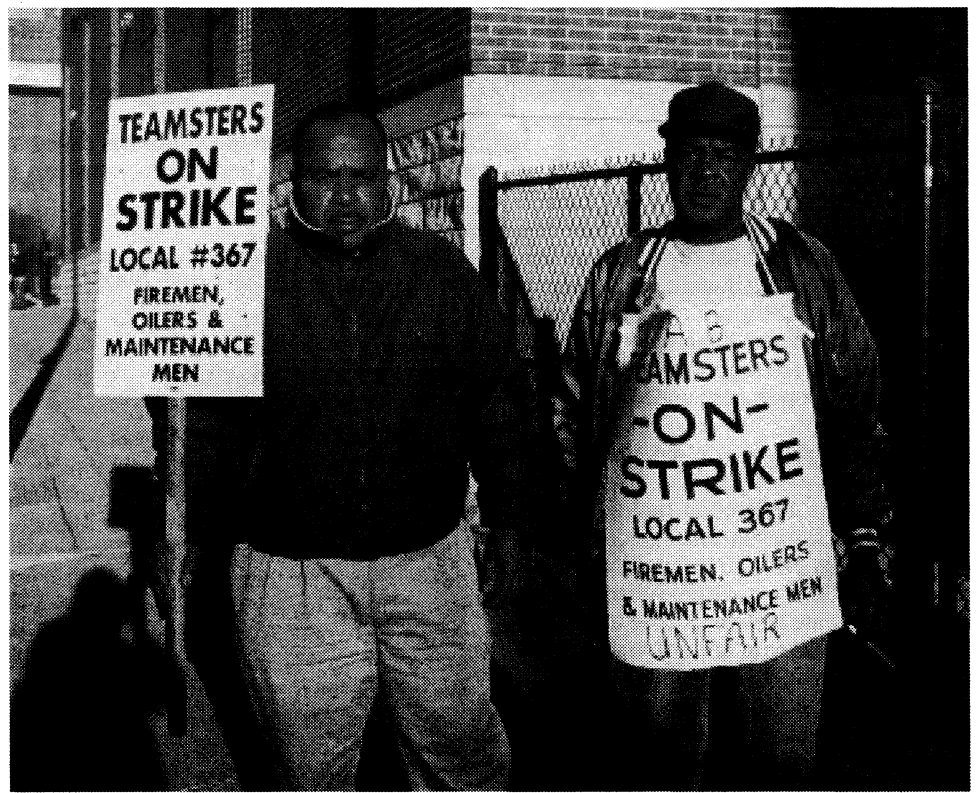
all four locals at the St. Louis plant October 24, the second day of the work stoppage. Dave Laughton, the Teamsters chief negotiator, flew in for the meeting. The pickets came down that evening.

Roger Smith, president of Teamsters Local 367, told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* that the "issues weren't resolved in Friday's talks."

According to the paper's October 23 issue, Roger Newell, a spokesman for the Teamsters at their headquarters in Washington, said all union negotiators were to meet in Florida next week to discuss implementation of the contract.

Joe Thomas, a member of Teamsters Local 1187, representing 900 bottlers, who was picketing October 24, told the *Post-Dispatch*, "We're union people, and we stick together. If that's what it takes to back up Local 367, than this is what we'll do."

*Alyson Kennedy is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-507. Jim Garrison, a United Auto Workers member in St. Louis, contributed to this article.*



Militant/Jim Garrison

Teamsters Local 367 members on picket line against Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis, Missouri, October 23. Pickets are Nate Peebles (left) and Henry Peebles.

## North Carolina poultry workers describe struggle at Perdue

BY STUSINGER

LEWISTON, North Carolina — Frank Perdue is more humane toward chickens than he is toward the thousands of workers and farmers whose labor produces the immense wealth the Perdue family lives off.

A worker in the Perdue poultry plant here described the conditions in her department. "You have to pack 32 thighs, 42 drumsticks or 27 whole legs per minute," she said. "The temperature is 28 degrees and there are chicken parts, blood, ice, and water on the floor. Pallet jacks are speeding around the floor, occasionally hitting us. Foreman stand behind you with stop watches timing you and if you don't keep up you're called in to the office and disciplined. There is a very strict attendance policy, seven occurrences, including being one minute late, and you're fired. You need permission to use the bathroom and there may be only one relief person for 100 workers so they can tell you to wait. And they time you in the bathroom."

The large Perdue chicken plant here in northeastern North Carolina was built in the 1970s with a multimillion dollar loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At the same time small farmers, especially Black farmers, in the area were being driven off the land through loan denials and foreclosures by the same government agency.

Members of many families driven out of farming became part of the large pool of workers required for the Perdue operation. There are about 2,500 workers in the plant, the majority of them Black women. The low pay, difficult and dangerous work, and severe discipline imposed by Perdue lead to a high turnover. According to workers in the

plant, about 20 workers are hired every week, many of them right out of high school. The pay is \$7.15 an hour to start, going up to a maximum of \$7.35 an hour. During the last union organizing drive — which was unsuccessful — the company started a bonus program, where after two years, workers get a onetime \$200 bonus (before taxes) and after 15 years, a onetime \$1,000 bonus.

Perdue's "associates" handbook, which workers are supposed to sign when they are hired, says: "It is our preference that this be a nonunion company.... Therefore it is our firm intention to oppose unionism by every proper and legal means available whenever the need arises." This is similar to what were called "yellow dog contracts," which work-

ers had to sign swearing not to join a union. These were outlawed by federal law in 1932.

In the last union organizing drive, Perdue threatened to close the plant if the union was voted in. A number of unionists were fired. Many believe the company also pressured a local church where the union had been meeting to deny them facilities.

Liz Sessoms is the executive director of the Center for Women's Economic Alternatives (CWEA) and works out of a storefront in the nearby town of Ahsokie. After workers were unable to win representation by the United Food and Commercial Workers for a second time, the union officials left town. The CWEA acts as the only local center now where workers can come for help in

dealing with the company, the state, insurance companies, etc. Union literature is available in the office.

Sessoms and Lessie Joyner, a Perdue worker who was fired two years ago after being injured, explained that carpal tunnel syndrome is epidemic in the plant because of the line speed, repetitive motions, and poor design of work stations that require working in awkward positions. Local doctors often are not willing to stand up to the company, and workers are ordered back to work without adequate care or healing time. Suing the company for disability is difficult because local lawyers generally won't take a case against Perdue.

This is one of the poorest areas in North Carolina. There are few other jobs in the area and it's hard for those who were injured at Perdue to find work. As Joyner put it, "nobody will take on what Perdue left off."

A number of workers at Perdue have family and friends who work at the Newport News, Virginia, shipyard even though it takes up to two hours to drive each way. Those workers succeeded in unionizing the yard through tremendous battles with the company and cops in 1978-79.

*Stu Singer is a member of the United Transportation Union in Washington, D.C.*

## Titan Tire strikers call rally for November 5

BY RAY PARSONS

DES MOINES, Iowa — United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 164 has called a solidarity march and rally for November 5 to build support for their six month strike against Titan Tire. The action will take place at noon at Local 164 headquarters in Des Moines.

The 670 unionists began their strike May 1 against forced overtime and two-tier wages and for the restoration of pension and health-care benefits for retirees. In September, 500 members of USWA Local 303L in Natchez, Mississippi, joined the walkout when Titan demanded concessions from the union following its purchase of bankrupt Fidelity Tire Manufacturing Co.

On October 23 Titan owner Maurice Taylor, Jr. agreed to resume negotiations with the two union locals. A company press release announcing the decision protested union efforts to link the two strikes in negotiations, and was filled with Taylor's characteristic vitriol against the strikers.

"While the [USWA] International is gambling with their lives, I'd like to point out that maybe these former rubber workers should have joined the miner's union, because then they'd know when they're getting the shaft," Taylor huffed.

But this bluster comes just two days after news reports detailed a dramatic slide in company earnings due to the strike. Titan's third-quarter net income was \$400,000, compared with \$3.6 million for the same period in 1997.

Local 164 strikers are continuing to reach out for support. A growing number of strikers have become "road warriors" who speak before other unions and elsewhere. Recently a team of Local 164 strikers spoke before International Association of Machinists Local 2048 whose members work at Titan Wheel in Walcott, Iowa. Two Local 303L members distributed flyers about their strike at the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie, Georgia October 20-23.

Local 164 "road warriors" will speak November 5 to students and faculty at Iowa

State University in Ames.

*Ray Parsons is a member of USWA Local 310 and is the Socialist Workers candidate for Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.*

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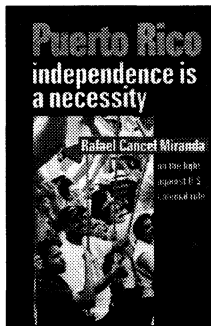
**November 21, 1998**

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Contact: Irving Forestier (407) 323-7638.

### Puerto Rico: independence is a necessity

Rafael Cancel Miranda on the fight against U.S. colonial rule

In two interviews, a leader of Puerto Rico's independence struggle speaks on the brutal reality of U.S. colonial domination, the resurgence of the independence movement, the campaign to free 16 Puerto Rican Political prisoners, and the example of Cuba's socialist revolution for all those fighting for freedom. Rafael Cancel Miranda addresses, above all, the new generation joining this struggle. Available in English and Spanish. **\$3.00**



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

# Hundreds protest killing of N.Y. doctor

Continued from front page

numerous threats by rightist opponents of a woman's right to choose over the years. In 1992, Slepian was among the targets of a campaign by the rightist organization Operation Rescue to shut down clinics that provide abortions in Buffalo and other cities. At the clinic where Slepian worked, hundreds of pro-choice supporters mobilized to keep this clinic open and handed Operation Rescue a defeat.

The day Slepian was killed, the Buffalo clinic received a two-page fax from the National Abortion Federation urging doctors to beware of sniper attacks. According to the October 26 *New York Times*, the message stated, "Do not assume that you are safe once you are at home. Close the drapes in your house so you are not visible from outside." His wife, Lynn Slepian, called the Amherst police informing them of the letter. No patrol car or any other form of protection was provided in spite of the possibility of a violent attack.

In the last five years three Canadian doctors and a physician in Rochester, New York, all of whom perform abortions, were wounded by snipers in their homes in the days leading up to November 11. The holiday known as Remembrance Day in Canada and Veterans Day in the United States has been embraced by rightist antichoice opponents for these attacks.

The murder of Slepian follows the 1993 killing of Dr. David Gunn in Pensacola, Florida; the murder of Dr. John Britton and volunteer clinic escort James Barrett in that city a year later; the killing of Dr. George Patterson in Mobile, Alabama, in 1993; and the deaths of clinic workers Leanne Nichols and Shannon Lowney in an assault on a women's health clinic in Brookline, Massachusetts, in December 1994. These murders have been accompanied by the bombing and arson of clinics, physical assaults on doctors, staff, and others, picketing people's places of work as well as their home, death threats, and other acts of intimidation. Two clinics in North Carolina were firebombed as recently as September 8.

About 300 people attended a vigil in midtown Manhattan October 27 to honor Slepian's life and work. The action was called by the New York chapter of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) New York.

A message from David Gunn Jr., son of Dr. David Gunn, was circulated at the New York protest. "As many of you know, Dr. Barnett Slepian is the latest casualty in an increasing war on civil liberties," it read. "As churches burn throughout the Southeast, homosexuals are beaten to death in the Northwest... and yet another abortion provider is dead in the morgue, victim of an assassin's bullet."

The protest was built in a few days through women's health clinics, the internet, and word of mouth. The participants were mainly pro-choice activists and women's health-care workers. Among the demonstrators were a substantial number of young men. Some passersby also joined in the action. Among the signs people brought were some linking the killing of Slepian and the fight for the right to choose abortion to the fight against antigay violence.

Leaders from the sponsoring organizations addressed the gathering, as well as a number of politicians. Norman Seigle, director of NY-ACLU, stated "Tonight we call upon the federal government and the Attorney General to do their jobs." He explained that physicians who practice abortion services "have a right to protection too," pointing out the extensive resources the government employs to protect federal buildings from so-called terrorists.

In an open mike session a number of speakers expressed their outrage over the murder of Slepian and the need to return to the streets in order to defend a woman's right to choose. Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor Al Duncan stated, "The entire labor movement has a stake in this fight. People like those who killed Dr. Slepian are not just dangerous individuals. They are part of the beginnings of a fascist movement whose ultimate target is not only women, but the institutions and fighting will of the working class."

Pro-choice forces have put out the call for a car caravan and rally October 31 in Buffalo. The rally will be at 1:00 p.m. in Niagara Square. For more information call (716) 852-6120 Ext. 238. The Wayne State

Student Association in Detroit has called a vigil for October 30, and other actions are in the works across the country.

Valerie Johnson is a member of the United Transportation Union Local 1447.



## BY MARY ELLEN MARUS AND KAREN EASTLAND

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — About 120 people joined in a candle light vigil in a downtown Vancouver's Thornton Park October 27 to protest the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian. Sponsored by the Pro-Choice Action Network, the theme was "We will not be intimidated." Joyce Arthur from Pro-Choice Action Network said that Slepian "defended to the death a woman's right to an abortion. We will never forget his sacrifice." Arthur insisted that "the leaders of the antichoice movement have blood on their hands."

A spokesperson for the Elizabeth Bagshaw Woman's Health Centre said that since 1991 there have been seven murders

and 15 attacks on doctors and other workers in abortion clinics, including three in Canada. She said that in "this climate of intolerance and fear-mongering, all citizens must step forward to protest this act of terrorism." To loud applause she added, "Our abortion services remain open, accessible, and safe."

At a Toronto press conference well-known abortion rights activist Dr. Henry Morgentaler challenged Premier Jean Chretien "to direct the appropriate government agencies and police forces to do their utmost to protect doctors providing services." Dr. Ellen Wiebe, a Vancouver doctor who performs abortions, quoted in the *Globe and Mail*, denounced city police for refusing her request for protection after Slepian's slaying. "I'm very angry about it. They told me there were too many of us to be protected." There are less than 20 doctors who provide abortions in the Vancouver area she explained. Many of them plan to be out of town in November, the month that many of the previous attacks have taken place.

Vancouver police said they don't have

the resources to respond to requests from city doctors for additional security. Instead of providing police protection to the doctors, BC Health Minister Penny Priddy announced two new "bubble zones" barring antiabortion protests at the Vancouver General Hospital where the rightists have been picketing. She also called on the federal government to approve the abortion pill RU-486 in order to "reduce the risk to care providers." Wiebe said some doctors are opting out because of fear, though she won't be among them. "Canadian women fought for the right to choose without putting their lives at risk and now that right to choose is being jeopardized because we have to put our lives at risk."

Rod MacKinnon, a young laborer at his first abortion rights event, said, "Abortion seems like an important issue. It is up to each individual to decide."

Mary Ellen Marus is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 11. Karen Eastland is a student at the University of British Columbia.

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**Labor Resistance and Working-Class Politics: Leaderships Emerging from Today's Struggles.** Benefit for the New International Fund. Speaker: Tom Leonard, veteran leader of Socialist Workers Party and union militant. Sat., Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. 111 21st St. South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**New International Fund Event.** Speaker: Doug Jenness, author of *New International* no. 4 article on "Forging a Worker-Farmer Alliance." Sat., Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. 230 Auburn Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (404) 577-7976.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**Deepening Dilemma for World Capitalism and New Opportunities for the Working Class.** New International Fund Event. Hear: Mike Fitzsimmons, Socialist Workers Party Trade Union Committee and member of the United Steelworkers of America. Sun. Nov. 8, 4 p.m. Reception: 3 p.m. 1223 N. Milwaukee (at Division on CTA Blue Line). Donation: \$5. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (773) 342-1780.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Puerto Rico — Independence is a Necessity.**

A celebration of the new Pathfinder booklet and discussion of the fight for Puerto Rican freedom. Speakers: Andrés Torres, professor at University of Massachusetts, Boston, and co-editor of *The Puerto Rican Movement: Voices from the Diaspora*; Elena Tate, Young Socialists and student at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. Fri., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

### NEW YORK

#### Brooklyn

**Speak Out Against the Murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian! Defend a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion!** Join the Socialist Workers candidates in the November 3 elections and other fighters in a rally. Speakers: Al Duncan SWP candidate for governor; Rose Ana Berbeo, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Ryan Kelly, SWP candidate for comptroller. Sun., Nov. 1, 6 p.m. Reception/Dinner 5 p.m. 59 4th Ave (corner of Bergen). Donation \$5 for program, \$5 for dinner. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

**Celebrate the Publication of *New International* no. 11.** "U.S. Imperialism has Lost the Cold War." Hear: Mike Fitzsimmons, Socialist Workers Party Trade Union Committee and member of the United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Pathfinder Bookstore, 59 4th Av. (Corner of Bergen). Dinner: \$5. Program: \$5. 59 4th Ave. For more information, call (718) 399-7257.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

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**WASHINGTON: Seattle:** 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461,2544.

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**Sydney:** 1st Flr, 176 Redfern St., Redfern NSW 2016. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket Post Office, NSW 1240. Tel: 02-9690-1533. Compuserve: 106450,2216

### BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 0171-928-7993. Compuserve:

**Speak out Against Attacks on a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion and Gay Rights!** Panel of speakers. Fri., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Labor Movement at Center Stage of U.S. Politics — Workers Resistance and Bosses Counteroffensive.** Celebrate and raise funds for the publication of *New International* no. 11. Speakers: Samuel Farley, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in Los Angeles, and member of International Association of Machinists; Nan Bailey, a national leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. Reception: 6:30 p.m. Miller Community Center, 330 19th Ave. East. Donation: \$5. For more information, call (206) 323-1755.

### AUSTRALIA

#### Sydney

**Who Has the Right to Put Pinochet on Trial?** Fri., Nov. 6, 7 p.m. 1st Floor, 176 Redfern St. Redfern. Donation: \$4. Tel: 9690 1533.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Christchurch

**Russian Revolution 1917.** This week's Militant Labor Forum draws on Trotsky's *Revolution Betrayed* to explain how a bureaucratic caste was able to take power. Fri., November 6, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Donation: \$3. Tel: 365 6055.

101515,2702

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**Paris:** Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

### ICELAND

**Reykjavik:** Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. INTERNET: milph@mmedia.is

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**Christchurch:** 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

### SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362

**The glum side** — At a recent Washington gathering of big-time financial folks, hosted by the World Bank and the International Mon-



Harry Ring

etary Fund, a chap from the London office of Standard & Poor's told a reporter, "There's a real sense of pain...I don't recall a meeting as gloomy as this one."

**Give that guy a martini** — At

that session, a fellow from Merrill Lynch added, "I woke up this morning an optimistic man. By the end of a day of meetings I wanted to jump out the window."

**That's the spirit!** — A British banker at that gathering chirped, "People are saying the current world crisis is worse than World War II or 1929. But you've got a lot of people looking at the problem. Surely, something will be done." He didn't offer any odds.

**Just the 'emerging' nations?** — "The latest figures show unemployment in Japan rose to a record 2.97 million.... According to Tokyo municipal authorities, the city had 4,300 homeless in September....

But relief organizations like the Salvation Army estimate the true number is closer to 15,000." — News item.

**Next, a mug shot of Dunlap?** — Sunbeam appliances said their claimed profit for last year was actually a loss. The company, which is \$2 billion in debt, had hired Al "Chainsaw" Dunlap, king of the downsizers, to pull them out of the hole. They now say he juggled the books. Meanwhile, the Post Office issued a stamp featuring a Sunbeam Mixmaster — part of its "Celebrate the Century" program.

**How about New York pothole debris?** — A Texas company ad

says it's in the market to buy moon rocks and dust.

**Almost as trustworthy as Washington** — A secret 1962 British Ministry of Defense document, recently released, proposed that in the event of a devastating nuclear attack on the United States, officers at U.S. atomic bases in Britain should be killed and their nuclear weapons seized.

**Won't mar manly military image?** — The Pentagon sighed it will spend about \$50 million this coming year dispensing the impotence drug, Viagra. Reportedly, \$50 million can buy 45 Tomahawk cruise missiles.

**But not to worry** — The ozone hole over Antarctica is larger than ever and formed earlier this year, New Zealand officials reported. Preliminary data show the hole covers some 11 million square miles, 5 percent bigger than the previous record, set in 1996.

**Obviously carefully checked** — A Mattel subsidiary recalled 10 million Power Wheels children's cars. The battery-powered vehicles go as fast as 5 mph and cost up to \$300. The recall came after 150 complaints of fires, some of which started while the toy cars were parked. Defective electrical components were also failing or overheating, causing smoke or melted parts.

# Russia, 1917: how working people took power

November, 1998 marks the 81st anniversary of the victory of the Bolshevik-led revolution in Russia, where the working class was able to take and hold state power for the first time ever. (This is often called the October revolution, because the Byzantine calendar still in use in Russia then was 13 days behind the modern Western calendar.) In the February 1917 revolution, which swept the Tzar's monarchy from power, workers and soldiers established soviets, or councils, to represent them. The majority still had illusions in the liberal and reformist parties, and an increasingly unstable bourgeois government was installed. By October, however, the Bolsheviks were the elected ma-

nin insisted in a pamphlet written a few days later in September. "That is the sole guarantee of salvation for the revolution.

It is "only our victory in the metropolitan cities," he wrote in a September 1917 letter to the Bolshevik leadership, "that will carry the peasants with us."

The question of "the firm course to take, of courage and resolve, is not a personal matter, but a question of which class is capable of manifesting courage and resolve. The only class capable of this is the proletariat." That was the class basis on which the Bolsheviks charted their course, not only throughout 1917 and in the years following the October revolution, but from their emergence as a distinct political current in 1903. They built a party of the revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat, based among the industrial workers, that could lead the entire working class despite its stratification and divisions, as well as the exploited petty bourgeoisie, rural and urban, toward power.

In October 1917, at the decisive turning point in the revolution, the Bolsheviks led the insurrection against the capitalist regime and declared that they were ready to establish a government of the new Bolshevik majority in the soviets alone, if no other soviet party would join them. The new workers' and peasants' government immediately began to implement radical policies that could "wrest" the majority of the peasantry from the tutelage of the bourgeoisie and its petty-bourgeois political servants. From that point on, the challenge before the working class vanguard was to sustain and broaden the proletariat's alliance with the exploited peasants, on which the survival of the new power depended.

"Comrades, the workers' and peasants' revolution, about the necessity of which the Bolsheviks have always spoken, has been accomplished," Lenin said in the opening sentence of his speech to the victorious soviet congress on the night of October 25-26.

"What is the significance of this workers' and peasants' revolution?" he continued. "Its significance is, first of all, that we shall have a Soviet government, our own organ of power, in which the bourgeoisie will have no share whatsoever. The oppressed masses will themselves create a power. The old state apparatus will be shattered to its foundations and a new administrative apparatus set up in the form of the Soviet organizations.

"From now on," he said, "a new phase in the history of Russia begins, and this, the third Russian revolution, should in the end lead to the victory of socialism."

Having conquered power, Lenin said, the first task of the new revolutionary government was "to put an immediate end to the war." Its proposal for an immediate and just peace, he said, would be welcomed by growing numbers of workers throughout Europe who were being driven toward revolution by the horrors and sacrifices of the war.

"Within Russia," Lenin said, "a huge section of the peasantry have said that they have played long enough with the capitalists, and will now march with the workers. A single decree putting an end to landed proprietorship will win us the confidence of the peasants. The peasants will understand that the salvation of the peasantry lies only in an alliance with the workers."

With this firm worker-peasant alliance, and the prospect of aid from revolutions elsewhere in Europe, Lenin said, "We must now set about building a proletarian socialist state in Russia."

The government established on that night of October 25-26 was called on Lenin's pro-



Peasants rally in Russia to support revolutionary movement in 1917. Bolsheviks advocated and helped cement an alliance of proletariat and peasantry since early 1900s.

posal, "the provisional workers' and peasants' government" of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets. The word "provisional" was dropped several months later.

What was the class nature of this new government? What was its relationship to the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry that the Bolsheviks called for from 1905 on, and that Lenin insisted was partially realized as one pole of the dual power that arose out of the February revolution?

Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders considered the revolutionary dictatorship that was born in October 1917 a dictatorship of the proletariat, in that the proletariat alone led that new power. Dual power hav-

ing been resolved by the October insurrection, however, the first task of these triumphant workers', peasants', and soldiers' councils was to implement the programs that the Bolsheviks had advocated for a revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry since the early years of the century. These included total destruction of the old tsarist state apparatus, a thoroughgoing land reform, guarantees of self-determination for the oppressed nations, workers' control over production to keep the factories in operation and prevent capitalist sabotage. Immediate steps to withdraw from the imperialist war and emergency measures to organize the distribution of food and other necessities were implemented.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

majority in many of the soviets. The excerpt below is from the article "Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government: 1848 to Today," published in issue no. 3 of the Marxist magazine *New International*. It takes up the particular importance of the alliance of workers and peasants. The article is copyright © 1984 by 408 Printing and Publishing, reprinted by permission.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

By the fall of 1917 the majority of the working class had been convinced of the need to transfer all power to the soviets. That having been accomplished, [V.I.] Lenin insisted, the proletariat could win the peasant majority to its side only by proving that the soviets were strong enough to take power and would guarantee the peasants the right to work the lands they were seizing.

A decisive factor in convincing the Bolsheviks that there could be no delay in organizing an insurrection in the fall of 1917 was the rapid spread of peasant land seizures, which had broken out in virtually every part of Russia after the failure of the counterrevolutionary military coup by General Kornilov in August....

"Only the revolutionary workers, if supported by the peasant poor," Lenin said, "are capable of smashing the resistance of the capitalists and leading the people in gaining land without compensation, complete liberty, victory over famine and the war, and a just and lasting peace."

The Russian peasants "must be wrested from the influence of the bourgeoisie," Le-

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



November 9, 1973

BERKELEY — An estimated 13,000 University of California students repeatedly interrupted speakers with chants of "Impeach Nixon!" "Nixon's the one!" at a convocation here Oct. 25.

It was the first convocation of the campus community since May 1970, when hundreds of campuses closed down across the country in response to Nixon's invasion of Cambodia and the subsequent Kent and Jackson State killings. A convocation is viewed as an extraordinary event on the campus, and must be authorized by the chancellor or the university.

While calls for Nixon's resignation or impeachment received a thunderous response from the students, a broad range of issues were linked to the Nixon administration's policies around the world. Repeated mention was made of the history of administration lies in regard to U.S. aggression in Vietnam and the secret bombing of Cambodia.

The role of U.S. imperialism in the overturn of the Allende regime in Chile was denounced several times during the two and one-half hour meeting, each time evoking a strong response from the students. And the convocation was warned of impending U.S. military intervention in the Mideast.



November 8, 1948

John L. Lewis's appeal for support to the striking French miners has sounded a clarion call for international labor solidarity. For the first time in years, a top-ranking American union leader has voiced the identity of class interests between the American workers and those of another land.

Lewis wrote AFL President William Green on Oct. 27 asking Green, as a supporter of Truman and his foreign policies, "why do you not have him stop the shooting of French coal miners who are hungry?" Lewis pointed out that "Truman controls the money bags of the Marshall Plan, upon which the tottering French government subsists."

At bottom in the French mine strike are the terrible conditions of the miners. That is why 350,000 miners defy the government and its armed forces. The Scripps-Howard correspondent writes on Oct. 25 from France:

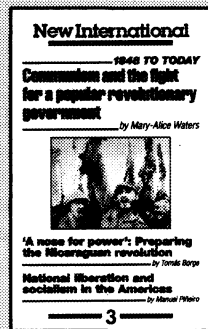
"The majority of the miners are supporting the strike because they are miserably paid. A French miner gets the equivalent of \$33 for a month's work. They are supporting the strike because they have no confidence that their inept government will do anything to help them."

NEW INTERNATIONAL NO. 3

**Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government: 1848 to Today**

by Mary-Alice Waters \$8.00

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# Defend right to choose abortion!

Continued from front page

passed bills that would ban "intact dilation and evacuation" procedure that has been demagogically called "partial-birth abortion" by opponents of a woman's right to choose. In most parts of the country it is harder today than a decade ago to get a competent and safe abortion.

In the last four years, three Canadian doctors who provide abortions and a doctor in Rochester, New York, were wounded by snipers. Dr. Slepian himself had been the target of rightist pickets and death threats. Despite this knowledge, governmental officials did nothing to protect Dr. Slepian, a well-known defender of abortion rights, from what eventually happened.

These acts of terrorism are the latest flashpoints of the "culture war" waged by rightist and incipient fascist forces on a number of fronts. As the world capitalist system sinks into deeper crisis, ultraright demagogues such as Patrick Buchanan seek to scapegoat women, homosexuals, immigrants, and Blacks, as well as corrupt politicians and the "elite," for the supposed "moral degeneracy" of society. They draw on the insecurity and panic of many in the middle classes to begin to build a cadre willing to take action in the streets, which will ultimately be used to try to smash the organizations of the working-class in a struggle for power.

We can see the seeds of this in the racist lynching of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas; the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming; the killing of Dr.

Slepian; and the increased use of "security" thugs by the employers against workers who go on strike or try to organize a union.

What is needed are protests in the streets, like those that have taken place condemning the murder of Matthew Shepard, to demand that those responsible for this crime be arrested and convicted. Mobilizations to defend the clinics in Buffalo succeeded in pushing back the thugs of Operation Rescue in 1992. We urge all supporters of democratic rights to join the rally called in Buffalo October 31 to protest Slepian's murder and similar actions across North America.

The entire labor movement has a stake in this fight. People like those who killed Dr. Slepian are not just dangerous individuals. They are part of the beginnings of a fascist movement whose ultimate target is not women, but the institutions and fighting will of the working class.

Defenders of abortion rights have a big stake in the outcome of labor battles like the United Auto Workers strike against Standard Motors in New York, the coal miners strike against Freeman in Illinois, and the Steelworkers walkouts against Titan Tire and Kaiser Aluminum. And fighting workers being on the front lines of demonstrations against every rightist attack on democratic rights will give a big impetus to bringing the murderers of Dr. Slepian to justice.

Mobilize to defend a woman's right to choose abortion!

# A special appeal for NI Fund

Dear Reader,

We need your help to raise \$115,000 for the New International Fund by November 15, taking advantage of the interest among many workers and farmers in the Marxist magazine. These funds are needed now to cover the costs of publishing the newest issue, featuring the resolution "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War," and similar issues in Spanish, French, Swedish, and Icelandic.

We need to raise about \$80,000 in the last two and a half weeks of the campaign, as the chart on page 4 indicates. A focused, day-by-day effort involving every single fund supporter around the world is the only way it will be possible to close the gap and complete collections for this fund in full and on time. This means a sharp change of direction from the accumulating lag of previous weeks.

The response to *New International* no. 11 and to fund appeals has been very positive so far, indicating it's possible to raise such a substantial sum of money. The article on page 4 points to some examples of the potential breadth of contributors — from Black farmer-activists fighting government discrimination to fellow industrial unionists on the job to students interested in the Young Socialists.

To reach a broad range of contributors, especially those who haven't previously made donations to such funds, it's necessary to wage this effort as part of other political activity, including the Socialist Workers election campaigns, the ongoing *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription drive, and political activities with young people that can build the upcoming Young Socialists convention. Everyone who purchases a copy of *New Interna-*

*tional* can be asked for a donation to help produce this working-class tool. Discussions are needed in every area to map out and carry through a concrete plan for who to ask for a contribution in order to make every local goal. This includes a systematic on-the-job effort by readers of *New International* who are industrial workers.

Fund-raising meetings are being organized in many cities over the final two weekends. Fund supporters should make sure to step up the collection of pledges *before* these events and not wait until the meetings themselves to try to collect all the money. In this way, the public events can serve as a further stepping-stone to reach the goal.

In response to the accelerating class polarization today — focused today around the reactionary murders of gay student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming and Dr. Barnett Slepian, who provided abortions in Buffalo, New York — *New International* is finding a ready audience among working people and thinking youth who sense that something is fundamentally wrong about this capitalist society, want a clear explanation, and want to do something about it. They will value socialist publications like *New International* and many of them will readily contribute. They will respond to the fact that this political tool is financed not by businessmen and corporate advertising but by working people.

Please join in this effort to assure its success! You can do so by contacting local supporters of the New International Fund at the numbers listed on page 12.

*Martin Koppel*  
New International Fund Director

# Working-class voice in Quebec

Below are excerpts of a statement issued Oct. 28, 1998, by Michel Dugré and Annette Kouri, candidates of the Communist League in Canada in the November 30 Quebec election.

We have decided to run in the November 30 Quebec elections as candidates of the Communist League.

We will present a working-class voice against the parties of the bosses — both the Parti Québécois (PQ) and the Liberal Party of Quebec (PLQ). And we will use our campaign to fight for Quebec independence and build solidarity with all the oppressed and exploited fighting for their rights — from the 4,500 striking paperworkers against Abitibi-Consol, to the workers and youth protesting the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian in the United States because he defended a woman's right to abortion, to the students demanding better schools in France, to the 300,000 public workers in Quebec who demand that the government sit down to negotiate a decent contract with them.

As the party of Canada's ruling class in Quebec, the PLQ is one of the main defenders in this province of the Canadian federalist state — the very pillar of the national oppression of the Québécois. Its leader, Jean Charest, is today at the center of an effort aimed at preventing a new referendum on Quebec sovereignty that Canada's rulers know they can lose. Many workers justly resent this move as an attack against Quebec's right to self-determination. As for the PLQ's new economic program, it will deepen the attacks already led by all provincial governments in this country, including the PQ, against our social services and labor rights.

The PQ is also a party of the bosses, but of smaller

bosses who are Québécois. They want to get greater powers for the Quebec government in order to advance their own class interests against those of their competitors — and against us, working people. The PQ claims to defend Quebec's rights. In fact, it has led the deepest assault by any Quebec government on social services, especially health care. This has deepened the national oppression of the Québécois.

Quebec labor officialdom has already made clear that, as they have done over the last quarter century, they will use Charest's federalism and conservative program to try to convince working people to vote for the PQ as a "lesser evil." This is a dead-end. Working people in Quebec have already paid a huge price with this course of class-collaboration. Today's crisis of world capitalism leads humanity into a disaster. The only way of getting out of it will be for working people to follow the Cuban road, i.e. to fight to establish governments of the exploited producers, workers and farmers governments, and to use them to begin building a society based on human solidarity and needs, not profits.

As a first step into that direction, we will use our election campaign to explain why the trade union movement in Quebec should break with the PQ and launch its own party, a labor party based on the unions. Such a party would be an incomparable weapon in the hands of working people for building solidarity with those of us engaged in struggles, here and abroad; for fighting for a shorter workweek with no loss in pay as a mean to create badly needed jobs; and for struggling for Quebec independence as a vital part of the fight to establish with our brothers and sisters in the rest of the country a workers' and farmers' government in Ottawa.

# Capitalists' profit crises

Continued from Page 7

bers have been forced to look for a factory job or other full-time employment to support themselves and their families. And hundreds of thousands have been driven off the land altogether....

Capitalist domination of the distribution and sale of agricultural products turns natural disasters such as a drought into social catastrophes that ruin many exploited farmers and raise food prices for working people. Meanwhile, enormous profits are reaped by the handful of capitalists who own the giant food processing and marketing monopolies and speculate on the commodities futures markets.

The huge government agricultural subsidies and farm-debt bailouts that have received so much publicity in recent years are designed to profit the wealthy owners of the food monopolies, of bonds and bank stocks, and of the biggest capitalist farms....

Both workers and working farmers in the economically advanced capitalist countries are victims of the intensifying imperialist competition for profits on processed agricultural products. The proceeds from mounting food prices are pocketed overwhelmingly by the capitalists who own the processing, packaging, transport, and marketing monopolies. The rise in the cost of food, which does virtually nothing to raise the income of exploited farmers, is the most regressive tax possible on working people both in urban and rural areas, and both in the United States and worldwide.

In Japan, for example, the capitalist government's restrictions on agricultural imports raise the shelf price of rice, wheat, and beef to between three and six times the world average. The bosses and labor bureaucracy try to convince workers that working farmers are to blame for these high food costs, and in this way hope to weaken workers' understanding of the need for an alliance with exploited farmers.

In Western Europe government price supports now account for nearly 50 percent of annual farm income. As in the United States, these enormous government subsidies benefit finance capital and a handful of capitalist farmers, while the exploited majority find it ever more difficult to make a living on the land. Three-quarters of the farming population in both Europe and Japan have to depend on outside income to make a living.

In most imperialist countries, government agricultural programs also drive farmers to take land out of production, at a time when hundreds of millions of people around the world are desperately in need of food....

## 8. Declining real wages and accelerating speedup

To counter the deceleration of capital accumulation, the rulers in the United States and other imperialist countries have sought to boost profit rates by increasing their exploitation of the working class. The value of labor power has been driven down in the United States for the first time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Speedup has squeezed more profits from working people at the cost of health and safety conditions on the job and in society as a whole. The workweek in manufacturing has reached its highest level since World War II....

## 9. Rising unemployment and growing relative surplus population

The capitalists' falling average rate of profit results not only in "surplus" plant, "surplus" food, and other "surplus" capital and commodities, but also in what Marx described as a "relative surplus population." The layoffs of waged workers and dispossession of agricultural producers proceed at an accelerating pace and outstrip capitalism's capacity to absorb this surplus labor power into new employment. The expanding reserve army of the unemployed becomes a source of pressure used by the capitalists to intensify the labor and hold down the wages of employed workers, and to increase competition among all workers.

"The over-work of the employed part of the working class swells the ranks of its reserve," Marx explained, "while, conversely, the greater pressure that the reserve by its competition exerts on the employed workers forces them to submit to over-work and subjects them to the dictates of capital. The condemnation of one part of the working class to enforced idleness by the overwork of the other part, and *vice versa*, becomes a means of enriching the individual capitalists."<sup>5</sup>...

## The coming world depression

The capitalists' falling average rate and stagnating mass of profits have undermined the equilibrium of world capitalism. The October 1987 crash on the world's stock markets signaled the consequences: no longer can the exploiters be confident that a major bankruptcy, loan default, crop failure, bank collapse, deflationary slump, stock market dive, or other partial crisis will be buffered and absorbed by the strength of production, investment, and trade in the broader capitalist economy. Today, at this advanced point in the stagnation of capital accumulation, any of these partial crises has the growing potential to spiral out of control and trigger a worldwide depression and a generalized social crisis.

<sup>5</sup> *Capital*, vol. 1, p. 789.

# Unionists show solidarity with Steelworkers in Tacoma, Washington

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

phone open to anyone who wanted to speak. Several strikers took to the microphone to express their determination to win the strike and to reach out for solidarity. Neil, a pot

against the strikers, which limits the number of pickets on the main driveway going into the plant to four. The lawyer said the company was having a hard time getting a permanent injunction due to the discipline on the picket lines. He invited all the workers and their families to come to a hearing scheduled during the week on Kaiser's request for a permanent injunction.

After the rally, police used a loudspeaker from across the street to tell workers to move off of the driveway as they gathered to talk and keep the picket line going into the night. Kaiser has hired security guards to videotape the strikers and to escort scabs and management past the picket line into the plant.

## London rail workers demand overtime pay

LONDON — "We were prepared to work weekends but we want overtime, at least £2 [more than] the hourly rate," said Stephen Kelly, a shop steward for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union (AEEU) members building the Jubilee subway line extension, out of Waterloo Station.

The electricians working on the extension voted at a mass meeting to work a five-day week. They took this decision days after the September 28 European Union directive stating that the maximum working week should be no more than 48 hours. Kelly explained that all 600 AEEU members at 12 sites are supporting the action and losing about £200 a week.

"The dispute is about hours, not money. We want to have the choice to work the hours we want, not the hours the bosses want. If we didn't have a union they would have sacked us for doing this," Kelly said. "This is an unofficial action," he added. "We'd like to spread this action across London, because there

is a major boom in the construction industry. We feel it's the time to get workers rights and conditions back."

Drake & Scull, the contractors at the sites, demand workers put in a 45-hour week, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They're paid overtime after 40 hours. Glen Fletcher, an electrician's mate who works at the Waterloo site, said, "What the firm really wants is for us to work a 12-hour day, seven days a week." Shop stewards met with the company October 16 to put forward their demands. Another mass meeting will be called to decide the next stages in the fight.

## Nursing home strikers demonstrate in Boston

BRIGHTON, Massachusetts — About 200 striking workers and supporters picketed and rallied in a steady rain October 8 outside the SunRise Care and Rehabilitation Home, a nursing home for the elderly in this suburb of Boston. The chain has 36 homes in Massachusetts. About 150 members of Local 285 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) struck the facility over pay — the starting wage is \$7.10 per hour — and habitual short staffing. The strikers include certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, and registered nurses. Many of the workers are Haitian.

Luc, a Haitian-born worker and union activist, reported to the crowd, "We have employees with 20 years seniority and only making \$10 an hour. Sometimes the staff-

ing is so short I've been responsible for 25 patients at a time. It's impossible to care for people under those conditions."

The company has been hiring replacement workers.

The protest was organized by the Jobs with Justice Campaign. Several union delegations were present — students from Harvard, numerous city council members and state representatives, and prominent clergy. SEIU members from other homes in the SunRise chain were also present. Doug Daugherty, international president of the United Food and Commercial Workers, gave greetings and promised a \$10,000 check to SEIU Local 285's hardship fund. Greetings were also given by Tom Buffenbarger, international president of the International Association of Machinists. Anna Burger, from the international executive board of the SEIU, announced a campaign of rotating picket lines at nursing homes around the country if SunRise does not bargain in good faith.

Six strike supporters sat in at the front lobby at the end of the rally and were arrested.

Workers are picketing each day from 6:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m. Protests took place October 24 at the Brighton nursing home and the company's Glenwood home in nearby Lowell.

*Estelle DeBates in Seattle; Rose Knight and Shellia Kennedy, members of the Rail Maritime & Transport Union in London; and M.J. Rahn in Boston contributed to this column.*

## ON THE PICKET LINE

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

TACOMA, Washington — "One day longer!" was a popular chant among the 200 strikers and supporters who rallied in front of the Kaiser Aluminum plant here October 18. It was the 19th day of the strike by 3,000 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) against Kaiser plants in Louisiana, Ohio, and Washington state. The Tacoma plant employs 300 union workers and, according to USWA Local 7945, not one has crossed the picket line to join the strikebreakers Kaiser has moved onto the grounds of the plant.

The rally began with a few local politicians who are running for office speaking to the strikers and pledging support. Union officers urged strikers to turn out to vote in the upcoming elections.

Jim Woodward, a staff representative for USWA District 11, announced that two volunteers from each of the striking locals would be going to California to protest at the offices of Kaiser president Ray Milchovich. The crowd cheered when Woodward said the ship in the Port of Tacoma delivering alumina ore for production had been "tied up for 10 days, when it should be cleaned up and heading out."

The local has held successful pickets at the port over the past week, delaying the delivery of ore to both Tacoma and the smelter in Spokane.

The rally organizers then turned the program over to the strikers and their supporters, making the micro-

operator on strike, said "We want a fair wage for what we are doing. We need all the unions to get together. We need an international movement of workers — not let them play us off against each other like they do now."

John Walston, chairman of the strike committee and vice president of USWA Local 7945, said "Our position here is to dig in. We have to go to each other. We have to go to our families." He then led chants including "Who are we? Steelworkers! What do we want? Contract!" and "One day longer!" Kaiser Aluminum demands include eliminating some jobs and contracting out others. The company has proposed annual pay raises of just 2.3 percent over the five-year contract, which workers consider inadequate.

Several members of other unions turned out to support the strikers, including the United Transportation Union; the Carpenters Union; the International Association of Machinists (IAM), American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU). Many of the supporters also took the mike to express their solidarity.

The ILWU local in Tacoma has been sponsoring picnics for the strikers and their families. They are the workers at the Port of Tacoma who unload ships that supply Kaiser. One rank-and-file member of the ILWU told the rally, "[If] you stand shoulder to shoulder, nothing can beat you.... We have a saying in the Longshoremen's union 'an injury to one is an injury to all' and we don't just say that, we mean it."

Others who addressed the rally included a young rank-and-file worker from the IAM local at Boeing, representatives from Jobs with Justice, and supporters from Canada. The union local's lawyer also addressed the rally. Last week Kaiser got a temporary injunction

politically exhausted.

But there is no evidence to suggest that the working class in South Africa is demoralized. The opposite is the case.

Chetty cites as proof of demoralization the lynching of three immigrant workers in Pretoria in September. Two workers from Senegal and one from Mozambique were murdered shortly after an antilabor outfit calling itself the Unemployed Masses of South Africa held an anti-immigrant demonstration. The African National Congress and Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) condemned the killings.

The "Unemployed Masses" consciously counterposes the interests of unemployed workers to those of the labor movement. Its "proposals" include a demand for so-called labor market flexibility — read repeal of conquests of the organized working class that have been written into law since 1994 — which is why it is a favorite of the liberal capitalist Democratic Party.

Anti-immigrant demonstrations led by middle-class forces are not new here since 1994. But this crime

underlines the fertile ground that exists for demagogues in a country disfigured by apartheid's legacy, in which there is 33 percent unemployment. In the gold mines alone, more than 20,000 jobs have been slashed since February, according to the National Union of Mineworkers.

South Africa is in the vise grip of the spreading depression conditions in the semicolonial world. What's been the response of the "demoralized" working class? To fight with the weapons at hand.

According to the October 6 issue of *Business Day*, workdays lost to strikes grew to 1.85 million worker-days in the first nine months of this year, against 650,000 in all of 1997, the highest since 1994.

The *Militant* has reported on many of these strikes. They have included walkouts and sympathy strikes by hundreds of thousands of auto and motor industry workers, 40,000 chemical workers, tens of thousands of miners, truckers, and food workers. The central issues in these fights have been wage increases that keep up with or outpace inflation, affirmative action on the shop floor and in training, and — in

the case of teachers who mobilized for a strike — speeding up the pace of restructuring the apartheid-skewed education system.

In nearly all of these fights, workers emerged with tangible gains or outright victories. Confidence and morale were boosted as a result, not demoralization.

The mood on most picket lines confirms this.

Finally, the modest size of demonstrations welcoming the Cuban president to South Africa shouldn't be blamed on "demoralized" working people. Instead, the outcome of those demonstrations was simply what was organized by the principal mass organizations — the ANC and COSATU — along with the South African Communist Party. Had a mass rally demonstration been organized, there would have been a response in kind.

The working class — for the first time since its birth as a modern class at the southern tip of this continent — has broken the shackles of apartheid slavery. The scope of democratic conquests and their impact on the confidence of millions should not be underestimated — it's

only four years ago that black South Africans attained basic rights of citizenship. These democratic gains are weapons in the hands of workers and peasants fighting to construct a nation and establish a popular revolutionary government.

In addition, working people and fighting youth no longer confront the monolithic obstacle of the Stalinist killing-machine with its counterfeit socialism. The new generations in city and countryside are better placed to fight in the expanding world crisis. In the course of that fight, they will have the possibility to build a communist leadership, which is so clearly needed to advance South Africa's democratic revolution to its conclusion.

*T.J. Figueroa  
Cape Town, South Africa*

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.



Striking members of the Service Employees International Union Local 285 and others rallied October 24 at Glenwood nursing home in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Militant/Gary Cohen

## LETTERS

### Workers not demoralized

In correcting an exaggeration, Jairaj Chetty introduces an error (*Letters, Militant* no. 38, Oct. 26, 1998).

Chetty correctly points out that the statement that Cuban president Fidel Castro "was given a hero's welcome by millions of South Africans during his two-day state visit" was overwrought. The phrase was printed in the *Militant's* introduction to Castro's speech to South Africa's National Assembly.

But Chetty goes on to state that: "The mass democratic movement is in decline, most working people who were participants in this movement no longer play any political role whatsoever. I am certain that vast sections of the South African people are attracted to the Cuban revolution and its leadership, they are just too demoralized and disoriented to express this attraction."

There is no question that the "mass democratic movement" that led the battle against apartheid had reached its zenith by the time of the nonracial, democratic elections in 1994. Furthermore, layers of its leadership, as Chetty suggests, are

## Washington State rally: 'stop INS raids'

BY SCOTT BREEN

YAKIMA, Washington — Chanting "Trabajo Sí!, Redadas, No!" (Work, Yes! Raids, No!) and "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" about 300 people marched three miles through this town October 18 protesting Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raids in Washington state.

The march and subsequent rally in downtown Yakima's Miller Park were organized by the Washington Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice (WAIRJ), Washington Jobs With Justice, and the Washington Association of Churches, as part of a National Week of Action against Immigration Raids.

The protesters, most of them Latino and Chicano youth, came from throughout the state, especially from the communities up and down the Yakima Valley. The valley is home to a large number of immigrant workers from Mexico. They have come to this rich agricultural area to pick the apples, pears, and other fruits; tend the orchards, vineyards, and the vegetable fields; and work in the fruit warehouses that are the economic backbone here.

The Yakima Valley has also become the center of union organizing drives by farm workers in the fields and by workers in the fruit packing warehouses.

In 1996, the United Farm Workers (UFW) signed its first contract in the state, with Chateau St. Michelle vineyards. Union representation elections at Washington Fruit in Yakima and at Stemilt Warehouse in Wenatchee, efforts organized by the Teamsters union, were narrowly defeated earlier this year.

Under the impact of these union drives, which are continuing, the employers have



Farm workers and others involved in organizing drives have been a particular target of INS raids. Above, apple pickers and supporters march through town of Yakima, Washington, April 20, 1997. The rally against INS attacks drew 300 people October 18.

turned to the INS to try to intimidate the predominantly Latino workforce. The Yakima area has been the target of frequent INS raids. For example, on June 26, the immigration cops raided Borton and Sons, an apple-packing warehouse near Yakima. They detained 58 workers, deporting 49 of them the next day, including a 14-year-old boy.

The largest groups in the march were Teamster warehouse workers and farm

workers organized by the UFW.

At the rally, Ana Guzmán, who was fired for union activism during the Teamsters organizing drive at Washington Fruit, explained that a hearing on the union's charges of unfair labor practices against Washington Fruit in the January representation election would begin on November 3 in Yakima. Her firing is part of the charges the union has lodged with the National Labor Relations Board.

The Teamsters are organizing a public rally for Sunday, November 1, at 5:00 p.m. in Yakima to "stand by the workers at Washington Fruit warehouse on the eve of the trial against the company for breaking the law in the January elections," according to their leaflet distributed at the march. The rally is called "The Apple Industry: Ripe for Justice, Now on Trial."

Many students joined the protest, including some from Central Washington University in Ellensburg, and Whitman College in Walla Walla. A busload of activists came from Seattle and another bus came from Brewster, in the Okanogan region of Washington.

Two members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 7945, on strike against Kaiser Aluminum in Tacoma, made the three-hour drive to join the protest. José Correa, a 22-year veteran at Kaiser, his wife Ruby Correa, and José Feliciano, a young Puerto Rican who had worked at Kaiser for a year, marched the whole route, distributing information about their strike to participants. At the rally they staffed a table with signs in Spanish saying "We support immigrant rights, USWA on strike against Kaiser." Marchers came by to talk with the strikers and exchange experiences. Many signed a petition in Spanish against Kaiser's union-busting attack. Feliciano was also interviewed by Radio KDNA, a prominent Spanish radio station in Yakima Valley, and by TV KNDO, Yakima's CBS affiliate, which covered the march.

Scott Breen is a member of the International Association of Machinists and is the Socialist Workers candidate for State Senate, 37th District.

## Philadelphia cops kill another Black youth, sparking protests

BY BETSY FARLEY

PHILADELPHIA — There have been protests here every week since the October 1 killing of 19-year-old Donta Dawson by Philadelphia police officer Christopher DiPasquale.

Dawson was parked legally on a North Philadelphia street when he was accosted by DiPasquale, who claimed Dawson did not immediately respond to orders to raise his hands. After at least eight other cops had

arrived on the scene, the police got out of their cars, guns drawn.

DiPasquale claims that Dawson suddenly raised his left hand, prompting the cop to shoot him in the back of the head. Dawson died the next morning at Temple University Hospital.

Cynthia Dawson, Donta's mother, joined relatives of other Black and Puerto Rican youth who have been killed by Philadelphia cops in recent years at a press conference

October 5 to demand a federal investigation into "Philadelphia police serial killings in the African community."

Kenneth Griffin was shot to death a year ago after being awakened from his bed by a police invasion of his home. On Oct. 20, 1998, a grand jury cleared the police of wrongdoing in the Griffin case. Moisés DeJesús died in 1994 following a beating by Philadelphia police. DiPasquale, the same cop who shot Dawson, was given a brief

suspension along with eight others in that case.

Several street protests in the North Philadelphia Black community and at District Attorney Lynn Abraham's office have demanded indictment of the cops who killed Dawson. An October 13 town meeting initiated by city councilwomen Donna Reed Miller on the subject of police misconduct drew a crowd of more than 200 people to the Zion Baptist Church to hear speeches by civil rights leaders and local politicians.

Nancy Cole, Socialist Workers Party candidate in the 1st Congressional District, released a statement that has been distributed at the protests and in working-class communities of Philadelphia, calling for the immediate prosecution and jailing of all the police involved in the murder of Dawson.

"The hysterical pitch of news stories about 'youth crime' portray young Black men as a pariah class not worthy of equal rights under the law. Donta Dawson didn't follow the rules — the rules say that in Philadelphia today a young Black man is guilty until proven innocent, has no right to remain silent, and should do as he's told," Cole said.

"Recently enacted national and local laws voiding protection against unlawful search and seizure, restricting the right to remain silent, curbing the right to bear arms, setting curfews for youth, and limiting legal appeals for death row inmates have been supported by Democratic and Republican party politicians," she continued.

Cole pointed to recent union battles like the 40-day transit workers strike here. "Black workers have been in the leadership of many of these fights. It is to this rise in resistance that opponents of police murders and brutality can look for powerful allies.

"Attacks on democratic rights are ultimately aimed against the unions and other organizations of the working class that organize to resist the efforts of the rulers to solve the problems of their economic system on the backs of working people," she continued. "The fight against police brutality and all battles against racism are union issues."

## Miami: immigrants demand right to live and work with dignity

BY BRIGITTE SÉGUIN

MIAMI — "We are here to discuss the problem of immigration raids at our workplaces, in our neighborhoods, and even where we wait for the bus to pick us up to go to work," said Luckner Millien, of the Farmworker Association of Florida. "And when that happens to us we get kicked, pushed around, and sometimes we get killed."

Millien spoke here at a press conference organized to demand an end to immigration raids, held as part of a national week of protests October 11-18. These activities were endorsed by a range of organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Friends Service Committee, the National Council of La Raza, Pax Cristi, and the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE).

The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights released a 63-page report that week documenting 235 immigration raids across the country since 1996. It denounces the violation of human rights, the shattering of families, and the negative impact raids have on workers' organizations. In the last few months Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have also issued reports critical of the Immigration and Natu-

ralization Service (INS).

Starting October 9, the immigration cops were mandated under new immigration laws to begin arresting thousands of noncitizens convicted of crimes for which they received sentences of more than one year.

At the press conference, Angel Ramírez and Heriberto Albarrán testified about an INS raid in Crescent City, 80 miles north of Orlando, on Jan. 29, 1997. Both work in the fern industry. "What we are asking for is to be allowed to live and work honorably, with dignity," said Albarrán. "We're tired of living in fear."

"There are now more INS agents than FBI or Border Patrol," said Cheryl Little, an attorney with the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center. "And they work in concert with the police. If the police stop someone they turn them in to the INS." Little stated that there was a 133 percent increase in deportations in the Miami area from 1996 to 1997.

Samedi Florvil, representing the Haitian Refugee Center, said, "The United States steals land and forces them [the peasants] to leave their country, come here and work for the U.S. for cheap."

Florvil testified about his own battle for political asylum. When he arrived in the United States several years ago, INS agents

sent him to "a hotel named Krome" which turned out to be the Krome Detention center, notorious for abuse of immigrants. Florvil was kept there 17 months.

He added, "The same people who are paid to kill you in your country are the first ones to get residency in the U.S."

Tirso Moreno, the director of the Farmworker Association in Florida, told the press that these new laws impact on all those who "look Latino."

Also testifying was Esperanza Fernández, a 28-year-old of Mexican descent who was born and raised in the United States. Fernández was detained at a dance in Homestead that was raided by the INS three years ago. The agents surrounded the place, closed the doors, and forced everybody onto the floor. They demanded papers and checked to see who spoke English. A friend of hers who didn't have identification on her was taken away. "I was born here, but because I'm brown, not white, I know I will always be harassed," she said.

Monica Russo, the organizing director of UNITE in the southern district, also spoke at the conference endorsing the week of protests.

Janet Post contributed to this article.