

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

U.S. judge orders Haitians released from Guantánamo

— PAGES 2, 14

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Australian miners walk out to back U.S. strike

BY DAVID ADAMS

SYDNEY, Australia — One thousand miners shut down Peabody Coal's Ravensworth and Warkworth coal mines for 24 hours June 3 to demonstrate their solidarity with striking miners of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in the United States. The mines are located in the Hunter Valley region north of Sydney. Peabody is one of the coal operators targeted by the UMWA strike.

"Union members at the mines walked off the job in order to hear reports from UMWA representatives Joe Corcoran and Joe Jurczak on the strike in the United States," said John Maitland, general president of the United Mine Workers union in Australia, in a phone interview. "They stayed off work for 24 hours in what I think was a tremendous act of solidarity with their comrades in the United States."

Striking miners in the United States heard about the Australian solidarity action and posted fax messages about it in picket shacks and union halls. The announcements were proudly pointed out to visitors to the picket lines.

The *Wall Street Journal* also took note of it. After noting that the 1,000 Australian miners had walked off the job to support the strike in the United States the big-business paper tried to reassure its readers by quoting an "expert." "It's a sympathy strike, but I can't see what effect it will have on the world market," said Emily Medine, a Pittsburgh-based analyst with Energy Ventures Analysis Inc. "Peabody's presence there [in Australia] is not that great and it's hard to imagine that all the Australians will go on strike for U.S. coal miners."

Corcoran and Jurczak were representing the UMWA at the national convention of the Australian miners' union, held from May 31 to June 4 in the state of Queensland. During the convention, the union flew Corcoran and Jurczak to Singleton, New South Wales, located just east of the Ravensworth and Warkworth mines. There they addressed the Peabody miners who had assembled at the Singleton Show Grounds.

Speaking about the decision of miners to carry out the solidarity strike, Maitland told the media, "The message to Peabody will be clear — we don't want their industrial-relations tactics in Australia and we are disgusted

Continued on Page 10



Common Cause
Australian United Mine Workers members and supporters at May Day march in Wollongong, New South Wales. Miners at Peabody mines in Australia staged 24-hour work stoppage June 3 in solidarity with U.S. coal strike.

UMWA coal miners welcome Australian solidarity action

BY MARY ZINS

MARISSA, Illinois — News that 1,000 members of the United Mine Workers of Australia had staged a solidarity strike with the coal miners' fight in the United States spread quickly through the coalfield communities of southern Illinois.

The union press release announcing the solidarity action was posted at picket shacks and strike headquarters. "I'm glad we have the support of Australian mine workers," said Bill Mulholland, a picket captain for United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2412. Mulholland, 36, worked as a general laborer at Peabody Coal's Marissa mine.

"Their action showed real solidarity," he said. "Whatever results from this contract fight will help determine the future of working people, the future of this union and of our grandchildren."

"It's great that the miners in Australia wanted to support us," said Ted Edds. "I'm 52 years old," he added. "If they shut this

mine down, where am I going to go? I'd like to know that I'll have a pension and medical coverage when I retire," Edds explained that he had been laid off after working 20 years at a Peabody strip mine. Recall provisions in the UMWA contract enabled him to be hired at the Marissa underground mine.

In western Kentucky, UMWA members at the Peabody Camp 1 mine won a skirmish against Peabody Coal boss George "Sam" Shiflett (see article on page 11).

About 340 Illinois miners at Peabody's Marissa mine joined the strike June 2 along with 610 union members at Consolidation Coal's Rend Lake mine in Sesser and Burning Star No. 1 strip mine in Cutler. The same day the strike in Indiana expanded to Peabody's Lynnville and Hawthorne mines.

The June 2 strike expansion also involved the 500 miners at the Consol Blacksville No. 2 mine in Monongalia County and another 600 miners at the Peabody Federal 2 in Mar-

Continued on Page 10

Date set for elections in S. Africa

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Multiparty talks to end white minority rule in South Africa registered a big step forward in the fight for a democratic, non-racial republic with the announcement June 3 that the country's first one-person, one-vote elections will take place on April 27, 1994. Voters will elect a 400-member constituent assembly that will write a new postapartheid constitution.

"Setting the 27th of April as the election date is going to reverberate across the length and breadth of our country," said Cyril Ramaphosa, the chief negotiator for the African National Congress (ANC). "And even those who are opposed to confirming it as the election date are going to find it impossible to move the masses of our people from knowing that the 27th will be the date."

This announcement reflects progress being made in the negotiations under the impact of a mass action campaign led by the ANC throughout the month of May.

Seventeen of the 26 groups participating in the multiparty talks, including President F. W. de Klerk's government, agreed to the date proposed by the ANC. Among those opposing the resolution setting the election date were the Conservative Party, the Afrikaner Volksunie, and the Bantustan governments of Ciskei and KwaZulu, which is led by the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Reflecting a similar perspective, the delegate from Inkatha declared the date "unattainable," while the proapartheid Conservative Party representative characterized the decision a "travesty of the negotiating process."

All parties agreed that the date would be reviewed at a June 15 meeting of the 52-member negotiating council, and then submitted for final approval on June 25 to the

Continued on Page 12

UN okays air strikes in Yugoslavia

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a move toward further military intervention in the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations Security Council voted June 4 to authorize air strikes against forces of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia and called for more than doubling the number of UN troops stationed in the former Yugoslav republic.

This is the first time since the conflict began two years ago that air strikes have received official UN approval. U.S. jet fighter planes stationed on warships in the Adriatic Sea will be a major component of the NATO fleet being organized to carry out these attacks.

The Security Council resolution, which was passed by a 13-0 vote with the delegates of Pakistan and Venezuela abstaining, is the cornerstone of a joint plan put forward May 22 by the governments of the United States, Britain, France, Spain, and Russia. It calls for the creation of "safe havens" in six majority-Muslim Bosnian cities — Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Goradze, Zepa, Tuzla, and Bihac.

Washington reluctantly embraced this plan after an earlier proposal by U.S. president Clinton was rejected.

Continued on Page 9

Guinier nomination sparks debate on affirmative action and voting rights

BY SARA LOBMAN

President Bill Clinton withdrew the nomination of Lani Guinier for assistant attorney general June 3. While volumes have been written analyzing and reanalyzing Guinier's views, the debate, in fact, has little to do with the University of Pennsylvania law professor. Rather, Democratic and Republican party politicians alike used the nomination to attack affirmative action and the Voting Rights Act.

The assault on these rights — both conquests of mass social struggles — is an essential part of the Clinton administration's drive to cut Social Security, Medicare, and other social programs and to force more of the burden of the current economic crisis onto the backs of working people.

Clinton had not anticipated much opposition to the nomination of Guinier, who, like many of his other appointees, is a close personal friend. In addition, a number of liberal Democratic Party figures had strongly supported Guinier's nomination to head the civil rights division of the Justice Department. Jesse Jackson, NAACP executive director Benjamin Chavis, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus all argued that the nomination of the Black law professor would advance the interests of Blacks and women.

On April 30, however, just one day after the nomination was announced, the *Wall Street Journal* ran a column titled "Clinton's Quota Queens" by Clint Bolick, litigation

director at the Institute for Justice in Washington, D.C.

Bolick attacked Guinier, arguing that her support for affirmative action quotas in the appointment of judges, the extension of the Voting Rights Act, and busing to achieve school desegregation disqualifies her for the Justice Department post. He also lambasted as "innovative radicalism" Guinier's assertion in a 1989 article that "certain social goods — health care, daycare, job training, housing — must be recognized as basic entitlements."

Opposition to Guinier quickly mushroomed. Dozens of Democratic Party senators, including Senate Judiciary Committee

Continued on Page 8

Chinese immigrants seeking asylum arrested in N.Y. — page 3



U.S. judge orders release of Haitians detained at Guantánamo camp

In a challenge to the Clinton administration's policy toward refugees from Haiti, a federal judge in New York issued a ruling June 8 ordering U.S. attorney general Janet Reno to immediately release the 158 Haitian refugees detained at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and to close the camp. The Haitians, some of whom had been held for as long as 20 months, had been banned from entering the United States after testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS.

All the refugees had previously been approved by U.S. immigration authorities to pursue their claims for political asylum. According to the judge's order the Haitians are not to be sent back to Haiti.

The same day, Haitian prime minister Marc Bazin resigned after losing the backing of the army and parliament. Bazin had been appointed to the post by the ruling military nine months after the September 1991 coup that overthrew the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

New president in Guatemala

The Guatemalan parliament voted June 6 to name as the country's president Ramiro de León Carpio, head of the previous regime's human rights office. After his leading opponent, Arturo Herbruger Asturias, withdrew, Guatemala's ruling businessmen and the army gave De León their approval, hoping this arrangement will bring stability to the country.

As the new president arrived for the swearing-in ceremony, however, a crowd of students and union members shook the parliamentary chamber with demands for the removal of corrupt congressmen, judges, and other government officials. They also called for prosecution of the military officers who had backed the short-lived seizure of power by President Jorge Serrano before ousting him. "Depuración!" (purge) they chanted. "Resign! Resign! Resign!"

N.Y. youth unemployment soars

The official unemployment rate among youth aged 16 to 19 in New York City rose to 40 percent in the first three months of this year. The rate is more than double the national average and the worst in the 25 years that records have been kept. The statistics do not include large numbers of youth who have grown discouraged and have stopped looking



Haitians detained at U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. A U.S. federal judge ordered their release and the closing of the camp. One thousand people poured into the streets of Little Haiti in Miami to celebrate after the ruling.

for work. Cuts in summer job programs, combined with increases in forced overtime by many employers, will only exacerbate the problem. The report on youth joblessness, issued by the New York city comptroller, did not cite separate figures for youth from oppressed nationalities, who face higher unemployment, but city officials said there was no reason to think that the gap had narrowed.

U.S. Supreme Court allows student-led prayer in schools

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a federal appeals court decision allowing student-led prayer at public school graduation ceremonies June 7; it refused to hear the case. The lower court ruling applies only in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, but it has encouraged rightists to push students to lead prayers across the country.

The Supreme Court ruled a year ago that prayers at public school graduation ceremonies led by clergy are unconstitutional.

In a second case dealing with the separation of church and state, the Court ruled that religious groups cannot be excluded from meeting after hours on public school property if secular groups use the facilities. The court

said such exclusion violates the First Amendment free-speech rights of religious groups.

Polish president opposes strike

Polish president Lech Walesa has demanded that the Solidarity trade union not carry out a threatened general strike. The union federation pushed for a no confidence vote in parliament against Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and threatened to extend strikes by some unions into a national strike. Teachers and health-care workers had struck in May to protest government austerity measures and demand wage increases. Suchocka, who refused to give in to workers' demands, lost the vote of confidence in parliament and offered to resign. Walesa, who refused to accept the resignation, dissolved parliament May 29 and said Poland would probably hold a general election September 12.

Somalis clash with UN troops

A clash between Somalis and United Nations troops June 5 led to the deaths of 23 Pakistani UN troops in Mogadishu, Somalia. The UN Security Council blamed Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid for the incident. Fifteen Somalis were also killed and 59 UN troops injured in the fighting.

In response to the clash, the Security Council called for providing UN troops with better weapons, including "armored personnel carriers, tanks and attack helicopters." The Italian news agency ANSA reported that U.S. helicopters had bombed three arms dumps north of Mogadishu belonging to Aidid's forces.

Massacre in Liberia

At least 300 people were reported killed and 755 wounded June 6 at a refugee camp set up at an abandoned Firestone rubber plantation near Monrovia, Liberia. Augustine Mahiga of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said another camp had also been attacked. He blamed the attacks on the National Patriotic Front of

Liberia (NPFL) led by Charles Taylor.

The NPFL has been fighting for control of Liberia since opposition forces took up arms against the U.S.-backed military regime of President Samuel Doe in December 1989. Doe, who suspended the constitution and was accused of human rights violations, was killed by opposition forces loyal to Prince Johnson in September 1990. Johnson, who declared himself president, had welcomed 3,000 troops from other West African nations into Liberia as a means to negotiate an end to the war with the Doe regime.

Taylor opposed this intervention and fought against the foreign troops. Taylor, a former government official, has said the NPFL has no intention of changing the form of government but plans to hold elections and create a nonaligned Liberia, which would continue to look to Washington for aid. Taylor denied responsibility for the massacre, saying it was another attempt to discredit his forces.

Washington threatens N. Korea

U.S. officials said they intend to ask the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions against North Korea if the government of that country does not reverse its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and open up its nuclear facilities for further inspection. The North Korean government's decision is due to take effect June 12.

U.S. officials made these threats June 2 after an initial session of high-level talks in New York between delegations of the two countries. The two sides were led by Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, and Kang Sok Ju, vice-foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Cambodia in post-election crisis

The royalist opposition party associated with Prince Norodom Sihanouk was declared winner in Cambodia's election, with 46 percent of the vote. The party is known as Funcinpec, the French acronym for the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party claimed fraud in elections in several provinces but was denied new voting by the United Nations forces that administered the election. UN officials said some plastic seals used to prevent tampering had been broken, but this and other violations were not serious enough to merit a new vote.

Sihanouk won agreement for a coalition government between the Funcinpec and the People's Party. This soon collapsed when his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the current president of the royalist party, backed out.

— PAT SMITH

THE MILITANT

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Chinese immigrants seeking asylum are jailed as boat runs aground off N.Y.

BY PAT SMITH

In the early morning of June 6 the *Golden Venture*, a freighter carrying 300 Chinese workers, ran aground off New York. The passengers jumped into the cold water, hoping to swim to safety. In the process 8 people drowned or died of hypothermia and 16 were injured. U.S. immigration cops immediately handcuffed and arrested the undocumented immigrants, who included two dozen women. They were later transferred to detention centers. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials say they will seek to deny entry into the country to the 276 who made it to shore.

The Chinese workers were brought to the

United States by smugglers who charge thousands of dollars and force the immigrants into a life of indentured servitude.

Passengers said they were held in the dark hold of the ship with no shower, no furniture, and one toilet for the 300 to share. They were fed only once every day or two during the four-month journey. Sometimes that meal was just a bowl of rice. Some refugees told interviewers they paid as much as \$60,000 for the trip. Others said they had paid no money but promised to work and give up to 80 percent of their wages for passage. Authorities said workers in that situation typically put in 12-14 hours a day, seven days a week. They work mainly in restaurants, as pros-



Chinese immigrants in handcuffs before boarding bus for INS detention center

titutes, or in the drug trade.

The immigrants are applying for political asylum. Usually persons seeking asylum are freed pending the outcome of their case. On orders from the White House, however, the INS will keep this group in detention centers

outside of New York until their cases are decided, which could take nearly two years.

Immigration officials in Washington said they are pushing for rejection of the passengers' claims. Last month the Clinton administration tightened U.S. immigration policy, and debates continue in Washington over imposing further restrictions.

The world capitalist economic crisis and the Chinese government's course of deepening capitalist "market reforms" has devastated the livelihoods of many Chinese workers and peasants. Tens of millions of peasants have left the poverty of rural areas to work under sweatshop conditions in China's cities, and are denied social benefits from the state. Many are "temporary workers," who are only allowed to work in an area two years at a time. Millions more face unemployment without compensation. These conditions have led to a dramatic increase in Chinese workers leaving the country.

The Newark, New Jersey, immigration office, which handles cases for New York, New Jersey, and New England, said 2,800 Chinese applied for political asylum in April and May of this year, more than the total for all of 1992. Twenty-four boats carrying Chinese immigrants have been intercepted by U.S. authorities since August 1991. In mid-May, 57 undocumented Chinese workers were found in a warehouse in Jersey City, New Jersey. They were being held there by smugglers, waiting for relatives to come up with \$25,000 to \$30,000 per person to buy their release.

The crew of the *Golden Venture* was charged with smuggling undocumented immigrants.

Canada public workers protest cuts

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — Nearly 500 hospital, education, and other government workers rallied in front of the Ontario legislative buildings at Queen's Park June 9 to protest impending government legislation to force 900,000 unionized public sector workers to accept \$2 billion in wage and benefits concessions.

The demonstration took place several hours before Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) premier Bob Rae was scheduled to announce the legislation. Discussion between union officials and the government on a "social contract" collapsed June 3, 24 hours before a government-decreed deadline.

Workers carried signs stating: "Only contract with bankers are binding"; "Need an ambulance, make an appointment"; "Defend free collective bargaining"; "No to Rae's social con tricks"; "Save our services"; and others.

"We are not prepared to let the government cut services and our conditions," said Al Wahid, a hospital worker and president of Local 1744 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

"Your fight is our fight. When free collective bargaining is under attack for you it is under attack for all of us," Linda Tournay, president of the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto, told the demonstrators.

After union officials walked out of the talks, Ontario Premier Bob Rae announced that he intends to proceed with the cuts, which are an integral part of the government's austerity plan. The measures call for a \$4 billion cut to government health, education, and social service programs and \$1.6 billion in tax hikes. Rae claims this is necessary to get the \$17 billion government deficit under control. The recently announced budget represents the biggest attack on the living standards of workers in 50 years.

The government's final offer to negotiators for 28 unions and employee associations, including the 165,000-member Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), 105,000-member Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), 46,000-member Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), and other unions, calls for:

- Deferral of all previously negotiated pay raises for the next three years, including cost-of-living allowances in union contracts;

- Postponement of all benefit improvements for three years except those for retraining and early retirement;

- Adjustment of pension contributions to trim \$500 million yearly from government money allocated for workers' pension plans.

The government has threatened workers with 20,000-40,000 layoffs if these terms are not accepted.

"I want to make it very clear that we could not tolerate the government's raiding members' pension plans," said Fred Upshaw, president of OPSEU.

"The pension issue is a... make-or-

break issue," said Gene Lewis, president of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation. "The teachers will do absolutely nothing that would undermine the integrity of our pension plan."

Discussion in unions on NDP

Talks between the NDP government and union officials over the proposed "social contract" have been going on for two months.

Similar measures are being implemented by NDP governments in Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

The union officialdom has no fundamental disagreement with the government's drive for a "social contract" to cut the deficit. Instead, union officials oppose the scale of concessions demanded by Rae. They have put forward proposals they claim will cut \$4 billion from the budget by eliminating waste and imposing more taxes on the wealthy.

Many union officials, however, have openly condemned Rae's austerity measures. "I'm ashamed of my party, the NDP. I'm ashamed for the way they've attacked the ordinary working men and women in this province," said Sid Ryan, CUPE Ontario division president. "I will never forgive you Bob Rae. ... I can guarantee you I'll make sure that the 170,000 members of CUPE will not forget

you in the next election."

"We have no desire to destroy the party," said OSSTF president Liz Barkley. At the same time, unless the government pays more attention to the people who helped elect it, "it will be decimated in the next election," she added.

At the end of May members of Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) Local 222 — the largest CAW local in the country — at the GM Oshawa plant near Toronto, voted in an in-plant referendum by an 82 percent margin to break their 31-year affiliation to the NDP. About half of the local's 20,000 members participated in the vote.

"The people in the plant feel that the NDP has hurt the working man and woman, the people who put them in power," said John Kovacs, the newly elected president of CAW Local 222.

Kovacs, who opposed the disaffiliation vote, defeated by a wide margin Doug Gammie, a right-wing candidate who defended company layoffs, and opposed policies like pay equity for women. Gammie was the organizer of the referendum to disaffiliate from the NDP.

The day before the collapse of the "social contract" talks CUPE Local 250 representing Oshawa municipal workers voted to end its two-year affiliation to the NDP as well.

L.A. students win Chicano studies department

BY GALE SHANGOLD

LOS ANGELES — A big victory was won here June 7 when University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) students won their demand for a Chicano studies department on campus after nearly a month of mass meetings, rallies, and demonstrations. Students, faculty, and others have pressed for establishing such a department for 25 years.

Nine supporters were in the 14th day of a well-publicized hunger strike when the settlement was reached.

Students also won their demand that all charges and disciplinary action be dropped against 99 students arrested during a May 11 protest on campus.

UCLA chancellor Charles Young had announced April 28 that Chicano studies would remain an interdisciplinary program, denying it status as a separate department. Young's announcement came on the eve of the funeral for United Farm Workers of America leader Cesar Chavez. Many students considered Young's timing an additional insult since Chavez had been part of the movement for Chicano rights. Students went to Delano, California, for Chavez's funeral and were not on hand to protest the decision.

A sit-in was held May 11 to oppose the chancellor's decision and protest other budget cuts. Some 200 city cops in full riot gear helped campus cops arrest 99 students. They jailed 83 of these students for more than 24 hours.

The new program will be called the Cesar

Chavez Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction in Chicana and Chicano Studies.

While it will not be a formal department, activists feel the outcome is a big victory because the center now has been granted most of the powers of a department; they say the university is just attempting to save face by not calling it a department.

Some 1,500 supporters from campuses, high schools, and the community gathered the night of June 7 to celebrate the victory. Leaders of MeCHA, a Chicano student organization, announced that, besides the creation of the center, all charges resulting from the May 11 sit-in were being dropped and there would be no budget cuts for ethnic and women's studies programs for two years.

Milo Alvarez from MeCHA thanked many individuals and organizations like Mothers of East Los Angeles and the Olvera Street Merchant Alliance for their support. "We want to see this victory on every campus," he said.

A number of MeCHA leaders stated campuses everywhere are watching UCLA and urged people to go to the University of California, Irvine campus June 10 to support the students who are fighting for an Asian-American studies department. A contingent of UC Irvine students was prominent in the crowd, holding banners and inviting people to the campus.

Josefina Santiago from MeCHA told the crowd, "We didn't leave out the women from this struggle. We only got one inch of

what we have to get. ... We opened the door for ethnic studies all over the country. When students and community mobilize, we get what we deserve."

The victory followed a 15-mile march of 1,500 people from downtown Los Angeles to UCLA two days earlier. The crowd grew to more than 2,000 when the march reached UCLA. Contingents came from Roosevelt and Garfield high schools, the main high schools in East Los Angeles, as well as other high schools. Many workers came with their children. College students from campuses throughout the state also participated.

The month-long struggle reached a high level of organization. One leaflet read, "Spend Your Free Time at Schoenberg Plaza." The plaza was dotted with tents that housed more than 100 activists, including people from other local campuses and community groups. There were information tables and bulletin boards, daily activities, and hundreds of volunteers were put to work on security, phone banking, leafleting and assisting the hunger strikers. Special T-shirts were available. Prominent politicians, entertainers, and activists lent their support and participated in events.

The UCLA events unfolded at a time of sharp budget cutbacks in California and around the country. On June 3 Chancellor Young announced plans to merge or eliminate four graduate programs and drop undergraduate nursing studies at UCLA.

Evidence presented at trial did not prove Mark Curtis guilty

BY NAOMI CRAINE

(Fifth in a series)

Dozens of people filled the Polk County Courthouse in Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 7, 1988, to observe the trial of Mark Curtis. Among the crowd were unionists and farmers, civil rights activists and clergy. Some already supported the fight of the young union activist and socialist who faced frame-up charges of sexual abuse and burglary because of his political activities. Others weren't sure, but were suspicious of the cops' story.

Those who supported Curtis's fight for justice, or who kept an open mind toward it, did so despite heavy pressure.

From the time of his arrest in March 1988, there were some people who argued that Curtis was guilty of the crimes with which he was charged, including city officials, "antirape" activists, and others. These pro-prosecution forces continue today to claim that if a Black teenager, her 11-year-old brother, and two cops identified Mark Curtis as a rapist, that is proof of guilt.

But this alleged eyewitness testimony did not prove the prosecution's case.

The previous article in this series described how Judge Harry Perkins kept several important facts from ever reaching the jury: that the cops beat Curtis in jail the night of his arrest; that they called him a "Mexican lover" and a "colored lover" while they beat him; that the FBI had kept files on Curtis because of his political activities; and that the cop who arrested him had a known history of lying to cover up police brutality.

Even with the exclusion of this key evidence, the testimony presented at the trial left significant room to doubt Curtis's guilt.

The prosecution's first witness was 16-year-old Demetria Morris. She testified that on March 4, 1988, when she was 15, she was sexually assaulted on the front porch of her house.

No physical evidence pointing to Curtis

Morris said she and her brother Jason answered a knock at the door that evening from a man who said his name was Mark. She opened the door, thinking it might be her brother Mark, but instead found a stranger who asked for an address a few doors down the street. While she was talking to this man, she said, her brother went back inside the house.

Morris stated that when she told the stranger to go look for the house he wanted, he pushed open the door to the enclosed front porch where she was standing, told her he had a knife, and attempted to rape her. In court she swore that man was Mark Curtis.

There was no physical evidence, however, to back up Morris's claim that Curtis had assaulted her. The young woman described a lengthy attack on the front porch floor, which was covered with dirt, leaves, and dog hair. From the way she said the attacker wrestled with her repeatedly, one would expect to find evidence of contact with the floor on the clothing of both individuals. Morris's sweatshirt, jeans, and underwear did have dirt and dog hair on them, and there were dried leaves in her hair. But no evidence of leaves or dog hair was found on Curtis's clothing.

Paul Bush, a forensic analyst for the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, examined the clothing of both Morris and Curtis. He found no seminal fluid on the clothing of either one, and no exchange of pubic hairs. "As far as sexual contact is concerned, I found no seminal fluid or hairs to tie the two individuals together," Bush told the jury.

Besides the absence of physical evidence that would prove Curtis guilty, there were numerous contradictions in the testimony of Morris, her brother, and the two cops who arrested Curtis.

Curtis had alibi for time of assault

The most glaring contradiction was that Curtis had an uncontested alibi for the time the young woman insisted the attack began.

Morris said the knock on the door came

five minutes after she answered a telephone call from a stranger. At both her deposition and the trial, Morris testified this phone call came just as the TV show "Video Soul" was starting. This show usually started at 7:30 p.m., she said. According to the broadcaster's program log, the show actually started at 8:00 p.m. that night, which would place the time of the attack between 8:05 and 8:10 p.m.

But Brian Willey, a coworker of Curtis at the Swift packinghouse, testified that he was with Curtis from 7:00 to 8:30 that night in a crowded bar, Los Compadres. They shared a pitcher of beer with a third Swift worker and discussed the arrest of 17 immigrant workers at the plant a few days earlier, a work stoppage by several Mexican workers that afternoon, and a meeting protesting the immigration raid that Curtis had just attended.

Willey said he was sure Curtis left at 8:30 "because I had to meet some people at nine o'clock so I kept looking at my watch."

This un rebutted alibi testimony could have been sufficient grounds for acquittal by itself. Judge Perkins, however, ruled against a defense motion to instruct the jury on the issue of alibi.

Description did not match Curtis

Morris's description of the man who supposedly assaulted her did not match Curtis in several respects. The young woman insisted, for instance, that her attacker wore a belt — she saw and heard him unbuckle it.

But Curtis was not wearing a belt that evening and the cops did not find one during their investigation. She was also certain the assailant had smoker's breath. Curtis was an adamant nonsmoker, as several witnesses who knew him testified.

Just a couple of hours after the alleged assault, Morris was examined at a local hospital. She told the doctor there that the man who attacked her was about five feet, six inches tall — just a couple of inches taller than herself — and wore a tan jacket. Curtis is more than six feet tall and was wearing a burgundy jacket.

By the time she gave a deposition in May, Morris had changed her description to better match Curtis. At the trial, the young woman said, "Mark Curtis is kind of like almost the same height as my dad, and my dad's around six-two or six-three."

Supporters of the prosecution's line have argued that these discrepancies should be ignored because Morris was too traumatized to give a coherent story March 4.

But when the prosecutor asked Jane Brackney, who helped examine Morris at the hospital, "Was she . . . able to relate in general what happened to her?" the nurse responded, "Yes, she could very well."

While the assault was supposedly taking place, Jason Morris called the 911 emergency line and told a police dispatcher a man was raping his sister. This call was placed at 8:51 p.m., according to the dispatcher's computer records.

That was just about the time Mark Curtis arrived at the Morris house. After leaving the bar at 8:30 p.m., he went home briefly. His next-door neighbor and political collaborator Jackie Floyd testified that at 8:45 p.m. Curtis called her to say he was going out to the grocery store and that if his expected guests showed up, she should let them in.

Myung Kim told the jury she and her husband Kevin Magee had indeed made arrangements to stay over at Curtis's house after attending the Rural Women's Conference that evening. They had planned to arrive around 9:00 p.m. and Curtis knew they were coming.

While Curtis was driving to the store, he testified, a young woman — not Demetria Morris — came up to his car and asked him to drive her home because a man was after her. He agreed, and drove her to the house that turned out to be the Morris home. He parked directly in front and, at the woman's request, waited on the porch while she checked to make sure the house was safe.

A moment later, Curtis said, "I heard a noise behind me, a 'bam' as the door flew



Mark Curtis (right) addressing supporters after his conviction in September 1988 on false charges of rape and burglary. "I'm going to keep being part of the fight for working people," he said at sentencing two months later.

open. . . . The first thing that went through my head was this was the guy who was after her." But it was the police.

"One of them grabbed me by the arm and said, 'I've got him,'" Curtis continued. "At this point I thought that there might be a misunderstanding here, that in fact she had called the police, worried about this guy who was after her, and that the police officers thought that I was the guy."

The cop walked Curtis into the back bedroom of the house. "He handcuffed me, my wrists behind my back," the activist testified, "sat me down on this bed that was there, he pushed me back onto the bed, and he unbuckled my pants and pulled them down."

Curtis said he never saw Demetria Morris that night.

Contradictions in cops' testimony

Des Moines police officers Joseph Gonzalez and Richard Glade claim they arrived at the Morris house 30-90 seconds after the police dispatcher called them. The cops' and the young woman's versions of what happened next differ in some important details.

When the two cops banged on the door, they both told the court, Morris ran out wearing only a sweatshirt and said she had just been raped. In her own testimony, however, the young woman insisted she had said nothing to the cops when they first got there. And the notes of the doctor who examined her indicate she had initially said she was not wearing her shirt when the cops arrived.

Gonzalez testified that as he came onto the porch he saw Curtis trying to pull up his pants while running toward the back of the house. The cop said he chased Curtis through the house and handcuffed him as he stood facing a bed in the back room.

Glade, on the other hand, told the jury he saw Gonzalez handcuffing Curtis as he lay face down on the floor in the bedroom.

Morris claimed she went into the bedroom and saw Curtis sitting on the bed with his penis exposed. Both of the cops said that would have been impossible.

Making it 'more believable'

Curtis was not allowed to fasten his pants before he was taken to the police station; he had to hold them up from behind while handcuffed.

"Did you want other officers to see that his pants were unfastened?" defense attorney Mark Pennington asked Gonzalez.

"No, I did not," answered the cop.

"That's what happened though, wasn't it," said the lawyer. "You don't think that makes it more believable if his pants were down, the fact that they weren't fastened and he's holding them up with his handcuffed hands in back of him?"

Gonzalez replied, "The only persons that could have seen it were the officers that took him to the station." Those two officers were the ones who beat Curtis at the jail an hour or two later.

No history of violence toward women

In addition to the factual discrepancies in the testimony, the prosecution could not make a politically convincing case. Several people who knew Curtis well, both personally and through political collaboration, testified at the trial that he had never carried out any act of violence or hostility toward women, Blacks, or anyone else. Witnesses also spoke to Curtis's honesty and integrity,

including his parents and his wife, Kate Kaku.

One of the witnesses called in Curtis's defense was Ellen Whitt, who has a degree in psychology and experience working with women who have suffered sexual and physical abuse. In 1988 Whitt worked at the Swift packinghouse with Curtis and was also involved in the fight against the immigration raid there.

"Based on your knowledge of Mark Curtis, both socially and through your shared goals," Pennington asked her, "do you have any concern that Mark Curtis may harbor some type of animosity, propensity towards violence?"

"No," Whitt answered. "I've never seen any indication of it. . . . I know [of] at least one occasion where some workers were threatening to beat up some of the Mexican workers at Swift and Mark intervened to tone that down and to explain to people how that would not be in the interest of the workers."

Jackie Floyd, who had known Curtis for three years through work in the Young Socialist Alliance, testified along similar lines.

The defense attorney asked her, "Have you ever seen any example, any hint that somehow he might harbor some animosity towards women?"

"Never," said Floyd, who lived next door to Curtis until soon before the trial. "One of my two children is a girl, I have two kids, a son and a daughter, and they had become quite good friends of Mark and his wife."

"Do you have any concerns about your daughter, a young Black girl, being with Mr. Curtis?" asked the lawyer.

"Definitely not," she replied.

Lack of any motive

"They couldn't find anybody that could contradict the character testimony," said Pennington in an interview shown in the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*, produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle.

The best the prosecution could come up with was that Curtis had made a false statement about his work experience on an application for a job in Birmingham, Alabama, during the recession of the early 1980s.

In the video interview, Curtis's lawyer commented, "The fact that the state of Iowa was able to obtain information concerning a false statement in an application for a former job in the state of Alabama tells me a great deal."

"It certainly tells me that they spent a great deal of time and effort and money to try and find out what they could concerning Mark Curtis's background, and shows they came up short," he said.

The prosecution lacked any plausible explanation of why a young political activist, in the middle of an important union struggle, would go to a house where he knew no one and rape a 15-year-old who answered the door, knowing her brother was present. So the prosecution tried to imply that Curtis arrived at the Morris house by accident, looking for the home of an alleged drug dealer who had just moved in a few doors down. Prosecutor Catherine Thune put the girlfriend of the supposed dealer on the stand at the end of the trial. The woman's testimony consisted of the information that she used to live across the street from Curtis, she rec-

Continued on next page

Framed-up unionist wins support in Greece

Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist, was the target of a police frame-up and beating in Des Moines, Iowa. He was convicted on false charges of sexual assault and burglary in September 1988 and is currently serving a 25-year sentence. Since his arrest, thousands of workers, farmers, students, and fighters for democratic rights around the world have demanded justice for Curtis.

In this column we will regularly report efforts around the world to win support for Curtis's

antiracist organization S.O.S. Racisme, the European Community Migrant Forum, the Confederation of High School Teachers, and the Construction Workers Union.

The fight in Greece to defend the rights of immigrants has made many political activists and others receptive to the case. The conference followed by a few days the brutal beating of a Turkish worker in Athens by rightist thugs.

On April 25, the Athens news-weekly *Prin* (Before) published a full-page article by Curtis defense supporter Natasha Terlexis on the

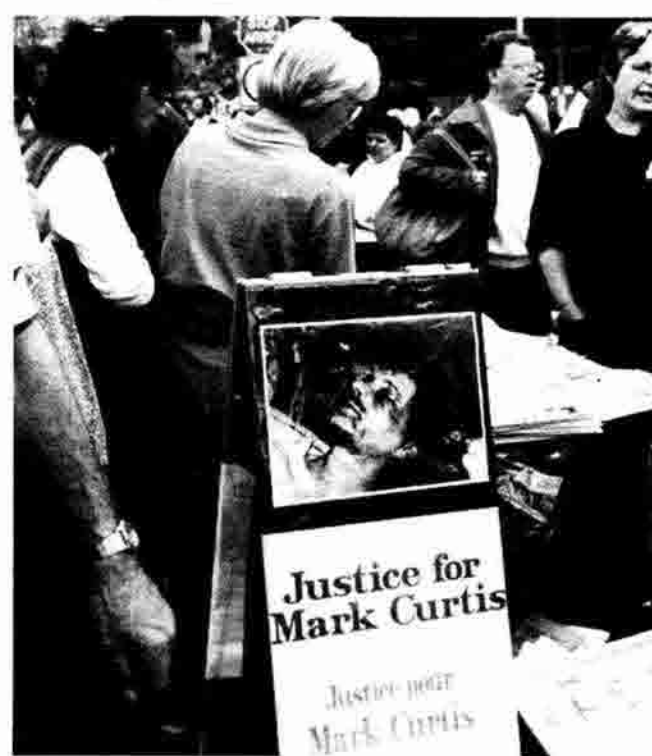
ing the Iowa Parole Board to grant Curtis parole.

Over the past couple of months *Perspectiva Mundial*, a Spanish-language socialist monthly magazine that regularly covers developments in the case of Mark Curtis, has received several letters from readers expressing their support to the imprisoned unionist.

In a May 4 letter, Gregorio Osorio, organization secretary of the Federation of Independent Associations and Trade Unions of El Salvador, expressed "our total support to the struggle on behalf of brother Mark Curtis and we hope that he regains his freedom soon."

Writing from Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Rev. Eusebio Sosa Rodríguez notes "We have become involved in some of the cases that merit solidarity such as the case of Mark Curtis." Sosa Rodríguez is a leader of the Caleb Christian Cultural Movement in Barquisimeto.

A letter sent to *Perspectiva Mundial* from Adilton José de Paula, head of the Department of International Relations of the Movement of the Landless Rural Workers of



Seeking support for Curtis's fight for justice in Ottawa, Ontario, at May 15 demonstration against unemployment and social cutbacks.

Militant/Heidi Rose

Brazil, sends "a warm and militant hug to our brother in struggle Mark Curtis."

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee recently received a message from the Organization of Solidarity with the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (OSPAAL), based in Havana. The letter notes that OSPAAL is planning

to feature Curtis's case at an upcoming public meeting.

"Through our Center for Documentation of Human Rights Violations in the United States and by the United States Against the Rights of the Peoples of the Third World (CID), we have for some time followed closely the developments in the Mark Curtis case," the letter states.

"Therefore, we are interested in receiving the piece of literature you distribute in Spanish, 'Who is Mark Curtis? An Introduction to the Curtis Case,' which is mentioned on page 17 of the March issue of the magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*," the letter continues.

"This information will help us organize one of our public forums, which we would devote mainly to the Curtis case."

"We await your reply and wish you luck in your efforts in defense of human rights," the letter concludes.

Georges Mehrabian and Natasha Terlexis in Athens, and Maurice Williams in Des Moines contributed to this column.

DEFENDING MARK CURTIS AROUND THE WORLD

fight against the police frame-up as well as his fight for parole. We urge *Militant* readers to contribute brief reports.

Defenders of Mark Curtis in Greece have been winning support for the fight to free the imprisoned U.S. union activist.

At a conference on racism and xenophobia held in Athens on April 11, dozens of participants stopped by an information table where Curtis defense supporters told them about the case. Several signed up to set up appointments to meet with Curtis supporters to discuss the case further.

The meeting, attended by 150 people including immigrant workers from several countries, was organized by the Greek chapter of the

case. *Prin* is published by the New Left Current-Communist Youth of Greece.

The following week two other Curtis supporters spoke at a forum on "The Labor Movement and Racism." Literature on the case was well received, several people signed up to see a video on the Curtis case and money was raised for the defense effort. A similar response was met at a public forum May 11 attended by some 50 trade unionists.

The defense campaign for Curtis has recently won five new endorsers of the case in Athens. Supporters are organizing appointments with the numerous others who have expressed interest in the case and will be asking them to send letters urg-

Curtis backers launch 'Parole Now' campaign

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Supporters of Mark Curtis's fight for justice have launched a Parole Now! campaign on behalf of the framed-up union and political activist.

The campaign began June 1 and will conclude August 31. Its "goal is to get hundreds of letters from trade unionists, co-workers, students, and prominent individuals supporting Mark Curtis in his effort to win parole," the signers of a May 25 letter explain announcing the effort to supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. The defense committee has set a goal to raise \$17,500 to finance the effort.

"An important new stage in the campaign to defend Curtis has been reached," the letter states. "On June 18 Mark will have completed the state's required time for the ten-year sentence on the sexual assault charge. He will remain in prison solely on the additional burglary charge brought against him months after his arrest to deepen the stakes in the fight. Curtis's discharge date on the burglary conviction is currently June 2001."

Curtis is presently serving a 25-year concurrent sentence—10 years for third-degree

sexual abuse and 25 years for burglary in the first degree. According to the law, those serving prison time may be eligible for release after completing half their sentence, through time off for good behavior.

In their letter supporters of the case note, "The expiration of the sexual assault charge significantly weakens the central argument of the parole board in refusing to consider Curtis's application for freedom: insistence that he admit his guilt and submit to the state prison's behavior modification, Sexual Offenders Treatment Program (SOTP), before they will even consider his application for parole."

"This remains at the heart of the stance of prison authorities in refusing any advance for Curtis," the letter states. It points out the authorities' denial of his application for a gate pass despite a recommendation from his classification committee. The pass would have allowed Curtis to work outside the prison.

Curtis has repeatedly told the parole board he cannot join the SOTP program because it requires he admit his guilt for a crime he did not commit.

The May 25 letter is signed by a number

of supporters of the case: Dow Voss, member of Local 405 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union in Coralville, Iowa; Jake Edwards, second vice-president of Local 176 of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in Cherokee, Iowa; Andre Sledge and Victor Manuel Díaz, members of Local 1149 of the UFCW in Marshalltown, Iowa; Alfredo Alvarez, former chair of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission; Harold Ruggless, vice-president of Local 270 of the United Auto Workers in Des Moines; John Studer and Hazel Zimmerman of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee; and Kate Kaku, spokesperson for the defense effort and the wife of Mark Curtis.

The expiration of Curtis's sentence on sexual abuse; his exemplary personal conduct in prison; the victory he won in January 1992 in his lawsuit challenging the beating he suffered at the hands of the Des Moines police on the night of his arrest; and the more than four and a half years he has served behind bars are factors that, taken together, "make it more difficult for the parole board to justify keeping him in prison," his supporters explain.

In a final statement before the sentence was read, Curtis told the court, "Since my arrest back in March many thousands of people from around this state, from Des Moines, from the Philippines to New Zealand, have stood up and protested this frame-up of me and this railroad job, which is what it is."

"What happened to me is not that unique or unusual compared to what many people around this country face. *The State of Iowa versus Mark Curtis* is not about rape or about burglary. . . . It's about the fear of jail and the fear of the billy club that they want to put in the hearts of working people."

"I'm going to keep on being part of the fight for working people no matter where I'll be," he continued. "My case is unusual only in one respect, and that is . . . the thousands of people who have stood up for my defense, and that is going to grow and I will be free in any case."

(To be continued)

Evidence at trial did not prove Curtis guilty

Continued from previous page

ognized him but had not known his name, and she and her boyfriend might have spoken briefly with him in passing.

But in all their investigations the cops and the prosecutor's office could not find a single shred of evidence that Curtis ever had anything to do with drugs. His organization, the Socialist Workers Party, is well-known among political activists for the fact that its members do not use illegal drugs. This policy helps protect the party from police victimization.

The prosecutor attempted to discredit the idea that there could be a frame-up by arguing that a complex conspiracy involving several people was farfetched. But Curtis and his supporters never claimed the cops had an elaborate scheme to nail the political activist.

When Gonzalez pulled down Curtis's pants, creating evidence for the other officers to see, that was the beginning of a frame-up. When the cop searched his car and

found leaflets showing his support for the fights of Blacks and immigrants, the frame-up became political.

Curtis never claimed the young woman who accused him was part of a conspiracy. At one point Thune asked him, "When Demetria testified that you were the person that raped her, she's lying?"

"I heard her here," he said, "like we all did, and I believe something may have happened to her, maybe even what she said. But I was not that person and she is wrong about that much."

Immediately after Curtis's conviction, Pennington filed a motion for a new trial. The motion was based on numerous abuses during the trial, including the exclusion of evidence, the lack of proper alibi instructions, and that one juror came forward to say she had been pressured to vote guilty despite her conviction of Curtis's innocence. Perkins ruled against the entire motion on Nov. 18, 1988, just before sentencing Curtis to 25 years in prison.

Messages to the parole board should request Curtis be paroled now, the letter notes. "They can point to the time Mark has served, as well as his good work record and conduct in prison, and the large amount of community support he has. Supporters should also ask those sending letters to request that Mark be granted an early parole hearing."

In one of the letters recently received by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, William Taylor, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-507 in Argo, Illinois, calls on "the Parole Board to release Mark from this unjust punishment. Then Mark can go back into the community and once again become a productive citizen. Mark is far more valuable to the Community as a citizen free to move around and assist people than being locked up in jail. If he is guilty of a crime, it is trying to help disfranchised workers and advise them of their rights."

Golden Miles Bhudu, chief executive officer of South African Prisoners Organisation for Human Rights (SAPOHR) in Johannesburg, South Africa, writes, "On behalf of our membership SAPOHR expresses its support for the release of Mark Curtis from prison."

The message continues, "His further stay in prison and the time he has already served is a transparent indication to us that keeping him any longer will not serve any good, either to him or society. If a person who has committed murder can be released on parole conditions, after serving only a meager portion from a fifteen-year sentence, why not release Mark Curtis either on conditional parole or probation?"

Bhudu calls on the Iowa State Board of Parole to make an "immediate decision to release Mark Curtis so that he can come into society with a good and prosperous vision for the future."

Supporters of Curtis's fight for justice are being urged to organize public meetings, barbecues, dinners, or other events to help get the word out and raise money for the Parole Now! Fund. Leaders of the defense committee are available to speak at local events, the May 25 letter explains.

All letters should be addressed to the Iowa State Board of Parole, Capitol Annex, 523 East 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, and mailed to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311.

1993 SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND

City	Goal	Paid	Percent
Philadelphia**	\$3,800	\$3,465	91%
Salt Lake City	\$3,000	\$2,360	79%
Detroit*	\$3,300	\$2,425	73%
Newark	\$4,000	\$2,816	70%
New York*	\$8,500	\$5,927	70%
Atlanta	\$2,500	\$1,642	66%
Twin Cities	\$5,000	\$3,023	60%
Baltimore	\$2,500	\$1,498	60%
Houston	\$3,500	\$2,055	59%
Greensboro	\$1,950	\$1,122	58%
San Francisco	\$6,500	\$3,677	57%
Miami	\$1,500	\$770	51%
Washington, D.C.	\$2,400	\$1,070	45%
Chicago*	\$5,000	\$2,180	44%
Boston	\$3,000	\$1,230	41%
Birmingham*	\$2,000	\$735	37%
Los Angeles	\$6,500	\$2,367	36%
Cincinnati	\$300	\$100	33%
Pittsburgh	\$2,000	\$645	32%
Seattle	\$2,500	\$795	32%
Des Moines*	\$1,750	\$540	31%
St. Louis	\$3,350	\$885	26%
Cleveland	\$2,000	\$440	22%
New Haven	\$500	\$50	10%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$100	7%
Albany	\$200	\$0	0%
Albuquerque	\$200	\$0	0%
Denver	\$200	\$0	0%
Portland	\$200	\$0	0%
San Diego	\$500	\$0	0%
Other		\$50	
TOTALS	\$80,150	\$41,967	56%
Should be	\$75,000	\$62,500	83%

*raised goal
**raised goal twice

\$75,000

\$41,967

Concerted effort is needed to meet goal in full and on time

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Over the June 5 weekend meetings in four cities helped bring the 1993 Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund to nearly \$42,000. A concerted effort will be needed, however, to meet the \$75,000 target by the June 15 deadline.

Money raised through the fund drive is helping to finance travel to Cuba by *Militant* reporters and will pay for producing two new issues of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. Aaron Ruby and Rose Ana Berbeo are currently in Cuba reporting for the *Militant* and Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* at an international conference on the work of revolutionary leader Che Guevara at the University of Matanzas.

A Miami meeting attended by over 40 people featured *Militant* managing editor Argiris Malapanis, who spoke on "What's Behind the War in Yugoslavia."

Rolande Girard, a garment worker and coordinator of the fund-raising effort in Miami, just returned from a reporting trip to El Salvador. Girard explained that the fund makes it possible to have on-the-scene reporting from revolutionary Cuba, South Africa, and other countries around the world featured in the *Militant*.

Participants in the meeting included young people involved in the movement for democracy in Haiti, antiracist activists, and women's rights fighters. Some Cuban-Americans who oppose the U.S. government embargo against Cuba also attended. Participants contrib-

uted \$300 at the meeting and another \$160 was raised at the door and a dinner before the forum.

Fund-raising meetings in New York and Baltimore featured talks on the accelerating crisis of world capitalism. Socialist Workers Party leader Joanne Kuniansky spoke at a New York meeting attended by 60 people, including a local leader of the Haitian group Tenth Department.

Maggie Trowe, national Party-Building Fund director, spoke at the Baltimore meeting. The program was chaired by Cuba solidarity activist Steve Strauss. He read a letter that accompanied a \$20 contribution from Lisa Stolarski, a student in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, who received a fund-raising letter along with her *Militant* Labor Forum leaflet. She wrote, "As you know, I live far away and have yet to make a Baltimore forum. Still I want you to know that I appreciate receiving flyers on your forums. I keep them all to remind myself of the daily struggle."

Twenty people attended the meeting including a student from Johns Hopkins University who helped translate for the recent tour of Cuban

academic Olga Fernandez; a high school teacher who gave \$50 to the fund; and activists in the movement against apartheid in South Africa.

Dave Lee from Chicago sent in \$798 raised at a meeting where Doug Jenness, author of the Pathfinder pamphlet *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*, spoke on the North American Free Trade Agreement. The talk sparked a lively debate. Lee said Chicago supporters, in the light of a better-than-expected response, have upped their goal to from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Philadelphia Party-Building Fund supporters raised their goal for the second time to \$3,800.

Some forums and fund-raising social events are planned for the June 12 weekend. These meetings will help in the final stretch, but a timely, well-organized round of phone calls and visits to those who have made pledges will be necessary in most cities to ensure that every possible contribution is received on time. The drive ends June 15. To be counted in the final scoreboard, funds must be received by 2:00 p.m. EDT, Tuesday, June 22. Onward to \$75,000!

I pledge ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____

Send to Socialist Workers Party, 406 West Street, New York, NY 10014

Students defeat antigay ban

BY ANNA SCHELL

BREMERTON, Washington — Students at Bremerton High School here voted May 19 to reject an amendment to the school constitution that would have banned gay and lesbian students from holding office in the student government.

Students voted 635-475 to reject the discriminatory amendment. Shannon Holdaas, 16, said that those who voted against the measure "felt strongly no one should be discriminated against, no matter what color you are or your sexual preference." She said that if the amendment had passed, some students "were prepared to walk out of school."

According to the Bremerton *Sun*, the rejected amendment "stated that students found to be openly practicing immoral activities such as sexual harassment, indecent exposure, homosexuality or sodomy would be impeached to preserve the integrity and high moral standards of the high school."

Kai James, another student at Bremerton High, said a lot of youth there were against

the amendment because "they saw it as discrimination." Megan Kincaid, 17, was outraged that the discriminatory amendment had passed by a narrow margin in the student council and stated that the vote by the entire student body reflected the majority opposition to discrimination against gays. "If you don't fight for your rights, people will walk all over you," she said.

Jason Chinchon, on the other hand, said "homosexuality is wrong" and expressed the view that students who supported the amendment were "standing up for morals." Some supporters of the antigay amendment passed out a pamphlet titled, "The medical consequences of what homosexuals do."

The vote on the proposed amendment sparked discussion among students on broader social issues. One student who opposed the discriminatory measure said some of those who campaigned for it aren't just against gay rights but oppose a woman's right to choose abortion and other democratic rights.



High school students in Bremerton, Washington, discuss antigay ban.

Tennessee activists demand jailing of cops who killed Black truck driver

BY MARLA PUZISS

ATLANTA — A grand jury in Chattanooga, Tennessee, decided May 11 not to indict eight white Hamilton County cops for the murder of Larry Powell, a Black truck driver. Powell, 39, was arrested February 5 on suspicion of drunk driving. He died from a choke hold while in police custody.

A protest rally held earlier this year in Chattanooga by the Concerned Citizens for Justice had demanded that the cops be brought to trial.

Lorenzo Ervin, president of Concerned Citizens for Justice, commented on the grand jury ruling in a telephone interview.

"Neither Larry Powell's widow, Geraldine Powell, nor the woman in the car with Powell when he was arrested, nor various eyewitnesses were allowed to testify before the grand jury. Only cops were permitted to testify."

Concerned Citizens for Justice organized daily protests outside the courthouse throughout the grand jury deliberations. Po-

lice held a "memorial rally" May 12 to commemorate police officers "killed in the line of duty." Twenty people held a counter-demonstration against the police at the same time, to protest the grand jury decision not to indict the cops involved in Powell's murder.

As they chanted "Stop killer cops," eight of the activists, including Ervin, were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and disrupting a public meeting. The misdemeanor charge carries a sentence of seven months in prison.

Concerned Citizens for Justice is planning a demonstration in Chattanooga in the near future to protest the grand jury decision and the victimization of the eight activists. Ervin is requesting that messages demanding that the charges be dropped should be sent to: Gary Gerbitz, State District Attorney, Hamilton County Justice Building, 600 Market St., Suite 202, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

Copies of the messages can be sent to Concerned Citizens for Justice, P.O. Box 1066, Chattanooga, TN 37401.

Texas inmate wins stay of execution

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

HOUSTON — On hearing that Gary Graham's execution had been stayed for 30 days, fellow inmates in the visiting room of the prison in Huntsville, Texas, rose to their feet and cheered. So reported Elnora Graham, his stepmother, to a rally of 200 people held here later that day on June 2. The decision by a Texas court of appeals had come down just hours before the scheduled execution.

Graham, 29, was framed up and convicted in 1981 for the murder of Bobby Lambert. His conviction rests on the testimony of one eyewitness who was 40 feet away from the incident. Since the trial five other eyewitnesses and six alibi witnesses have sworn that Graham was not the murderer. But a Texas law, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, bars the introduction of new evidence more than 30 days past conviction, even if it means executing an innocent person.

The 200 supporters of Graham's case, including family members, civil libertarians, and opponents of the death penalty, stood behind the panel of speakers that addressed a news conference. Panelists included Graham's parents; NAACP attorney Dick Burr; Safoora Sadek, director of the South Africa Human Rights Commission; and Jay Judson of the American Civil Liberties Union.

A statement was read from Rigoberta Menchú, a leader of the struggle against the

recent military coup in Guatemala and a prominent human rights fighter. In addition, Irineo Tristán Montoya, the mother of Ramón Montoya, spoke in Spanish about the case of her son, who is also on death row in Texas.

The rally followed several days of protests in Houston and Austin, Texas, appealing for Graham's life. Prominent figures like actor Danny Glover and singer Kenny Rogers have joined the campaign, which has been featured in the national media. The wife of the murder victim has also written a letter asking for Graham's life to be spared.

The main facts in Graham's case indicate he was framed up:

- The one individual who allegedly identified Graham described the assailant as being about five feet, five inches tall. Graham is over six feet.
- The bullet that killed the victim was proven not to have been fired from the weapon Graham was carrying when arrested.
- The accounts of potential witnesses that ran counter to Graham's conviction were kept secret by the district attorney and made available to the defense only recently.
- Six witnesses swear that Graham was with them at another location at the time of the murder. The stay of execution gives

Continued on Page 13

Black students are attacked in S. Boston

Racist assault occurs as government seeks to undercut school desegregation

BY KAREN RAY

BOSTON — In the context of racist smears against Black youth promoted by city officials, a physical attack on Black students took place May 6 in front of South Boston High School.

Earlier that day some white students led a walkout to protest the supposed presence of weapons on campus, attributed to Black youth. Later a crowd of white youth gathered outside the school. Encouraged by the presence of a number of adults from the area, they yelled racist slurs at Black students and a rock- and bottle-throwing melee broke out, involving some 200 white and Black youth.

Police responded by quickly forcing Black students off the school steps and sidewalk and placing them on waiting buses, which took them out of South Boston.

The school was closed the next day. Students were allowed to return gradually over several days.

South Boston is a working-class area that is predominantly white, although several hundred working people who are Black now live there. Most Black, Hispanic, and Asian students are bused in from other neighborhoods to attend the high school as part of a program to desegregate the city school system.

The attack on the Black youth followed a May 3 meeting in South Boston that was organized by city and state elected officials

and the Boston city police, allegedly to discuss "public safety." It was attended by about 200 people, including city councilors James Kelly and Albert O'Neil, state senate president William Bulger, and Police Commissioner Francis Roache.

City officials set tone

Before the May 3 meeting fliers were distributed by the Andrew Square Civic Association headlined "Our Neighborhood Has Become a Battle Ground for Outsiders." Kelly told the crowd, referring to Black students, "They go in and out of businesses and intimidate the merchants. Any white person on the sidewalk better get in the street when that gang of Black students approaches." He added, "We're talking about a different element, an element that is pretty much beyond our control." Bulger declared that South Boston was "experiencing an imported element of fear and violence."

O'Neil exclaimed, to loud applause, "In 1974 we were so right," referring to the racist forces that opposed the implementation of school desegregation at that time.

With this tone set by city officials, brazenly racist remarks and calls to end school desegregation were made by members of the audience. According to the *Boston Globe*, one man said, "It's a Black problem. It's Blacks that are causing our problem in South Boston." Another said,

"These animals don't come from around here." Still others referred to Black high school students as "outsiders" and "criminals."

The audience heckled Police Commissioner Roache, demanding more cops and other "safety" measures against Blacks. The flier distributed before the meeting advocated searching students for weapons on campus, stating that school officials, "with their liberal thinking, are putting our children at risk every day of the school year."

Upon returning to school, students faced a heavy police presence and had to go through metal detectors to get into the building. In a prepared statement senior class president Alexandra Figueroa said, "We feel that relations between students of different backgrounds — Black, white, Hispanic, Asian and others — are much better than the manner in which they are being portrayed in the media."

Plan undermines desegregation

Both the attack at South Boston High School and the May 3 meeting took place in the context of months of debate here on proposed legislation designed to undermine school busing and a 1990 federal court order to desegregate public housing.

Since the court order, some 300 Blacks have moved into the three housing projects in South Boston.

In 1974 Boston was placed under a federal court order to desegregate the school system through a busing program. For three years following the order a mass movement — including marches, conferences, and demonstrations by thousands — fought for Black students' right to equal education and to defend Black youth from racist attacks as they went to school. Now that the busing order has expired, legislation is pending that calls for school "choice" and neighborhood "walk-to" schools. Under the pretext of developing "quality" education, both Black and white elected officials have come out in support of this legislation. The "choice" plan would supposedly give students the option of going to neighborhood schools. The bill was introduced by Bulger, who was an outspoken opponent of school desegregation in the mid-1970s and was part of spurring on racist violence at that time.

In addition to eliminating busing, the "school choice" proposal would end tenure for teaching staff and allow the state to seize schools and place them under receivership for alleged poor performance.

Boston socialist candidates denounce attacks on busing

BY MARY LENNOX

BOSTON — Three Socialist Workers candidates launched their campaign here by highlighting the need for working people to oppose the government's attacks on school desegregation. The candidates are Maceo Dixon for Boston mayor, Karen Ray for city councilor at-large, and Jason Coughlin for city councilor in District 3.

Dixon is a cleaner at Northwest Airlines and a member of the International Association of Machinists; Ray is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at Malden Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The socialist candidates expressed vigorous opposition to the so-called choice plan for Massachusetts schools, which the state legislature recently passed and Gov. William Weld plans to sign into law. The bill states that students will be able to attend the school of their choice.

"The truth is that this plan will undercut the school desegregation and busing plan that Blacks and other working people fought for and won in Boston in the 1970s," Dixon said in a statement. "The bill will accelerate the re-segregation of the school system in Boston and the rest of Massachusetts. To accept separate education is to accept inequality in housing and in job opportunities; working people must fight against this attack."

In response to a May 6 racist assault on Black students at South Boston High School (see accompanying article), Dixon said the atmosphere that allowed this violence to occur was set by city officials and right-wing forces that organized a meeting three days earlier where Black students were labeled "criminals," "animals," and "outsiders."

The socialist candidates called for arresting and prosecuting all those responsible for inciting and carrying out the attack on the Black high school students.

Candidate defends desegregation

Dixon, who was one of the leaders of the mass struggle to desegregate the Boston school system in the 1970s took this stand at an election forum attended by about 500 people and all eight mayoral candidates. He spoke on the platform about the need for workers and youth to fight these attacks on desegregation.

As an example of how working people can defend their rights, Dixon pointed to the miners, who are carrying out a united fight against the coal operators' attempts to break their union, and to Chinese garment workers in Boston who recently won a strike sparked by abusive working con-



Militant/Eric Simpson
Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Boston.

ditions and subminimum wages.

Even before the official announcement of the campaign, the socialist candidates were already speaking out. On May 16 the candidates attended a forum sponsored by the Ward 15 Democratic Committee, where they were interviewed by some of the local media.

The following evening, Dixon and Ray participated in a meeting of about 200 Black activists in the neighborhood of Roxbury. The purpose of the meeting, called by the Coalition for Community Unity, was to endorse a Black candidate for mayor. The socialists were well received. Cheers rang out from the audience when Dixon called for a thirty-hour workweek with no cut in pay as the only effective way to fight for jobs for all, rejecting proposals that pit workers against each other for employment.

Dixon, Ray, and Coughlin attended a May 23 mayoral forum sponsored by the Temple B'nai Torah and the National Conference of Shamrim Societies. Campaign supporters were also on hand distributing the *Militant* and speaking to people interested in the campaign.

The two main daily papers and three local television stations have featured coverage of the socialist campaign.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

TONI GORTON

The new Pathfinder book *The Truth about Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention* hit the shelves of hundreds of bookstores within days of its publication at the end of May. In a reflection of the interest in a working-class view of the conflict in Yugoslavia, more than 6,500 copies of the book had been ordered by bookstores and distributors around the world by the first week after its publication. To keep up with demand and assure a stock of the title, a second printing of 5,000 has been ordered for the end of June.

The Truth about Yugoslavia explains why the carnage there is not due to "age-old ethnic and religious conflicts" but is a product of the crisis of the depression-ridden world capitalist system. Remnants of the former Yugoslav Stalinist regime who seek to become capitalists are using nationalist demagoguery to rally support for a war for territory and resources that is against the interests of all working people. In this context, Washington and its European imperialist competitors are moving toward military intervention to advance their interests in the area.

Pathfinder is making a prepublication offer to Readers Club members of \$6.95 (regular retail price is \$8.95). The offer ends June 30.

The May issue of the *Wisconsin Bookwatch* reviews *To Speak the Truth* by Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara.

And from Holguín, Cuba, an engineering student writes a note of thanks to Pathfinder on the same book. "The valuable and important collection given by you to our Benito Juárez library included the book *To Speak the Truth*, which helps us to better understand why the cold war carried out by the U.S. government is maintained in our days. It also shows us clearly the reasons for the aggressive policy maintained by Washington for the 34 years of revolution. . . . I think this book is a living example of the firmness and bravery of our representatives, shown in each one of their speeches before the United Nations."

The deepening class polarization and the rise of ultrarightist and incipient fascist forces have also sparked an interest in Pathfinder's books on anti-Semitism and fascism. *The Jewish Question*, whose fifth

printing sold out earlier this year, has just been reissued with an attractive new cover. It explains the historical roots of anti-Semitism and how in times of social crisis it is used by the capitalists to mobilize reactionary forces against the labor movement and divide working people. The book will interest those trying to grapple with the origin and role of Jew-hatred.

Malcolm X: Derniers Discours, the French-language edition of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*, has just been published in Paris. This book, which is the first new collection of Malcolm X's speeches in French in more than 20 years, is being distributed by Pathfinder in the United States and Canada. One person, who has already bought the book in France, noticed the Pathfinder ad in the back and wrote asking for a catalog and about the availability of French or Spanish books on Ernesto Che Guevara, Thomas Sankara, and Maurice Bishop.

The Pathfinder bookstore in Pittsburgh reports on a sale of literature at a recent miners' rally and a Jobs for Justice conference. Participants bought three copies of *The Eastern Airlines Strike*, as well as single copies of *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, *The Struggle Is My Life* by Nelson Mandela, *The Hormel Meat-Packers Strike*, *Teamster Bureaucracy*, and *New International* no. 6.

Many striking miners and other workers involved in labor fights will want to take advantage of another new Pathfinder Readers Club offer. Books such as *The Eastern Airlines Strike*, the *Teamster* series, *Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, *The Communist Manifesto*, *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, and *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* are available for a 25 percent discount to Readers Club members until June 30. Contact your local Pathfinder bookstore listed on page 12 for more information.

A new, expanded 1993 Pathfinder catalog is now available. It is the most important piece of promotional material for bookstores, distributors, and mail-order customers. It is available at Pathfinder bookstores or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Lani Guinier nomination sparks debate

Continued from front page
chairman Joseph Biden, pressed the White House to reconsider the nomination.

Coming just days after Clinton announced he was hiring longtime Republican Party advisor David Gergen as director of White House communications, the Guinier fiasco is further evidence of the Democratic and Republican parties' growing agreement in how to press their assault on the living standards and rights of working people.

The fight for affirmative action

For the working class, affirmative action measures are crucial to help cut across the divisions based on skin color or sex that are reinforced by the employers and the government. This unity becomes more and more essential as the rulers intensify their attacks in this period of economic depression. If workers and farmers are to fight successfully to defend themselves, they must stand together.

Bolick and his cothinkers, on the other hand, argue that affirmative action measures are inherently undemocratic and unfair. Can one imagine supporting "racial quotas" in judicial appointments and law faculties, Bolick asks, explaining his opposition to the Guinier appointment.

But while all working people have been hard hit by the social and economic crisis, those who are victims of discrimination — Blacks, immigrant workers, women, and others — have received the hardest blows. For example, while the unemployment rate in the United States has hovered around 7 percent over the past year, for Blacks it stands at almost 14 percent. Among young people who are Black, it is nearly 47 percent.

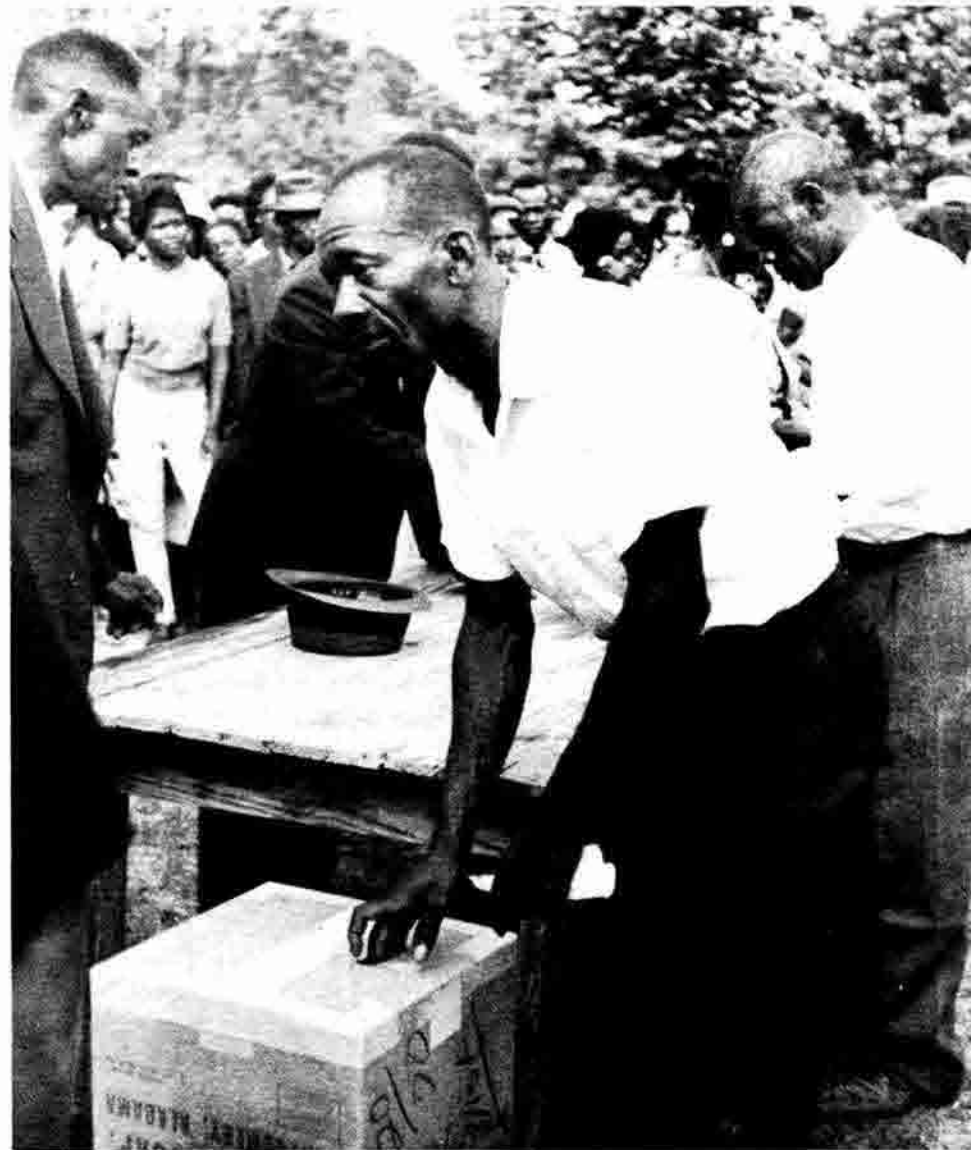
Black workers are also relegated to the worst housing, schools, and hospitals. They face a higher infant mortality and a lower life expectancy.

This is a problem not just for Black, Latino, and women workers but for all working people. The billionaire ruling families benefit from discrimination against women and oppressed nationalities. Not only do they reap higher profits through the lower wages paid to these sections of the working class, but the divisions fostered by the employers sap workers' ability to wage common struggles in their own interests.

Fighting for affirmative action — for the rights of the most oppressed and exploited layers of the working class — is indispensable to unify the entire class. It makes it easier for workers to stand together and fight for a union, against bosses' concession demands, for decent medical care, or for better schools.

Because the capitalists gain from racist and sexist discrimination, they will not voluntarily enforce measures that ensure equality on the job market or in the workplace. For this reason any real affirmative action measures — which strengthen workers' ability to fight discrimination and make employers think twice before carrying out sexist and racist policies — have a quotas content to them.

This explains why even those liberal capitalist politicians who give lip service to



Militant

Voter registration in Lowndes County, Alabama, in 1966. It took massive struggles to win Voting Rights Act in 1965. Before, gerrymandering and other practices made it difficult for Blacks to vote, get on the ballot, or win elections to public office.

affirmative action measures are so hostile to enforcement through mandatory quotas. In fact, the first thing Guinier did when attacked in the *Wall Street Journal* was to deny support for affirmative action quotas. "I do not believe in quotas," she said in an interview with Ted Koppel on ABC's *Nightline*. "I have never advocated quotas."

The Voting Rights Act

Bolick also argues against the effective enforcement of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and its extension to redress discrimination. This legislation was one of the central conquests of the civil rights movement, which overthrew the system of legal segregation in the South known as Jim Crow.

The passage of the act enabled the federal government to intervene to prevent gerrymandering and other practices that made it difficult or impossible for Blacks to vote, get on the ballot, or win election to public office. In many cases, new districts were created, breaking up a situation of whites-only control that had existed for almost a century. In other cases, the same result has been accomplished by maintaining one citywide district where each voter received several ballots.

In the years following the passage of the Voting Rights Act, local governments came up with all kinds of ways to dodge the effects of the law. Such practices included abolishing elective offices altogether when Blacks had a chance of winning, or withholding information necessary for voting or running for office.

In 1969 the Supreme Court ruled that even actions not prohibited in the Voting Rights Act would be covered by the law, which it said "should be given the broadest possible scope."

In January 1992, the Supreme Court voted to limit the reach of the Voting Rights Act in a ruling based on lawsuits filed by Black elected officials from Alabama. In two counties, Blacks had been elected to the county board of commissioners for the first time.

When the new commissioners took office, their principle function, to supervise and control funds for county road maintenance, repair, and construction, had been abolished and responsibility for the allocation of funds had been transferred to a county engineer. The Supreme Court decision upheld the new arrangement.

Guinier argued that the Voting Rights Act should be invoked to reverse the county board's decision. The Voting Rights Act

does not imply "simply a symbolic opportunity to cast a ballot," she explained at the time. "Majority rule was never thought to mean that a governing elite could keep 100 percent of the power for itself."

Guinier's defense of this position came under heavy fire. In the June 14 issue of the liberal magazine *New Republic*, for example, Abigail Thernstrom accused Guinier of supporting "massive bureaucratic surveillance."

"The Justice Department and the courts," Thernstrom wrote, "can't monitor every budgetary decision, every change in procedural rules, that might affect the governing power of a black official."

President Clinton also defended the Supreme Court ruling. Speaking at a dinner after withdrawing Guinier's nomination from consideration, Clinton said, "I just can't agree with her on the Alabama case, as fine a woman as she is."

The obstacle of 'race politics'

In spite of the support Guinier has voiced in the past for affirmative action and the Voting Rights Act, her framework for combating discrimination is to get more Blacks and women from her social class — lawyers, professors, and business executives — elected or appointed to government offices, to become "part of the governing coalition," as she puts it.

This is not how working people smashed Jim Crow segregation in the South or won affirmative action measures, school desegregation, and the Voting Rights Act. These rights were conquered through struggle by tens of thousands of ordinary men and women, not granted by a few well-placed officials.

Victories won by the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s broke down many legal and de facto barriers faced by Blacks in jobs, education, housing, and other aspects of social and political life.

Through the gains of this massive working-class movement, a substantially larger layer of the Black nationality than has existed at any time in the past has been able to enter the middle class. In income, social milieu, and political outlook, this layer is far removed from the big majority of Blacks, who remain part of the working class.

While still concerned about racism and discrimination, Black professionals and businessmen have to a large degree integrated themselves into a broader middle class and adopted its concerns and outlook, including its fear and contempt for working people,

Black or white. At the same time the vast majority of Blacks face sharply worsening social and economic conditions.

From 1978 to 1986 the percentage of Black families with annual incomes above \$50,000 increased by 14 percent. But the percentage of Black families trying to get by on less than \$5,000 a year increased by 57 percent. According to conservative government statistics, about one-third of the Black population lives under the official poverty line. These two groups of people don't share the same interests.

When Guinier argues that Virginia governor Douglas Wilder and former Atlanta mayor Andrew Young don't represent Blacks, she has a point. But the problem is not that they were elected by a largely white constituency, as Guinier argues, but that they are part of a layer of Black politicians who, like their white counterparts, strive to advance themselves by loyally representing the ruling rich at the expense of working people.

This is the same problem Guinier runs into when she calls whites a "permanent, homogeneous majority." There is no "homogeneous" white majority any more than there is a "homogeneous" Black minority.

Society is divided into a capitalist class and a working class with diametrically opposed interests. Working people — no matter what their skin color — share an interest in fighting against racism. A real fighting movement for Black rights will give a tremendous impetus to the labor movement as a whole. And the struggles of working people to defend their unions, like the coal miners strike going on today, can make a powerful contribution to the fight against racism.

Reno, Clinton, and Guinier

Guinier speaks glowingly of Attorney General Janet Reno and of Clinton. "I have enormous respect for the President," she said during the *Nightline* interview. Three days later she called Reno "a woman of outstanding integrity, a woman of principle, a woman whose vision of a more just society has been an inspiration to us all."

Clinton and Reno are the same people who only weeks earlier had ordered the murder of dozens of men, women, and children at the Branch Davidian complex in Waco, Texas. Reno says she opposes the death penalty, but defends executions. She has a long history of defending cop brutality in Dade County, Florida.

Guinier goes so far as to defend special rights for whites in a democratic, nonracial South Africa. "What I am talking about is really no different than what the white minority is talking about in South Africa," she said on *Nightline*, to explain why in some cases legislation should need more than a simple majority to pass. "The black majority in South Africa should rule, but it should rule in a way that is respectful and recognizes the interests of the white minority."

The situation facing Blacks in the United States, however, is the complete opposite of that facing whites in South Africa. In both countries it is Black workers and farmers, who face a special oppression and exploitation based on the color of their skin. It is because of a mass revolutionary movement — one that includes many whites as well as a majority of Blacks — that South Africa is now advancing toward the creation of a government that can begin to correct this historic injustice.

The first task of such a democratic South African government will be to start to narrow the gap between the standard of living of Blacks and that of whites. In the context of South Africa today, talk of the "interests of the white minority" is only an excuse to preserve some of the privileges of whites under apartheid.

Debate won't go away

Although the debate on the Lani Guinier appointment will recede, the attacks on affirmative action and the Voting Rights Act will not go away. As depression conditions worsen, the capitalist rulers will need to keep pushing to take away some of these hard-won rights. Working people must defend and fight for all such rights: affirmative action measures in hiring and education, including raising the minimum wage to combat wage inequality; desegregation of schools and housing; and expanding the scope of the Voting Rights Act.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

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Pathfinder Mural Bookstore Open House. Meet Argiris Malapanis, coauthor of Pathfinder book, *The Truth about Yugoslavia*; Sam Manuel, artistic adviser to the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural; Pathfinder Press representatives who recently attended Tehran Bookfair and American Booksellers Association convention in Miami. Sat., June 26, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., program 4:30 to 5 p.m., 167 Charles Street (corner of West Street and Charles in Greenwich Village). Sponsored by Friends of the Pathfinder Mural. For more information: (212) 366-1973.

Rally to Launch New York City's Socialist Mayoral Campaign. Speakers: Mary-Nell Bockman, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor; Al Duncan, candidate for New York City Advocate; and Melissa Harris, candidate for Comptroller. Sat. June 19, 7:30 p.m., 191 7th Ave. Tel.: (212) 675-6740. Sponsored by New York Socialist Workers Campaign.

UN resolution backs air strikes in Bosnia

Continued from front page
dent Bill Clinton — to bomb military positions and infrastructure of rightist Bosnian Serb forces and lift the arms embargo on Bosnia — was rejected by the governments of Britain and France.

However, disagreements still remain between Washington and its European rivals on the scope of this operation and who will be in charge. U.S. officials say they want strikes only to protect UN troops on the ground. The governments of Britain, France, and Germany want air power used whenever the "safe havens" are attacked.

Disagreements within the UN Security Council held up the final vote for two weeks. The debate was described by the *New York Times* as "one of the most divisive the Council has experienced since the start of the Bosnian war."

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, described the UN resolution as "an intermediate step." She stressed that Washington would "keep open options" for the use of even more forceful military action.

The resolution authorizes the sending of up to 10,000 UN troops to Bosnia, which would add to the 9,000-strong United Nations force already operating in the country. However, the deployment of additional soldiers may take several months to put in place. To date, Pakistan is the only government to offer new troops for this mission. Other governments

first want a guarantee from the right-wing Bosnian Serb forces of safe passage into the majority-Muslim enclaves.

Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Serbian Democratic Party, which has organized much of the "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia, has voiced his disapproval of the UN resolution. The Bosnian government of Alija Izetbegovic criticized the plan for several days and then announced June 7 that it had decided to support the proposal.

Leading the charge for more rapid and massive U.S. military intervention in Bosnia is Democratic senator Joseph Biden.

In a June 7 *New York Times* column, entitled "More UN Appeasement on Bosnia," Biden calls for turning the so-called safe cities into wider "protected provinces" with the use of aggressive air strikes against Karadzic's forces. He also advocates placing up to 60,000 NATO troops in the country, and cooperation with what he describes as "a large motivated ground force in place: the Bosnian army."

Fierce fighting continues

In several days of fierce fighting between the Bosnian army and rightist Croatian forces in the Bosnian city of Travnik in early June, Bosnian government troops carried out some "ethnic cleansing" of their own. Hundreds of people were killed as the Bosnian army forces drove Croat troops and some 3,000 Croat civilians out



UN tanks on patrol in downtown Vitez. Security Council has called for sending 10,000 more troops to Bosnia and for the first time has authorized air strikes.

of the city.

Many of the Croats' homes were burned down or destroyed, forcing them to camp in the open on a hillside. The Croat military commander in central Bosnia surrendered his troops to nearby rightist Serb forces.

Meanwhile, Karadzic's forces have stepped up their shelling and infantry attacks on the cities of Goradze and Srebrenica, besides attacking a number of other towns in-

cluding Brcko, Gradacac, Gracanica, Maglaj, Olovo, and Tesanj. Karadzic's military officers continue to deny UN troops entry into Goradze, despite its designation by the United Nations as a "safe haven." Some 300 people were killed and hundreds more wounded as a result of the week-long assault on Goradze in early June.

Since January fighting has resumed between the Croatian army and rightist Serb forces in Croatia that control one-third of the country and have proclaimed themselves the "Serb Republic of Krajina." A 1991 United Nations-brokered cease-fire temporarily halted the fighting in Croatia.

The self-styled Krajina Serb assembly scheduled a June 19-20 referendum to vote on unifying the area with the parts of Bosnia controlled by Karadzic's troops. According to the *Financial Times*, the assembly is "so confident of a 'yes' vote that it announced that the capital of the new state would be the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Banja Luka."

Swedish gov't to send troops to Bosnia

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The Swedish government is planning to send 850 troops to Bosnia. This is in addition to the 700 soldiers now stationed on the border between Macedonia and Serbia as part of a United Nations "peacekeeping" force. A special law is being prepared to grant the troops the right to fire arms even when their lives are not in danger.

This is the first time Sweden will be sending combat units abroad since the war in the Congo (now Zaire) in the 1960s. Swedish troops joined UN forces in the Congo and were complicit in the 1961 assassination of Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of that African country. Lumumba led the Congolese independence struggle against Belgium.

In February, Swedish foreign minister Margareta af Ugglas asked parliament to discuss whether it was "prepared to let our soldiers create peace through violence and die in combat abroad." Insurance payments given to families of soldiers who die in combat have been tripled to 700,000 kronor (US\$96,000).

According to a law adopted last year, the Swedish government can send 3,000 troops abroad without receiving approval from parliament if the request comes from an international organization like the United Nations or the European Conference on Security and Cooperation.

The Swedish government is now seeking legislative approval before parliament closes in June for a proposal to send combat troops abroad and passage of a new law allowing greater latitude on the use of weapons. No formal request for troops has yet been made to the Swedish government.

Ingvar Carlsson, an opposition leader in parliament and chairman of the Social Democratic Party, is calling for a special session of parliament to be called when the request is actually made to send troops to Bosnia.

This issue has provoked a big debate in parliament and the media. Birgitta Hambræus from the Center Party, which is part of the ruling government coalition, stated in a May 19 discussion in parliament, "The thought that we shall now prepare soldiers to kill, and that innocent children might be hit by mistake, is a horrible thought to me. Sweden seems prepared to throw itself into something that might become a Vietnam War. Do we even know who the enemy is?"

Svenska Dagbladet, one of Sweden's daily newspapers, said, "To protect the safe havens in this situation [Bosnia], which is a likely task for the Swedish rifle battalion that the government wants to send to the region, can become both difficult and dangerous."

The commander of the unit going to

Bosnia, Colonel Ulf Henriksson, is presently traveling around the country visiting regiments and giving interviews to the Swedish press to help recruitment to the force, which is going slowly.

"Yes, they asked all the soldiers with good marks to sign up," said a young foodworker who had just been released from military

service, which is compulsory for all young men in Sweden. "Some people thought about going at first but in the end no one signed up."

Catharina Tirsén is a member of Local 4 of the Swedish Foodworkers Union in Stockholm.

Antiwar activists fight frame-up in Greece

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN AND NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece — Seventy people packed a court chamber here May 12 in solidarity with four political activists who were convicted in May 1992 for antiwar activities and sentenced to 19-month jail terms and fines of \$250 each.

The four members of the Antiwar-Antinationalist Campaign of Greece were convicted for passing out leaflets opposing the Greek government's position on Macedonia. Athens has waged an international campaign against recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. In the course of this nationalist campaign the government has carried out attacks on democratic rights.

The four defendants — Maria Kalogeropoulou, Stratis Burnazos, Christina Tsamouira, and Vaggelió Sotiropoulou — are currently free pending appeal. In an interview outside the courtroom, Kalogeropoulou explained the charges were not of a criminal nature but purely political. A thought-control law imposed during the Metaxa dictatorship in the 1930s was used to charge and convict the activists.

"We were convicted for passing out an antiwar leaflet," said Kalogeropoulou. "The specific offensive points were that the leaflet called Greece aggressive in its dealings with the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, that it used the name Macedonia in referring to that republic, that it stated that Turkish and Slavo-Macedonian minorities are oppressed in Greece, and that Albanian immigrants were being shot by Greek police. Obvious truths!"

In testimony before a three-judge panel, Dimitris Desilas, a member of the European Parliament, pointed out this is "the first time since the fall of the dictatorship that people are being prosecuted for the contents of a leaflet," referring to the military regime that ended in 1974.

The presiding judge adjourned the court and set a new hearing for September 20.

The week before, a lower court rejected similar charges against five members of another group, the Organization for Socialist

Revolution (OSE). They had been charged with circulating a pamphlet whose antiwar content was deemed objectionable. The booklet, titled *The Crisis in the Balkans, the Macedonian Question, and the Working Class*, opposes the government position on Macedonia.

The judge's ruling stated, "The contents of the book neither constitute news nor rumor but political views that, although incorrect, do not have the elements that could characterize them as news."

The postponement of one trial and the

clear victory by the defense in the other reflect the limits on the ability of the Greek ruling class to push back democratic rights.

Resolutions in defense of the OSE members were passed by the General Confederation of Greek Workers and many local unions, as well as the Greek Student Federation. Thousands of people signed petitions and participated in activities supporting the defendants in both trials. Members of parliament from all the opposition parties made public statements defending the right to free speech.

New from Pathfinder

The Truth about Yugoslavia

WHY WORKING PEOPLE SHOULD OPPOSE INTERVENTION



George Fyson
Argiris Malapanis
Jonathan Silberman

The carnage in Yugoslavia is not rooted in "age-old ethnic conflicts," the authors explain. It is a product of the crisis of the depression-ridden world capitalist system. Rival gangs of aspiring capitalists — fragments of the former Yugoslav Stalinist regime — have draped themselves in nationalist colors in a war for territory and resources that is against the interests of all working people. Washington and its competitors in Europe are intervening militarily to protect and advance their respective interests.

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U.S. miners welcome Australian solidarity

Continued from front page

ion County, both in northern West Virginia. About 9,200 UMW members are on strike in five states—in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, and Illinois.

AMAX Coal withdraws from BCOA

Five hundred members of UMW Local 1791 in Keensburg, Illinois, began returning to work June 7 at AMAX Coal's Wabash mine. The union ended the selective strike there when the company announced it was withdrawing from the BCOA.

AMAX is merging with Cyprus Minerals, a coal operator with both union and non-union coal mines that is not part of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), the employer group involved in contract negotiations with the union.

The 1,700 UMW members at AMAX mines will be covered under the contract with Cyprus. The old contract expires July 1. UMW president Richard Trumka said the union is currently involved in talks with Cyprus.

The UMW ended a one-year strike against the Cypress Empire mine near Craig, Colorado in April 1992.

Union officials have said AMAX was one of the BCOA companies that supported a UMW demand for guaranteed jobs at future mines.

At the Wabash mine UMW Local 1791 president Deno Overturf said, "Whether we have a BCOA or we don't, we'll still have a contract with these coal companies. We feel like it's a really positive move for everybody else. This might make Shiflett and [BCOA negotiator B.R.] Brown think twice."

Australian miners support UMW

Continued from front page
with their actions in the United States."

The Australian United Mine Workers convention designated the third day of its proceedings, June 2, as "International Day." That day they featured a speech by Kgalema Motlanthe, the acting general secretary of South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers, as well as an address by Corcoran and a video message from UMW president Richard Trumka.

In a statement released in Washington, Trumka said: "We are honored that the Australian miners are standing with us in this struggle." He called the sympathy walkout a "powerful statement of international solidarity."

Peabody's response to the Australian solidarity action was to brand it as a "media event."

Hilda Cuzco, reporting from Coulterville, Illinois, contributed to this article.

The reactions of BCOA officials confirm that the AMAX withdrawal is a setback to the operators.

BCOA chief negotiator Brown said, "While BCOA recognizes the circumstances that drove AMAX to its decision, nevertheless there are a number of legal issues that this decision raises, including the legality of withdrawing from multi-employer bargaining."

Illinois strike coordinator Jim Thomas said, "The companies are attempting to do away with the unions through attrition. They start up new mines nonunion under a subsidiary's name and they shut down the union mines. We need contract language that can stop this double-breasting," referring to the companies' practice of opening new mines under the names of subsidiaries.

"The same thing is happening in other industries from steel to textile," he continued. "If we prevail, others can too," he said.

Confrontation in Kentucky

Peabody Coal president George "Sam" Shiflett toured some other Peabody mines before he got to the Camp 1 confrontation in Kentucky. At the Baldwin mine in Illinois, the company claims production is down 60 percent since the miners returned to work March 5 after the month-long strike against Peabody that marked round one of the 1993 contract fight.

Shiflett was not warmly received at Baldwin. The company is now threatening to discipline individual workers if production does not increase.

At Local 2412's Marissa strike office, there is a banner on the wall: "Sam, the concession stand is closed."

Commenting on the miners' confrontation with the company in western Kentucky, Bill Mulholland from Local 2412 said: "It shows what Peabody thinks of its work force. They want total control. Peabody will come to understand they just rent the body, they don't rent the mind."

Peabody filed suit June 8 against the UMW, claiming the strikes and alleged work slowdowns violate an agreement the union signed March 2 that ended the month-long strike against Peabody and extended the contract for 60 days.

UMWA officials described Peabody's charges as "hysterical."

A few days after the Peabody miners in Marissa, Illinois, went on strike, the strike kitchen was reopened. The headquarters is becoming a center of activity. Sandwiches, chips, relish trays, desserts, iced tea, lemonade and coffee are served to strikers and their families. Members of the local help staff the kitchen with members of the Family Auxiliary.

Duke Kessler worked as a general laborer at the mine and is working as a "laborer" in the kitchen. "We're all prepared to do whatever's necessary," he said with a smile.

"The kitchen and food help make this a real gathering place to share information on the strike," said Family Auxiliary member Rosemary Hamill. "We're involved to show support for our spouses," she said. "In the process we're all making new friends, which helps everyone stand together," she added.

Amy Hamill, a 15-year-old high school student, is active in the Family Auxiliary. "I'll be here till we get a contract," she said. "What happens in this strike," she explained, "is going to change our lives too."

Linda Jones's husband works at the Baldwin mine. "It doesn't matter whether he's on strike or not," she said. "We're here to help."

The Family Auxiliary is selling T-shirts and UMW solidarity camouflage flags to raise money for the strike fund. Members of the local are helping refurbish the old high school that houses the strike headquarters and the city park in return for use of the facility.

UMWA Local 1392, on strike at Arch Minerals's Captain mine, is hosting a solidarity rally June 27.

Repercussions of Marrowbone victory

The repercussion of the May 27 UMW election victory at Zeigler Coal's Marrowbone mine complex in Naugatuck, West Virginia, are still being felt. The miners at Zeigler's other big nonunion operation in that area, Wolf Creek Collieries in Kentucky, are preparing for a union representation vote June 28.

William "Bubbles" Chapman, a Wolf



Militant/Yvonne Hayes
Marrowbone miners at picnic a few days before they voted for the UMW. At other nonunion mines in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, miners are also approaching the union for help in organizing.

Creek miner who is helping lead the union-organizing drive, says the company is taking a softer approach than the harsh antiunion propaganda they used at Marrowbone. For the last two months, he said, the company significantly increased the production bonuses miners receive.

"We're looking for a yes vote on June 28 so miners can become brothers and have fellowship," he said in an interview. "We need to begin organizing to stop the dictatorship of the coal companies and work for the betterment of working conditions in the coal industry for our families."

The new UMW members at Marrowbone scheduled a June 12 vote for union officers. On June 19 a celebration of the Marrowbone victory is planned along with swearing in the new local officers. This gathering will also help rally support for the union in the Wolf Creek vote.

Forty-one miners from the MAPCO Coal Pontiki mine, near Wolf Creek, met with UMW officials June 6 and most of them signed union cards.

"It's like a revival. We're on the move in eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia," said UMW International Executive Board member Howard Green, from the union's District 17 in southern West Virginia.

The UMW had previously suffered setbacks in this area that culminated in the defeat of the 1984-85 strike against Massey Coal Co. This new round of union battles, coming in the midst of the biggest national coal strike in 12 years, is an important development for working people everywhere.

Buck Creek strike

Miners at the Buck Creek mine in Sullivan, Indiana, have been on strike since April 1. The union succeeded in organizing Buck Creek, the biggest underground mine in Indiana, almost two years ago and the miners

are now on strike to win their first contract from the company.

Some of the top managers at Buck Creek used to work at the nonunion Pyro mine in Wheatcroft, Kentucky, which exploded Sept. 13, 1989, killing 10 miners. Pyro was fined \$3.7 million for safety violations at the mine and felony charges were filed against several managers, including three who now run Buck Creek.

Buck Creek has been advertising in coalfield papers for replacement workers. According to UMW International Executive Board member Roger Myers from Indiana, the company has hired about 20 replacements who are working, along with 23 miners who refused to join the strike and mine bosses, to mine and ship coal during the strike. The company refuses to negotiate with the union.

Myers also reported that the company is trying to charge him, UMW District 11 president Bill Yockey, and five striking miners with racketeering for supposedly blocking the mine road and vandalizing company property.

Miners already on strike have been encouraged by the walkout of the Australian miners and the union-organizing victory at Marrowbone, as well as by the almost weekly expansion and strengthening of their strike.

"If it takes all of us out on strike, we'll do whatever it takes," said Dale Knope, a member of UMW Local 9905 at Zeigler's Spartan Mine near Sparta, Illinois, which has been on strike since May 10.

"The coal operators don't want a union," Knope said. "We do."

Mary Zins is a laid-off coal miner and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1405 in St. Louis. Elizabeth Lariscy, reporting from Kermit, West Virginia, and Maggie McCraw, reporting from Uniontown, Kentucky, contributed to this article.

Preacher who backed Perot leads rally against rap music in Harlem

BY MARK GILSDORF

NEW YORK — On June 5 Rev. Calvin Butts, former New York campaign director for Ross Perot, kicked off his drive against "vile, abusive, and rough" lyrics in rap music at a rally of close to 300 people. Butts is the pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. Those in attendance were mostly older Blacks, but the gathering also drew a handful of youth.

"Negative rap" has "taken a terrible toll on the African-American community," Butts said. "It is an example of the moral deterioration of the fabric of American society." Butts also claims to defend Black women by speaking out against the misogynistic lyrics of some rap groups. "You don't have to degrade our women," he said.

Butts also falsely invokes the names of revolutionary leaders such as Malcolm X in his onslaught. "Malcolm spins in his grave at this foolishness," Butts said.

Butts blames rappers and Black youth for the problems of crime, drugs, and the decay of capitalist society while demagogically attacking "the man" and "the structure."

The rally was a precursor to the real event of the day. Butts had organized to

drive a steamroller over dozens of rap tapes and CDs not far from the church. A counterdemonstration of about 30 people was organized by local rappers. Doug E. Fresh and Freedom Williams of C&C Music Factory also attended. "Our revered first amendment provides for the free flow of ideas," a statement distributed at the protest said. Some young activists carried signs that said, "Freedom of speech, no ifs, ands or Butts."

A group of youth broke off from the counterdemonstration and confronted Butts, refusing to move from in front of the steamroller. Butts and his supporters then crushed the tapes with their feet. Afterward they dumped the debris on the doorstep of Sony Records.

Philip Cook, who participated in the counterdemonstration, said, "Change the conditions we live in, then maybe our lyrics will change."

On his Sunday radio program, Butts defended his actions as part of an effort "to create a climate in which this becomes distasteful and will not be tolerated." Butts called for "more enforcement of our laws" by the police.

Special Offer to Miners and their Supporters

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Westray officials charged in 1992 Canada mine blast

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Officials of the Westray coal mine in Nova Scotia will finally face criminal charges for the deaths of 26 miners in an explosion that tore the mine apart on May 9, 1992.

The news was announced April 20 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to about 100 family members and friends of the dead miners. The relatives and supporters cheered, wept, and embraced each other as the announcement was made.

"I'm angry, I'm grieving," said Joe MacKay, whose brother was entombed in the mine. "This is like taking a weight off our shoulders. It's going to be a little lighter to bear."

"All along we've been saying there was negligence," said Isabel Gillis, whose husband died in the explosion. "Finally something has been done about it."

Curragh Inc., owner of the Westray mine, as well as former mine manager Gerald Phillips and former mine underground manager Roger Parry, each face charges of manslaughter and criminal negligence causing death.

Just days after the announcement, Curragh went to court to seek protection from bankruptcy.

The family members met in the very town fire hall where they had awaited the tragic news from a futile rescue operation almost

one year ago. At that time, police and company officials sealed off access to the hall for many days from journalists, union members, and others seeking facts on why the explosion occurred.

The fact that charges were brought was the result of a sustained campaign by family members and their supporters, including some former miners. They told stories in news reports of horrendous methane gas and coal dust accumulations inside the mine that caused the explosion. Their campaign forced into the public record the failure of federal and Nova Scotia government agencies to enforce mine safety laws. Despite this thoroughly documented record, an RCMP criminal investigation dragged on month after month.

In November a Nova Scotia supreme court judge canceled a public inquiry into the explosion. The Nova Scotia government had ordered the inquiry amid the public outrage in the days following the explosion.

Then in January the provincial government dropped all charges against the company under the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act.

These attempts at a cover-up turned up the heat on the RCMP investigators, who themselves began to be accused of a cover-up. In February, family members served notice of a legal suit against the federal government for criminal negligence.

Another issue that kept the family mem-

bers' fight prominently in the news was Curragh's months-long attempt to gain permits to operate an open pit mine next to the Westray site. This stirred up considerable opposition among local residents, who feared the environmental destruction that would accompany the mine or who no longer trusted Curragh to operate a mine safely.

At the same time, some former Westray miners were demanding that the federal and provincial governments allow Curragh to reopen the Westray mine as soon as possible. Represented by the United Steelworkers of America, the former miners occupied government offices at the end of March to press their demands. Earlier, the same group had organized protests directed at residents organizing to oppose Curragh's application to operate an open pit mine.

Curragh was under severe financial pressure to mine coal following the explosion. The lucrative contract it received from the Nova Scotia government for opening Westray was needed to help its money-losing lead and zinc mines in western Canada. But now a bankruptcy court



Entrance to Westray coal mine in Nova Scotia after explosion that killed 26 miners in May 1992.

will decide its fate later this month.

Meanwhile, family members and former miners will be following the trial very closely and will eventually testify. The trial is expected to last a long time. Already the accused have been granted a two-month postponement to prepare arguments on why the charges should be quashed.

Roger Annis is a member of Local 1900 of the Canadian Autoworkers union in Montreal.

Fired miners in Kentucky win reinstatement

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

WAVERLY, Kentucky — The day shift miners at Peabody Coal Co.'s Camp 1 mine here convoyed back to work on June 9 after beating back the company's attempt to fire them. A total of 163 first- and third-shift miners were suspended pending discharge four days earlier by Peabody president George "Sam" Shiflett. They were suspended after chanting, "We want a contract" at a mandatory meeting during working hours June 4 with Shiflett, who is also president of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

On June 8 the members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1793 won a victory when Peabody dropped all the dismissal charges. The union has filed a grievance demanding the four days' pay lost during the suspensions.

The 325 members of Local 1793 struck Peabody in February after the national contract between the union and the BCOA expired. They returned to work a month later when the UMWA and the coal bosses agreed to a 60-day contract extension.

Since then, the UMWA has resumed its selective strike and today more than 9,000 miners are on the picket lines.

Local 1793 members have remained mobilized since returning to work. Their picket shacks are in place, the strike headquarters is open, and they are holding regular meetings.

At 6:30 a.m. on June 4, workers on third shift were called into a meeting with Shiflett. The miners soon stood up and began chanting, "We want a contract." They were told to sit down and shut up. When they continued to voice their opinion, the miners were told, "You're all fired. Leave the property at once."

The 8:00 a.m. meeting for first shift workers followed the same pattern. The company canceled the meeting scheduled for second shift. When they heard about the firings, the overwhelming majority of the second shift miners took off a "personal" day, in an act of solidarity. They returned to work June 7 at the union's request.

Showing their unity and willingness to go back to work, the suspended miners gathered each morning and went in a convoy to the mine entrance.

On the afternoon of June 8, miners gathered at the local strike headquarters to discuss the dismissal hearings held earlier that day at the mine site. Morale was high and many miners wore camouflage T-shirts with the slogan "No more broken promises, our fair share now," and bright green buttons

reading, "Fire Sam, not me."

The first three miners whose cases were heard by the company were reinstated. After that Peabody backed down and agreed to return all the miners to work with a four-day unpaid suspension. Originally the dismissal hearings were expected to last for days.

Just that morning Peabody spokesman Joe Klingl stated publicly that firing the miners was warranted. "Our employees were loud and disruptive on company time and didn't allow our president to speak," he said.

After the hearings, Klingl said, "The dismissals were dropped because the company didn't think the employees initiated the Friday actions. It appeared there was outside intervention from the union leadership."

District 23 and international UMWA officers backed the miners. UMWA president Richard Trumka called the suspensions "an

outrageous assault on the rights of these workers to free speech and the right to engage in union activity."

Local 1793 president Charles Jones is a scoop operator and was one of the miners suspended. He said that Shiflett had intended to discuss contract issues as well as production levels at the mine.

"This was an effort to undermine our international leadership and get the rank and file to split. But Local 1793 sticks together 100 percent," Jones said.

Pat McAllister, another suspended miner, is a roof bolter who has worked at Peabody for 15 years. She said, "We told Shiflett he should have been in Washington talking contract, not down here telling us how to run coal."

One reason the company president held the meetings was to attempt to increase production at Peabody mines not currently on strike. The company claims the union is

orchestrating a work slowdown.

The miners explained they no longer produce coal in between shifts, but they have maintained high productivity during their regular eight-hour workday.

Morale is high among miners here. Members of Local 1793 say they are willing to do anything for the strike, including joining it when they are called out.

Jerry "Stretch" Jones said, "We need to support the UMWA, or any union. Solidarity is what all unions need at this time."

Maggie McCraw is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 368 in Miami. Liz Sommers, a laid-off Peabody miner, and member of United Transportation Union Local 1405 in St. Louis and Rick Walker, a member of Transport Workers Union Local 568 in Miami, also contributed to this article.

Pennsylvania miners join national strike

BY STEVE CARSON

ERNEST, Pennsylvania — The majority of the 1,250 coal miners now on strike in Pennsylvania work for Rochester and Pittsburgh (R and P), a member of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) that operates a group of mines northeast of Pittsburgh.

The Pennsylvania miners joined the national strike May 25 as the third wave in the current round of the union's fight for a contract with the BCOA.

R and P mines, scattered through the rolling Pennsylvania farmland of Armstrong and Indiana counties, provide coal for three electric power plants nearby whose tall smokestacks and steaming condensation towers dominate the scenery for miles.

The company has operated mines in this part of the state for many years and most of its mines are named after the daughters of the company's original two owners — Jane, Margaret, Lucerne, and so on. As one pit was exhausted, new entrances to the same coal seam were opened. Each new portal is given a new number. Mines now on strike include Margaret No. 11, Emily No. 4, and Lucerne nos. 6, 8, and 9. Several other R and P mines have not been called out on strike yet.

Ernest is a coal town of about 600 and is adjacent to the now closed Ernest mine which once employed up to 1,000 miners.

Many of the houses were built by the com-

pany. But the uniformity has broken down as the current owners do their own remodeling. Most residents are miners or retirees.

Ernest is home to United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) locals 1412 and 600 and a center of strike activity. UMWA president Richard Trumka spoke May 28 to about 400 miners at the Local 1412 hall during his tour of the recently struck mines.

Trumka introduced about 25 red-shirted unionists from nearby Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) and urged the miners to participate in a June 22 labor rally for the PPG workers.

On a typical evening the first week in June, the Local 1412 hall was bustling with activity. The women's auxiliary was meeting inside, while a number of union officials were gathered in the parking lot. Local 600 shares facilities at the union hall in Ernest. Two other locals, based in other towns, are also involved in the strike at this time.

Local 600 represents the Urling No. 1 mine. With 250 miners, it is the largest of the R and P mines currently on strike. Just less than a mile from Shelocta, off the main highway, a disciplined picket line is maintained round the clock. A miner told us the local voted to put money and labor into their picket shack. The result was a state-of-the-art shack, painted and trimmed.

They are all part of the union's District 2, with headquarters in Ebensburg, about 30 miles east of Ernest. A Rochester and Pitts-

burgh Council also coordinates the work of UMWA locals at the R and P mines.

The district and the council helped mobilize support for the 1989-90 strike against Eastern Airlines. Hundreds of miners from this area participated in walk-throughs at Pittsburgh International Airport and rallies in downtown Pittsburgh during the course of that struggle. Many of today's R and P strikers also participated in solidarity actions to support the Pittston miners' strike in 1989.

For some of the strikers on the picket lines at the Emily No. 4 mine near Whitesburg, however, this is the first time they are out for their own contract. Three miners in their mid-30s were baking potatoes on a charcoal grill one evening last week when a *Militant* reporter visited. They had been hired shortly after the last national contract strike in 1981, and remain close to the bottom of the mine's seniority list.

They said they are determined to do whatever is necessary to win this fight.

R and P is not one of the largest companies in the BCOA, but as one of the pickets said, "It's like anywhere else — they're the company and we're the workers."

There is little traffic on the country roads by the picket lines, but many drivers wave or toot their horns. The strikers say they feel they have good support in the community. Many miners feel the main local paper, the *Indiana Gazette*, is in R and P's back pocket and won't report their side fairly.

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

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

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

South Africa: Apartheid's Final Hour: an eyewitness report. Speaker: Brian Taylor, attended February 1993 International Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg, member of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 19, 4 p.m. Dwight Hall, 67 High Street (between Elm and Chapel). Donation: \$3. Tel: (203) 772-3375

FLORIDA

Miami

Video Showing: "The Frame-up of Mark Curtis" Sat., June 19, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Cuban Revolution Today: an eyewitness report. Speaker: Ernie Mailhot, participated in May Day demonstration in Havana, member of Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sun., June 20, 4:30 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Fight for Gay Rights Today: Why Working People Should Defend Gay Rights. Speaker: Karen Ray, Socialist Workers candidate for

Boston city councilor-at large, member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Local 311. Sat., June 19, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba. Video showing: "Friendshipment I, the successful caravan of material aid to Cuba in November 1992." Sat., June 19, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Germany Today: The Fight against Racism and for Workers' Unity- an eyewitness report. Speakers: John Cox, Robert Dees, participated in recent *Militant* reporting trip to Germany. Sat., June 19, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Defend Abortion Rights. Speakers: Brenda Green, Education Dept., Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania; Amy Husk Sanchez, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Cleveland, member of United Auto Workers Local 2000; Judy Venuti, E. Hills National Organization for Women. Sun., June 20, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

BRITAIN

Sheffield

The Cuban Revolution and the Fight for Socialism. Sat., June 19, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070. **Reports from Strike Battles.** Speakers will discuss Timex strike, Middlebrook mushroom workers fight, U.S. coal miners strike, and other struggles. Sat., June 26, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

Parties agree on date for South Africa elections

Continued from front page

208-member negotiating forum. However, as ANC leader Ramaphosa noted, once the date appears in South African headlines, it will take on a life of its own among the South African workers and peasants fighting for a democratic society.

In the week leading up to the election date announcement, an important compromise agreement was reached among the ANC, the National Party-government, and Inkatha, on the scenario for drawing up a new constitution. Inkatha and the government have now agreed to the ANC's demand that the constituent assembly elected next April have the sole power to write the final constitution.

In return, the ANC dropped its earlier objections to having the negotiating council write an interim constitution until the constituent assembly draws up a permanent one.

Transitional executive council

The next major step will be the installation of a transitional executive council to assume key governmental powers during the election campaign, including control over the armed forces and the media. An independent electoral commission must also be set up.

With the election date now in place, pressure will increase for all the parties to rapidly reach agreement on setting up these other bodies essential for carrying out a democratic election.

The ANC has said that once an election date is set and a transitional executive council is in place, it would support the lifting of economic sanctions against the South African government except those on arms and oil.

Washington had lifted most of its economic sanctions on South Africa in July 1991 after Pretoria repealed some apartheid laws. However, U.S. law still prohibits aid to either the South African government or any institution it supports. At the same time, 29 states and more than 130 cities and counties throughout the United States still enforce a policy of not doing business with companies that operate in South Africa.

The current chairperson of the European Community's Council of Ministers, Danish foreign minister Neils Petersen, told ANC president Nelson Mandela in late May that the EC was ready to help rebuild South Africa's economy once agreement was reached on forming a transitional executive council. U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher presented a similar position in a May 21 speech to the African-American Institute.

Feud over television board

A new feud erupted when de Klerk appointed a new 25-member board for the South African Broadcast Corp. (SABC) at the end of May. Several of the names on the list, including that of the chair, had been unilaterally changed by de Klerk from those submitted by an independent panel.

"We cannot accept that one man undermines a panel of jurists this way," Nelson Mandela commented. "If we lose this fight [de Klerk's ruling National Party] will go on the rampage and will do it again" with other bodies set up as part of the transition to a democratic South Africa.

"The credibility of the SABC board that will emerge from this process will always be in question," said an ANC statement, "not because of the individual merits or demerits

of the board members, but rather because State President de Klerk has by his meddling compromised the entire process."

For years SABC, a state-owned monopoly, functioned as a government mouthpiece promoting apartheid. It currently controls 3 television and 25 radio stations. Prior to 1975 the government kept television out of the country altogether, fearing that it might interfere with apartheid rule.

The ANC called on the new board members appointed through de Klerk's altered list "to decline on principle to assume their seats." After hearing a radio announcement of his appointment as SABC chairperson, Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, a former leader of the Progressive Federal Party, announced he would not accept the position. He described the situation as an "irretrievable mess."

Meanwhile, discussion continues on the proposal put forward by Mandela that the voting age be lowered to 14 for the upcoming South African election. According to the Johannesburg *Star*, church leaders had previously called for dropping the voting age to 16.

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the ANC issued a statement May 26 saying that after discussion the consensus in the committee was that giving the vote to those 18 and older "was reasonable." However, the statement continued, "Debate on the voting age is neither conclusive nor closed."

The ANC also held a conference May 22-23 on land distribution and property rights where the need to deal with the claims of those who have been dispossessed by apartheid was discussed.

"Legislation should be couched in such a way as to enable meaningful land reform processes to be implemented," said a statement issued by the ANC at the conclusion

of the conference.

"In particular, provision should be made for restoring land to those dispossessed by forced removals, securing rights against eviction to those who have long lived on a piece of land, guaranteeing housing

Forum discusses conditions in Haiti

BY STEPHANIE TRICE

NEW YORK — Jacques Magloire, general secretary of the Tenth Department organization in New York, spoke out against the threat of U.S. military intervention in Haiti at a Militant Labor Forum here May 29.

The Tenth Department, an organization of Haitians living abroad, is part of the fight to return the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, Magloire said. Haiti has been ruled by military-backed regimes since the army brass overthrew Aristide on Sept. 30, 1991.

The Haitian activist noted that over the last few years a range of mass organizations of workers, students, farmers, and fighters for democratic rights has developed in that country. These organizations, which have been fighting the dictatorial regime now in power, are overwhelmingly opposed to military intervention in Haiti.

Washington has been pushing for a 500-strong police force to intervene in the Caribbean country, supposedly to help restore democracy there.

In fact, the Tenth Department leader said, it is these "popular grass-roots organizations that the United States aims to crush" through military action. "The Haitian crisis," he insisted, "can only be resolved by the Haitian people."

Magloire added that Washington seeks to pressure Aristide to make increasing conces-

sions to the Haitian capitalists and to U.S. imperialism. "They want an Aristide that will be a puppet they can control," he said.

Joanne Wallador, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party, pointed out that Washington's moves toward intervention in Haiti — aimed at imposing stability for big-business interests — are a result of imperialism's weakness, not its strength. The growing political activity and resistance by working people in Haiti since they overthrew the U.S.-backed Duvalier dictatorship in 1986 "shows that the imperialists' 'new world order' is no more than the continuing decline of their old capitalist order," she explained.

Wallador said working-class fighters in the United States, such as striking coal miners and others, can be decisive allies of the Haitian people in the fight against U.S. intervention and domination of Haiti.

In response to mounting criticism of U.S. government policy on Haiti, U.S. president Bill Clinton announced June 4 that new sanctions would be applied against Haiti. The announcement came after U.S. special envoy Lawrence Pezzullo and United Nations envoy Dante Caputo failed to win agreement for stationing a 500-strong police force in Haiti. At first the Haitian army privately requested the force to protect itself, then publicly repudiated it.

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And everything else — The Air Force is refitting its nuclear missiles with cooling systems which do not



Harry Ring

use ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons. A spokesperson said it's "part of pollution prevention. We have a program to eliminate ozone-depleting chemicals."

McLandlord — With the continuing tumble of the ruble, McDonald's in Moscow is finding it

hard to make an adequate buck. So it's built a 12-story office building and is renting space — for hard \$\$\$ — to other foreign companies doing business there. A *Los Angeles Times* correspondent described the move as "a major advance in the company's strategy for turning a profit in the former Soviet Union."

P.S. — Apparently as another part of its breakthrough strategy, Moscow McDonald's is also peddling bread and milk in local groceries.

Guess which comes first — Rejecting the notion of conflict between ethics and the corporate bottom line, the ex-chairman of Stride Rite, which offers an assertedly medically beneficial children's

shoe, declares: "We're unashamedly out to make a profit and we're very much concerned about [children's] health. We run the business on both concerns."

New look — With a "capitalist facelift," GUM, the landmark Moscow department store, is no longer "a dreary reminder of communism's shortcomings," reports Associated Press. "Prices are roughly the same as in the West — and way out of reach for most Russians — but GUM is packed with window shoppers and the newly rich."

Death by overcare — "We must not mistake health care for health because they are not identical. I think too many people have too much health care. Health care is

our costliest national enterprise . . ." — Everett Koop, former U.S. surgeon general.

Eh? Two tickets for boxing match — "Most men never dreamed they could go out and spend \$75 for a pair of boxers. Men . . . have never stopped to consider the possibilities of their underwear wardrobe." — Manager of a chic Los Angeles men's undies shop.

Our fears were groundless — Noting a 43 percent jump in corporate faxing last year, a spokesman for the Pitney Bowes fax division chortled: "It shows that the paperless office prophesied by computer companies is not here and it's not close, either."

The march of civilization — Check out Virtual Vision Sports, a pair of 5-oz. sunglasses with a miniature display in the corner for screening TV or videos. Use it while riding the bus or cooking dinner, providing more free evening time for friends and family. Not recommended for use while driving. \$895.

Thought for the week — "WASHINGTON — The number of Americans receiving food stamps increased by almost half a million during a one-month period this spring — more than double the typical rate of growth and a chilling reflection of the limits of the current economic recovery, the Agriculture Department reported." — News item.

Alabama Steelworkers end strike at Trinity

BY DENISE McINERNEY AND BETSY FARLEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — After a battle that lasted eight and a half months, in which workers virtually shut down production at Trinity Industries here, the strike has ended. A settlement signed by the district staff representative of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), but not voted on by the membership of Local 9226, calls for the union to drop some of the charges it filed against the company with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Fifty-seven union members fired during the strike are not reinstated under this agreement, but charges filed on their behalf with the NLRB are still pending.

The company and union officials agreed to dismiss claims against one another that are pending in county court and the state supreme court. The company also agreed to drop its NLRB charges against the union, and the union will drop all pending arbitration and grievances.

After failing to recruit enough scabs to operate the plant, Trinity announced at the end of March its intention to close the railcar factory June 3. Although the company signed the settlement agreement, this does not guarantee the plant will remain open.

The signing of the agreement put into effect a contract that had been presented to the membership May 14. On that day, Local 9226 overwhelmingly rejected Trinity's demand that the union drop all of its pending NLRB charges, but approved by a vote of 356-36 an economic package that included a 13 percent wage increase over four years. The contract contains no improvement in the cost of workers' medical insurance.

At a June 4 local meeting, USWA District 36 staff representative Billy McColeman explained the terms of the settlement to the rank-and-file.

After that meeting, strikers expressed mixed feelings about the agreement. Union member Tracy Price said, "They broke off a part of the union when they fired the 57 people. But if they reopen the plant we go back with the union and we will have to continue to fight for people to get their jobs

back. If they close the plant, the union's gone, but we still beat them on the picket line."

Many strikers found out about the settlement through the news media. The local's negotiating committee was not part of the discussions that led to the agreement.

Many workers expressed anger toward union officials for how the agreement was reached. Local 9226 member Kerry Anthony stated, "Our problem was the leadership was not as strong as the membership. I'm not talking about the local people, but the ones above them."

Picket captain Alphonso Ragland said, "It's just wrong not to give us a chance to vote on the contract. It's unfair to the 57 men who are fired. If any go back, we should all go back together."

During the strike unionists faced many violent and provocative actions by Trinity. On October 12 hired goons tear-gassed a peaceful picket line. On other occasions, thugs hired by the company harassed and pointed guns at strikers. Shots were fired at the picket line. A scab shot one picket and pistol-whipped another January 4.

Strikers also faced attacks by the local cops and courts. Bessemer police escorted scabs into the plant. More than 25 strikers were arrested on frame-up charges ranging from harassment to assault. Many still face trials and potential jail sentences.

The local reached out for and won solidarity from many other unions, as well as from community and civil rights organizations and churches. Striker Alvin Darden said, "I went to Pittsburgh and raised \$4,000 for the union. We talked to students and steelworkers and got a lot of support. The Steelworkers from Ravenswood [West Virginia] sent our local a \$2,000 check."

After Trinity announced its plans to close the plant, Bessemer mayor Quitman Mitchell and other city officials launched an effort to keep it open. Mitchell traveled to Trinity's headquarters in Dallas and was deeply involved in the negotiations, which led to the settlement. The mayor had expressed anger and disappointment May 14 when the union rejected Trinity's demand that it drop all NLRB charges. Following the signing of the settlement, which dropped most of these charges, Mitchell told the press, "God has answered our prayers."

While Trinity's final decision on whether to keep the plant open is still pending, strikers and their supporters are evaluating the strike and its ending.

Sandra Turner, whose husband is a striker, said, "I sweated out there with the rest of them. I'm a part of this union too. It's our struggle." After expressing her disagreement with how the settlement was reached, she added, "But the strike made the union members stronger anyway. The purpose of the company was to break the union, and no matter what they tried, they couldn't do it."

"We had to go through a lot of things in the strike," Turner stressed. "People we thought were on our side at first, like the mayor and the cops, turned out to be against us. There's no question in my mind we were right to go on strike and keep fighting. No matter what happens."

Denise McInerney is a member of USWA Local 9226 and was a Trinity striker. Betsy Farley is a member of USWA Local 2122.



Militant/Denise McInerney
United Steelworkers members, pictured above, won solidarity from many other unions in their strike against Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama.

25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
Published in the interest of the Working People
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Responding to the call of the National Union of Students of France, 20,000 to 30,000 students marched through the streets of the Latin Quarter in Paris on the afternoon of June 1. After the speech of Gen. de Gaulle on May 30, and the subsequent Gaullist demonstration of some 400,000 on the Champs-Elysees, the students waited for the mass trade unions to take the initiative in continuing the struggle.

But the response of the General Federation of Labor and the Communist Party was to assure de Gaulle that they were willing to take the struggle off the streets, out of the factories, out of the universities, and, as they expressed it, accept the electoral challenge. The intention and the effect of the CP line is to demobilize the millions of workers whose struggle in recent weeks has reached such heights that one frequently hears the comment, "Not since the Commune of 1871 has Paris seen such a mobilization of the working masses."

THE MILITANT
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The latest outbreaks of violence and prejudiced action against Negroes and Mexicans have extended from coast to coast. They represent the most widespread and ominous attack on the victims of racial prejudice in any comparable period since the so-called race riots that followed World War I.

In [the Los Angeles] area, hundreds of Mexican and Negro youth and adults have

been beaten senseless and stripped naked on the streets by sailors, soldiers, and civilians; hundreds of others have been arrested without warrant. The capitalist press helped to incite these attacks, and many police stood by laughing while they were carried out.

In and around Los Angeles a considerable minority of the population is Mexican or of Mexican descent. They are victims of discrimination in much the same way that Negroes are in the South. They are not wanted in many restaurants, etc.; they are segregated in housing, and consequently in the schools; they are barred from many jobs; they are the victims of police persecution and brutality. Many of the youth form together in "gangs"; some of them wear "zoot suits" as a form of self-expression, as many Negro and white youth do.

The capitalist press has labored to create the impression that everyone wearing the zoot suit is a gangster, just as the New York press recently tried to smear every Negro as a "mugger." As a result of their propaganda, lies and half-truths they whipped up a certain hysteria against all dark-skinned people and helped to inflame the servicemen into vigilante action, praising them after the fighting had begun for doing a better job against the "gangsters" and "petty crooks" than the cops had done. The servicemen, joined by anti-Mexican elements, went after everyone with a dark skin. The City Council voted to make the wearing of zoot suits a misdemeanor; the police arrested a lot of Mexicans and Negroes.

What is necessary is an end to all discrimination and segregation practices against Mexicans and Negroes in industry, in social life, in housing, in the press, plus enforcement of their democratic rights, plus a widespread and deep-going educational program on the meaning and effect of race discrimination, which can be launched most effectively under the leadership of the labor movement.

Texas inmate wins stay of execution

Continued from page 6

Graham's defense committee 30 days to continue fighting for his life and to clear his name. The court of appeals refused, however, to grant a new trial based on the new evidence. It rendered its decision citing a pending legal dispute over whether a person's youth should be considered in sentencing. Graham was 17 years old at the time of the murder.

Kevin Stokes, Graham's oldest brother, told the rally participants and mass of reporters present, "I have been in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years. I've been in Saudi Arabia, Somalia . . . but the real battle is here." He pledged to continue to fight to free his brother and urged the crowd to redouble its efforts.

More than 50 people attended a meeting the following evening to organize the next steps in the defense campaign.

Another victory in South Africa

The announcement in early June that South Africa's first one-person, one-vote elections will occur April 27, 1994, represents a big victory for all those fighting for a democratic, nonracial, nonsexist South Africa.

The gains won at the negotiating table flow from the African National Congress's perspective of building a disciplined mass movement that relies on the power of South Africa's workers and rural toilers.

ANC president Nelson Mandela has taken every opportunity to explain and help advance this perspective. At a May 2 memorial rally for former ANC national chairman Oliver Tambo, for example, he said to those assembled: "We can see that we have it in our power to transform South Africa into what you want it to be — free, just, prosperous, and at peace within itself and the world."

The multiparty talks, involving representatives from 26 political organizations, had resumed at the beginning of April after an earlier round of negotiations broke down in May 1992.

Just ten days into the talks, rightist forces intent on busting up the negotiating process assassinated ANC leader and general secretary of the South African Communist Party Chris Hani. This blow directed at the ANC leadership, however, was transformed into its opposite through a powerful mass action campaign led by the ANC demanding the setting of an election date and the installation of a Transitional Executive Council with control over the armed forces and media.

Two massive one-day strikes involving millions of South African workers occurred in mid-April, as well as huge demonstrations in cities and towns throughout the country. Building on this momentum, the ANC called for and led a successful mass action campaign throughout the month of May to keep the pressure on for more rapid progress at the multiparty talks.

Through it all the ANC emerged with enhanced prestige and authority and the democratic movement won new ground.

More opportunities are opening up for the ANC to advance its nonracial perspective through the course of the election campaign. A decisive ANC victory will put a new democratic government in the strongest position to help advance the fight of working people for land, unionization, and economic and social justice. And it will open new prospects for the revolutionary struggle by the working class and its allies to advance their class interests.

Solidarity with the ANC and support for its election campaign by workers, youth, and all democratic-minded people around the world is more important today than ever to help working people in South Africa "walk the final mile" to freedom. And an ANC victory, in turn, will be a big boost to fighters worldwide standing up to exploitation and oppression.

Working people in the United States will have an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the ANC's election campaign and how they can help when Nelson Mandela visits the country for 12 days starting June 25.

Asylum now for Chinese workers

The criminal treatment by U.S. authorities of nearly 300 workers who arrived in New York City from China after a four-month voyage under subhuman conditions should be protested loudly by the labor movement.

The government should release these workers now. They should be afforded decent housing and jobs. Many are in need of urgent medical care. Instead, federal authorities sent a gang of cops to handcuff the young workers right on the shore and drag them off to jail. Based on a new policy instituted by the Clinton administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is planning to keep the refugees incarcerated for up to two years while their asylum claims are processed. This is a gross violation of constitutional rights. They have quickly been dispersed to prisons outside of New York — far away from family, friends, and legal assistance. Officials in Washington have made it clear they intend to reject the workers' asylum applications.

The big-business media and politicians are now crying crocodile tears over the plight of Chinese workers who are forced into indentured servitude by smugglers like those who ran the ship *Golden Venture*.

In a June 9 editorial, the *New York Times* deplored the existence of "slavery, in New York, in 1993." The editors cynically argued that "lenient" asylum policies toward Chinese immigrants are to blame, and that Washington should crack down on immigration.

Congressman Charles Schumer echoed this theme at a press conference he called outside the INS detention center in New York where many of the refugees were initially detained. "This country is full," he declared, "and we have to restrict the entry of illegals." The Democratic congressman, who is sponsoring legislation to tighten political asylum laws, tried to prettify his reactionary stance by calling the deaths of the eight workers who did not make

it to shore "a tragedy in every way."

The smuggling rings that big-business politicians hypocritically decry, however, are not some isolated operation. They are simply a capitalist business that is completely intertwined with — and helps supply — many major industries. The barons of the garment, meat-packing, construction, and hotel and restaurant industries, not to mention agriculture, could not do without immigrant labor and have no intention of stopping it.

The capitalist rulers are only concerned about one thing — to make sure that immigrant workers remain a super-exploited layer of second-class citizens. They use the INS cops and restrictive immigration laws to enforce that status.

Working people have opposite interests from the employers. The criminalization of workers from other countries — through immigration restrictions, deportations, and INS terror — is used to divide the working class and must be opposed.

Immigration into the United States and other imperialist countries has in fact strengthened the working class, which over the past decades has become more multinational and less susceptible to the bosses' chauvinist and racist propaganda. Immigrant workers have brought their own political experiences and help lead working-class struggles. Chinese garment workers in Boston, for example, recently went on strike against unbearable working conditions and subminimum wages. On May 25 they won, forcing the employer to recognize their union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and agree to wage increases and health benefits.

The labor movement should oppose any restrictions to immigration and fight to organize immigrant as well as native-born workers into unions.

Unionists and other working people should demand that the Chinese refugees be freed and granted asylum now.

Abortion rights fighters to take on Operation Rescue in Minnesota

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — Defenders of abortion rights here are debating how to counter most effectively the start of Operation Rescue's national cadre-training summer school in a nearby suburb, scheduled for June 14.

Operation Rescue (OR) plans to assemble 44 people to undergo 12 weeks of "boot camp." Participants are taught how to identify, track, and harass employees of abortion clinics and patients seeking abortions there.

During a similar training camp session in Pensacola, Florida, earlier this year, David Gunn, the doctor at a nearby abortion clinic, was murdered by a follower of the antiabortion group Rescue America.

The Minnesota training camp is part of Operation Rescue's July 9-18 "Cities of Refuge" campaign. Seven U.S. cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, have been targeted.

More than 300 abortion rights activists participating in a June 5 clinic defense training session took leaflets to help build a June 14 rally in Loring Park, in downtown Minneapolis. The event will feature a wide array of speakers and entertainment. It is sponsored by the Network to Ensure Access (NEA), the principal group organizing the defense of abortion clinics in this area.

In recent weeks, nearly 1,000 people have gone through NEA-organized sessions to train activists to escort patients at women's clinics, and more are scheduled.

The overwhelming majority of people in these gatherings are getting involved in clinic defense for the first time. Most are in their twenties or younger.

The coalition, however, has stopped short of organizing massive mobilizations to physically keep the clinics open.

Leaders of the NEA argue that a series of laws and injunctions passed in recent months make mass clinic defense unnecessary and illegal.

In presentations to an overflow crowd of 350 clinic escort trainees in early May, Mike Carlson, a part-time security guard at the Robbinsdale Clinic near here, spoke for the NEA. "In the past there have been rallies and large counterdemonstrations at the clinics," he said. "Pro-choice advocates have gathered to counterprotest the demonstrations staged by the antiabortion rights forces and to defend the clinics from blockades or rescues."

"That has changed," Carlson said. "Injunctions that have been granted to various clinics and their staff members here in the Twin Cities and in Duluth [Minnesota], not only apply to the antichoice terrorists but to pro-choice supporters and escorts. 'You should not be here if you are seeking large counterdemonstration rallies' at the clinics, he said.

Other pro-choice activists, have questioned this view.

"The best days we had at Robbinsdale," one clinic defender said at a training session, "was when we outnumbered Operation Rescue. That's when the patients felt the most confidence, when they knew who we were and that we were there for them."

At a packed meeting called by the Progressive Student Organization (PSO) at the University of Minnesota several weeks ago to organize opposition to Operation Rescue, PSO leader Steff Yorek stressed the importance of the methods used to defend abortion clinics in Buffalo, New York, in 1991. "It's simple," she said. "We defeated them in Buffalo because we had massive numbers. We kept the clinics open, not the police."

"Perhaps in an ideal world the police will enforce the laws and everything will go according to plan," said Christy Ruggiero, a clinic defense trainer for the NEA and a University of Minnesota student. "But that's not going to happen. We know that from what's gone on at other clinics."

"We're going to have to be ready to be there in huge numbers," she said. "We're the ones that are going to keep the clinics open."

"The biggest, broadest, most disciplined mobilization possible can turn back Operation Rescue," said auto worker Kari Sachs. Sachs, who has participated in clinic defense activities, is the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of St. Paul and a member of the United Auto Workers union. "Working people overwhelmingly oppose OR's rightist hooliganism," she pointed out.

To register for clinic defense training and for more information on the June 14 rally, call the NEA Pro-Choice Hotline at (612) 871-7003.

Jon Hillson is a switchman on the Burlington Northern railroad and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1000. Tom O'Brien contributed to this article.

CORRECTIONS

An article in the June 14 issue of the *Militant* entitled, "'End embargo of Cuba,' U.S. activists demand," referred to a donation by a Cuban-American of \$1.2 million worth of vitamin B to help treat the optic neuritis epidemic in Cuba. What was actually donated was 1.2 million vitamin B tablets.

In the same issue, an article entitled, "Killer cop in Miami is acquitted," referred to Lloyd and Blanchard as the two individuals riding a motorcycle and being chased by the police. The article did not mention their full names, Clement Lloyd, 23, and Allan Blanchard, 24, were residents of the Overtown section of Miami.

A blow to Clinton's Haiti policy

A federal judge's ruling that ordered the closing of what he called the U.S. government's "HIV prison camp" for Haitian refugees at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo is an important victory for working people. It is a powerful rebuke to Washington's entire criminal policy toward the Haitian people.

For the past year Clinton, like his predecessor George Bush, has enforced a policy that amounts to piracy on the high seas. The U.S. navy has stopped boatloads of thousands of Haitian refugees fleeing political persecution and forcibly returned them into the hands of Haiti's military rulers.

The resignation of Marc Bazin, Haiti's military-appointed prime minister, is a sign of the difficulty the Haitian capitalists have in suppressing the fight by working people against military rule. During the past few years workers, peasants, students, and other fighters for democratic rights have succeeded in forming and strengthening their own political organizations and have continued to resist the regime despite the repressive conditions.

Ousted Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown by the army in 1991, recently described

Haiti as a country near "a social explosion."

The U.S. government announced plans for foreign military intervention in Haiti, not to help restore democracy as it stated, but with the aim of crushing the growing struggles and organization of Haitian workers and peasants. Washington, however, had to back away from its initial proposal for a 500-member international police force to be sent to Haiti. The Haitian army had requested this force to protect itself, but was forced to publicly repudiate it under the impact of the mass opposition to imperialist intervention.

Now is the time for the labor movement and all supporters of democratic rights to redouble their efforts in solidarity with the struggle of the Haitian people. Working people in the United States and around the world should join our Haitian brothers and sisters and demand:

- No military intervention in Haiti!
- End the policy of forced repatriation. Open the U.S. borders to Haitian refugees!
- Enforce the economic embargo!
- For the immediate return of Aristide to office in Haiti.

Textile workers defeat union decertification effort

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

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

A National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) administrative judge ruled May 11 that Highland Yarn Mills in

a membership card.

Dung My Nguyen, a Vietnamese worker, was told she had to sign a decertification card to keep her job. My Saveth, a Cambodian worker, was told she should sign because the "big boss" said so. Somchay Sosep-saengneva, a Laotian worker, signed because she was told to even though she had no idea what the card said.

Manuel Trammel, an experienced fixer (mechanic), was fired a few days before his probation was up. Trammel had told his supervisor that he was planning to join the union. The judge ordered the company to offer Trammel a comparable job and back pay.

Antiunion workers were permit-

found dust exceeding 1,000 micrograms per cubic meter in some work areas. Prior to this, when workers complained about the dust in the air, they were threatened.

Canada rally supports gold miners' strike

One year after the start of the strike at Royal Oak gold mines in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, more than 200 strikers, their families, unionists, and other supporters marched to the mine site May 3 where Royal Oak is operating with replacement labor. "Scabs go home" shouted many in the crowd.

"We'll last one day longer than Royal Oak" was the theme of the rally and march organized by the Northwest Territories (NWT) Federation of Labor, together with the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers Union (CASAW) Local 4, which represents 240 striking gold miners at Royal Oak.

The event was a big success. The NWT Federation of Labor convention, which had been held that weekend, ended its sessions just before the march and delegates who represent 10,000 unionists in the region demonstrated in solidarity with CASAW.

Clarence Eden, a march participant and member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 802, explained "I'm here today because we all have to support CASAW. We're next in line. People in Canada should understand this is everybody's fight."

Eden works at nearby Nerco Con gold mine where more than 300 USWA members are preparing for a possible strike against concessions demanded by the company.

Among the trade union officials leading the march were: Darrel Tingley, president of the Canadian

Union of Postal Workers; Jess Succamore, British Columbia director of the Canadian Autoworkers Union; and Harry Seeton, president of CASAW Local 4. The parade stretched for a quarter of a mile to the mine site.

On May 21 there was another march and rally through the streets of Yellowknife to the courthouse to protest the May 11 jailing of

miners faced cop violence, court injunctions, and a vicious frame-up campaign by the media, the cops, and the company. The attempted frame-up blames the strikers for a Sept. 18, 1992, explosion which killed nine replacement workers. But there is not a shred of evidence to incriminate any striker.

Since the conflict began 240 criminal and civil charges have been filed against union members. Forty-five union members have been unjustly fired because of picket line activities.

On May 3, the federal labor board ruled against the application submitted by a company union at Royal Oak. CASAW said that they are happy the scabs were rejected but that the decision sets a dangerous precedent for the labor movement. The ruling states that replacement workers have a right to be represented by CASAW and have a say in any contract offer by the company.

CASAW strikers will tour Quebec starting June 15, and attend several union conventions in other parts of the country.

CASAW member Marvin Tremblett just returned from British Columbia where \$8,500 was raised in six days.

In a victory for the strikers at Royal Oak, the unemployment insurance commission recently ruled that the strikers are eligible for benefits dating back to last June.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Bruce Kimball, a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1391 from Greensboro, North Carolina; Ned Dmytryshyn, a member of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 213 from Vancouver, British Columbia.



Militant/Ned Dmytryshyn
Family auxiliary member at May 22 commemoration of anniversary of gold miners' strike in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

CASAW striker Al Shearing. Shearing was given a five-month sentence for possession of a sling-shot and one month for throwing a piece of a broomhandle at a Pinkerton security guard's truck. He also faces one year probation and ten-year firearms prohibition.

Since May 22, 1992, 240 members at CASAW has waged a determined struggle against Royal Oak's drive for major concessions on safety and seniority rights. From day one the company tried to bust the union with the use of replacement workers. The striking

ON THE PICKET LINE

High Point, North Carolina, had to recognize and bargain collectively with members of Local 319-T of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), which has represented workers at the mill for more than 50 years.

This ruling was in response to a union decertification campaign by the company, which used harassment, threats, lies, disciplinary actions, and firings against workers at the mill over the past two years.

The plant has about 320 workers, many of them immigrants from Korea, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Pakistan, Mexico, and El Salvador. A leaflet distributed by the union explaining the victory was written in English, Spanish, and Arabic.

The company especially targeted immigrant workers in its decertification campaign. The NLRB decision cites a number of cases. For example, Gumaro Castellón was told by supervisors to sign a decertification card so that the company would give him more work. Otherwise, he was told, the company would close the plant. After finding out later what the card was about, Castellón said he wanted to be in the union and signed

ted to roam throughout the plant soliciting decertification signatures while prounion employees were threatened and disciplined.

Highland Yarn claimed that 181 workers had signed decertification cards, and informed the union on Dec. 9, 1991, that it was withdrawing recognition. Its contract with ACTWU expired Feb. 9, 1992.

Last September, Highland Yarn received the largest fine ever imposed on a North Carolina textile mill by the state occupational safety and health agency. The fine of \$80,000 was primarily for exceeding dust standards established by law in the mid-1980s. Cotton dust, inhaled over a period of time, causes byssinosis, or brown lung, an irreversible deterioration of the lungs.

According to medical studies, the federal standard of 200 micrograms of dust per cubic meter will result in about 15 percent of all workers developing brown lung after prolonged exposure. A 100 microgram standard, which was originally sought by the Carolina Brown Lung Association and ACTWU, would result in about 8 percent of all workers developing the disease.

At Highland Yarn, state inspectors

LETTERS

'Free' trade I

The *Militant* has been generous in providing me space to state my position on the North American "free" trade agreements in response to Doug Jenness. I hope you will permit me to clarify a key point where, in my view, Jenness seriously misconstrues my argument in your May 17 issue.

Contrary to Jenness's contention, I do not advocate "becoming part of" the movement against "free" trade led by the union bureaucracy and I do not propose constructing a "socialist wing of the anti-NAFTA campaign."

As I stated in the May 17 *Militant*, "slogans like 'Stop NAFTA now' and the campaigns they promote imply support for protectionism and set working people on the dead-end course of capitalist reform and class-collaboration."

"Free trade abrogation is a diversion," was the headline of my article on the trade deals in the May/June issue of *Canadian Dimension*. The demand for abrogation of the trade pacts, I wrote in opposition to the magazine's editorial policy, "serves no independent working-class political need."

"To the contrary, in fact, the demand for abrogation diverts working people down the dead-end path of national capitalist reform. It belongs in the realm of electoral maneuvers and the pursuit of coalitions with 'progressive' capitalist forces. Why not leave it to the reformists, with their pipe dream of a humane capitalism?"

In opposition to the protectionist anti-NAFTA campaign of the union

brass and its allies, I agree with Jenness unreservedly, socialists are obliged to *counterpose* the need for an international campaign for jobs on the basis of class-struggle policies such as he outlines.

But, I argue, that should not lead socialists to trivialize the anti-working-class repercussions of the "free" trade deals or inhibit us from stating opposition to these capitalist pacts from a working-class standpoint. (That is not to propose, I reiterate, making opposition to the trade deals an element in our program of demands.)

Socialists explain that the jobs crisis is rooted in the fundamental workings of the profit system and cannot be resolved on the terrain of capitalist trade relations. Without isolating and elevating trade policy to an unwarranted status, we should also acknowledge that the "free" trade deals promote capitalist restructuring that exacerbates the jobs crisis internationally.

In any event, our internationalist jobs program is *counterposed* as well to the "free trade" route to "national prosperity and full employment" promoted by the capitalist ruling classes. Doesn't that amount to opposition to NAFTA? Howard Brown
Rosetown, Saskatchewan

'Free' trade II

I'm sorry if Howard Brown believes I've misconstrued his views on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and I'm glad that he doesn't advocate joining the movement against it, even as a critical wing. I can only urge readers

to reread the contributions to this discussion that Brown and I have made (See April 24 and May 17 issues of the *Militant*) and determine for themselves whether or not I misjudged in stating that what he wrote elevated the NAFTA issue to an unwarranted position and implicitly gave back-handed support to building a socialist wing of the anti-NAFTA campaign.

There's two points that I believe I could have made clearer. In the context of the stagnation of world trade and stepped-up rivalry between capitalists today, imposition of protectionist measures is the dominant feature of capitalist trade policy. And this tendency will continue to deepen. There is no real movement toward free trade as there was, for example, by Britain in the early part of the nineteenth century. Even the so-called free trade deals like NAFTA are aimed primarily at building a protectionist barrier around North America. Arguing before the Senate Commerce Committee last month, U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor stated, "If we fail to approve the NAFTA we won't get its benefits. In fact, it could go backward, and frankly, open up opportunities for the Japanese or other countries to come in and take advantage of what we will not take advantage of."

There is no special need for working people to single out this or that trade deal between capitalists in the United States and other countries. Our task is to fight for measures to protect ourselves from the worsening ravages of the capitalist

depression.

The central problem that we face in relation to NAFTA is not the economic repercussions, whatever they might be. Rather, it's the *political* problem posed by the labor officialdom's anti-NAFTA campaign. We must clearly state they transmit political poison into the labor movement reinforcing chauvinist notions about defending U.S. companies, U.S. jobs, U.S.-made products, and ultimately the U.S. government and its foreign policies, including wars. This saps the possibilities of deepening class solidarity between workers of different countries.

Moreover, the anti-NAFTA campaign reinforces the idea that we can only fight for jobs by joining with our own employers, i.e., our exploiters, in an effort to make them more competitive. This undermines the capacity of working people to build an independent movement that relies on our own collective strength.

Doug Jenness
St. Paul, Minnesota

Kashmir conflict

On May 10, I attended a meeting on "Kashmir: Inside the Killing Fields" in Atlanta sponsored by the Muslim Students Association at Georgia Tech. The meeting, attended by about 250 people, featured an eyewitness account of life in Indian-controlled Kashmir today by William W. Baker, author of a book on Palestine titled *Theft of a Nation* and president of Christians and Muslims for Peace, recently spent 15 days in Indian-con-

trolled Kashmir.

A video which he made and smuggled out of Kashmir documents Indian atrocities against Kashmiris, including the shooting of ambulance drivers and 10-year-old children, the massacre of funeral marchers, etc. A Kashmiri cardiovascular surgeon interviewed by Baker about health conditions under Indian occupation was assassinated shortly after the interview.

Baker disputed Indian claims that the rebellion in Kashmir is the work of a small band of "militants," or that Pakistan is behind the uprising. All the Kashmiris he spoke with, said Baker, wanted to be neither part of India nor of Pakistan. What the Kashmiris wanted, Baker said, was the right to vote on their status in a plebiscite, a right which the Indian government refuses to grant. Baker condemned the "U.S. dominated United Nations," which has refused to enforce U.N. resolutions supporting Kashmiri self-determination dating from 1948. Baker is currently on a four-month lecture tour speaking about Kashmir and showing his video at campuses across the U.S.

Bob Braxton
Atlanta, Georgia

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.

Timex workers reject concessions

BY ANN FIANDER

MANCHESTER, England — Members of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU), who have been locked out of the Timex factory in Dundee, Scotland, for the past three months, voted unanimously June 3 to reject a company proposal one union official described as "draconian." At a mass meeting they turned down a plan, worked out in eight weeks of secret negotiations between union officials and management, which would have slashed their pay and benefits 27 percent.

The workers are pushing ahead with their fight and organizing an all-day solidarity rally outside the factory June 19. Trade unionists and supporters from all over Britain are invited to attend.

On Christmas Eve 1992, Timex managing director Peter Hall announced that half the 343 shop floor workers would be laid off for six months. The company rejected the union's offer to rotate the layoffs, saying that management alone would make this decision. The union went on strike January 29.

The company then agreed to the union's proposals on layoffs but added new proposals to cut benefits, pensions, and canteen subsidy, and imposed a pay freeze and cuts in holiday and overtime rates.

The union voted February 14 to accept the layoffs plan and returned to work under protest. But when workers arrived at the plant the next day they found the gates locked and police waiting outside to prevent



Timex workers in Scotland after June 3 meeting where they rejected concession plan

them from entering.

Layoff notices were delivered to the workers' homes two days later. The company also brought in replacement workers, who were transported into the factory by bus.

The locked-out workers organized a picket line and elected a strike committee. But they were constrained by law to limit the picket line to six people. "Now the employers are trying to criminalize us," stated Charlie Malone union steward and

strike committee member.

The Timex workers, however, have not been intimidated. The majority regularly participate in picket duty and dozens have spoken publicly to explain their case, traveling throughout the country to win solidarity.

The Timex unionist spoke at a rally of rail workers in Manchester during a joint day of strike action by rail workers and miners. A few AEEU-organized workers at the GEC Traction factory traveled to Dundee to support the Timex workers.

Timex workers say they have no alternative but to fight. Strike committee member Abe Low recalled the successful battle workers waged against forced layoffs in 1983. "Ten years ago we won by occupying the factory," he said. Since then Timex has closed all by one of its factories in the Dundee area and over 3,000 workers lost their jobs. Low concluded, "Today the only way to win is to do what we are doing: organizing an active picket line; moving out around the country, speaking to trade unions and factory gate meetings; and mobilizing local and national actions on a weekly and monthly timescale."

The Timex workers called two national protest actions, and have won support from the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), and many other unions around the country.

During a weekend of protest May 15-17, 3,000 unionists took part in a march called by the Scottish Trades Union Congress, and another 3,000 people joined a mass picket and rally.

AEEU president Bill Jordan and executive council member Jimmy Airlie visited the picket line and attended the march.

The rally was addressed by National Union of Mineworkers president Arthur Scargill, a leader of the Scottish National Party, and a Labour Party member of Parliament.

Bill Loxton, a member of the National Communications Union from Glasgow, Scotland, contributed to this article.

Australia activist wins victory over cop frame-up

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia — Rosemarie Gillespie, a human rights lawyer active in supporting the independence movement on the island of Bougainville to the northeast of Australia, has won a rapid victory here against a police frame-up on drug charges.

She was arrested May 27 near the town of Wagga Wagga, 285 miles southwest of Sydney. The police seized two cartons of antibiotics and antimalarial tablets that had been donated as medical aid for Bougainville and charged her with 50 counts of "supplying a restricted substance," each of which carry a maximum two-year sentence.

Gillespie is a prominent spokesperson in the campaign to oppose the war being waged by the governments of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Australia against Bougainville's secession from Papua New Guinea. She was on a national speaking tour at the time of her arrest, after returning from a five-month visit to Bougainville in March.

The arrest, which got national publicity, sparked a campaign of protest around Australia. Just one week later, on June 3, the New South Wales director of public prosecutions announced that the charges would be dropped. The medicines were returned June 6.

There was a "snowstorm of protest from people of all walks of life, all over Australia," Gillespie said in an interview. "It was public pressure" that forced the prosecutor to drop the charges, she said. "If it hadn't happened, I would be facing jail."

"The real criminals are the ones who are stopping the medicines getting through," she added.

The collapse of the frame-up has enabled Gillespie to proceed with plans to take part in a delegation from the Bougainville Freedom Movement that is traveling to Vienna in June to speak to the UN-sponsored World Conference on Human Rights about abuses by the military in Bougainville.

In May 1990 Bougainville declared itself independent from Papua New Guinea, following the imposition of a tight naval blockade of the island by the PNG government with Australian military backing. Papua

New Guinea Defence Force units that had been sent to the island to reopen the giant Australian-owned copper mine at Panguna, in the center of the island, had earlier been forced to withdraw from Bougainville by the proindependence forces.

The Panguna mine was closed in May 1989 following a protest campaign by indigenous landowners demanding a greater share of revenues from the mine and compensation for the environmental devastation caused by its operation. The brutal military response to the landholders' protests ignited an independence struggle across the island.

More than 5,000 people, including 2,000 children, have died in Bougainville of preventable diseases due to lack of medicines since the blockade was imposed. The island's population numbers some 200,000.

The PNG Defence Force has reoccupied some coastal villages since February 1991. At the end of 1992 it launched a major military offensive aimed at breaking the

back of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. That organization, which is waging the independence struggle, continues to control most of the island, however.

Moses Havini, the Sydney-based international representative of the Bougainville interim government said, in a news release on the frame-up of Gillespie, "The blockading of Bougainville by Australia and Papua New Guinea has now moved south into the State of New South Wales."

"First we have Australian-supplied Irakoquois helicopter gunships, patrol boats, small arms ammunition used by the Papua New Guinea military to enforce the blockade on Bougainville, and now the Australian police to stop humanitarian aid," he said.

In a statement issued the day after the arrest, Sid Spindler, an Australian Democratic senator in the federal Parliament, protested the "selective and obviously premeditated targeting" of Gillespie.

"The bulk of the medicines she was carrying are several thousand capsules and tablets

... donated by the Alfred and Royal Children's Hospital to the Australian Humanitarian Aid to Bougainville group in Melbourne, which handed them to Rosemarie to deliver to Bougainville," he said.

"If this is an offense," the senator added, "then what is the situation of the many church and other aid workers and organizations who have assisted in this and other similar humanitarian aid projects involving life-saving but 'prescribed' drugs."

Gillespie has accused the Australian government of "trying to keep the lid on the question of human rights abuses by the Papua New Guinea Armed Forces and the use of Australian-supplied helicopter gunships." A spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra responded in the June 1 *Sydney Morning Herald* that "we don't regard Bougainville as being an independent country. We don't support those aspirations. We think Bougainville's internal affairs should be left to the Papua New Guinea government."

Cuba solidarity effort grows in Australia

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia — A national ship to Cuba campaign concluded successfully here last month, with the visit of Basilio Gutiérrez, head of the Asia department of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples. Gutiérrez spoke to hundreds of people at meetings in seven cities and participated in a national meeting in Canberra of the Australia Cuba Friendship Society and other Cuba solidarity groups. He then went on to tour New Zealand, visiting three cities.

At the public meetings in Sydney and Wollongong, Gutiérrez explained the difficulties facing the Cuban revolution today. He said he thought that while the worst of the economic crisis caused by the U.S. economic embargo and the collapse of trade with the former Soviet bloc countries is still ahead, the deepest part of the crisis of confidence in the revolution among many Cubans, sparked by the economic difficulties, is now over.

At the national solidarity conference in Canberra, Gutiérrez said the February election to Cuba's national and provincial assemblies showed that despite the country's economic crisis, the overwhelming majority of the Cuban people are united in support of the revolution. He explained that they need financial support but more importantly moral and political support. What is needed, he said, is to step up the political pressures in an international campaign against the U.S. embargo of Cuba.

The Ship to Cuba campaign raised A\$85,000 in cash and more than A\$300,000 (A\$1.50=US\$1.00) in material goods — more than has ever been raised here before for Cuba. Organizers of the campaign decided that because of the distance and difficulties of shipping between Australia and Cuba, rather than sending a ship it would be better to send the money. It will be used to purchase urgently needed vitamins to help combat the recent out-

break of optic neuritis in Cuba.

The conference launched a new campaign of Solidarity for Development to raise the money needed this year to install solar power systems to electrify family doctor clinics in the Sierra Maestra mountains and next year for the construction of child-care centers in Cuba.

Speaking at Gutiérrez's farewell dinner, Marcelino Fajardo, the new Cuban consul general to Australia, declared, "Sooner or later the blockade has to be lifted, history is with us." But, he stated, the lifting of the embargo will "open a new period more difficult than the present one," adding, "We have to prepare for confusion." At the solidarity conference he said, "We will defend the revolution but it will take a political and ideological battle."

Linda Harris is a member of the Automotive, Metal and Engineering Union. Ron Poulson, a member of the Food Preservers' Union, also contributed to this article.