

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Strike wave bursts
across South Africa

— PAGE 4

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500,000 Cubans mobilize in defense of revolution

Workers, youth battle antigovernment rioters

BY MARTÍN
KOPPEL

Half a million Cuban working people and youth poured into Havana's Plaza of the Revolution August 7 to express their outrage at the murder of a young police officer by hijackers who had tried to commandeer a local ferry to the United States. The mass mobilization followed an unprecedented battle two days earlier on Havana's waterfront between a crowd of hundreds of antigovernment rioters and thousands of workers who support the revolution.

Both the workers' mobilizations and a recent series of boat hijackings are part of a class polarization in Cuba that is sharpening in the face of a severe economic crisis. Many, especially from the middle-class layers of professionals, have reacted to the economic problems with despair and demoralization. While the working class has been hit hardest by the inflation and black market trading in dollars, support for Cuba's socialist revolution remains strongest there.

Five hijackings have occurred in the past month. In a July 13 incident that drew international attention, a group of 63 people



Members of Blas Roca Contingent at mass mobilization in Havana, August 7. Two days earlier, as news of riots spread, thousands of youth and workers poured spontaneously into the city to defend socialist revolution. "The streets belong to the revolutionaries!" they chanted.

commandeered an old wooden tugboat in the Havana harbor and headed toward the United States. The rickety boat sank seven miles out to sea when a pursuing Cuban vessel accidentally collided with it; 32 people drowned.

On July 26 and again on August 3, armed hijackers seized ferries that normally shuttle commuters between Old Havana and East Havana. In both cases, Cuban patrol boats allowed the ferries to

be intercepted in international waters by the U.S. Coast Guard, which gave the hijackers asylum.

A fourth water taxi with a load of passengers was seized August 4 by a group of men carrying guns and grenades. The hijackers killed Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, a 19-year-old police officer who tried to stop them. The boat ran out of gas and Cuban authorities towed it back to Havana, re-

Continued on page 12

Rightist thug kills doctor in front of Florida clinic

BY JANET POST
AND KAY SEDAM

PENSACOLA, Florida — "I don't walk backward for no one," declared Pat Jones from the staff of The Ladies Center clinic here where abortions are performed. "And I will continue to do my job." Jones was one of many speakers at an August 1 rally

Send federal troops to defend
clinics now! — editorial page 14

at the Escambia County Courthouse to protest the murder of Dr. John Britton and volunteer escort James Barrett at the clinic.

Britton, 69, and Barrett, 74, were shot in the head at close range with a 12-gauge shotgun by antiabortion rights terrorist Paul Hill on July 29 as they arrived for work at the clinic. Barrett's 68-year-old wife, June, also a clinic escort, was injured in the shooting.

June Barrett is a member of the National
Continued on page 5

Labor resistance, youth's revulsion to capitalism's evils at center of SWP convention

BY NAOMI CRAINE
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

OBERLIN, Ohio — At a four-day convention of the Socialist Workers Party here August 3-7, delegates discussed and

Young Socialists form national
organization — page 16

adopted a resolution analyzing the central world economic and political developments of today. Entitled "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War," the resolution formed the basis of convention reports discussing the party's work in defense of the socialist revolution in Cuba, the upswing this year in labor resistance to employer attacks on the working class and unions, how to respond most effectively to mounting rightist demagoguery and thug assaults, and new opportunities to win young

Continued on page 8

Caterpillar strikers turn back scabs

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

YORK, Pennsylvania — After 42 days on the picket line, members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) on strike against Caterpillar pushed back a company-

organized back-to-work campaign. Caterpillar is acting as the point man in the employers' assault on working people today.

As dawn broke over the Caterpillar plant in York, more than 500 members of UAW Local 786 on strike here and dozens of their supporters massed at the plant gates, successfully turning away scabs. Early pickets reported a few cars drove in before daybreak, but from 5:00 a.m. on, unionists successfully clogged the gates preventing any more cars from entering.

"If Cat can violate our rights it's only a matter of time before other companies take on other unions," said UAW Local 786 member Rose Lentz, who was illegally terminated for union activity. "This strike is not just important

for our union, but all unions."

Carl Woltz, an officer of Machinists Local 1400 at Voith Hydro, took a vacation day to join the picket. "Whatever they do here is going to set the tone for the rest of the country," he said.

Caterpillar plants shut down

Traditionally, Caterpillar plants close down for two weeks at the end of July. The company had peddled the idea among employees throughout the chain that it would be able to step up production on August 1,

Continued on page 6



1,500 workers rally for Caterpillar strike, Chicago, August 5.

Alabama school torched, racist principal ousted

BY BROCK SATTER

WEDOWEE, Alabama — The principal of Randolph County High School here, Hulond Humphries, was ousted from his job August 8 and reassigned within the school district. The action by the local school board, which had fought to keep the racist principal in his job, came two days after an arson attack that heavily damaged the school. The burning of the school generated new tensions and focused national

publicity on this east central Alabama town.

"This is a victory as long as [Humphries] stays out of contact with the students," said Rev. Henry Sterling, a field representative for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) from nearby Anniston. Humphries is to oversee rebuilding the school. The SCLC will discuss the Wedowee situation at its

Continued on page 5

Decatur: a center of resistance to bosses' offensive — page 6



Scandal probe widens in Italy

Paolo Berlusconi, the younger brother of Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, surrendered to police July 29. His arrest, part of a growing bribery scandal involving the premier's business empire and dozens of businessmen and government tax inspectors accused of trading bribes for fraudulent tax audits, reflects the shakiness of the 12-week-old government. Scores of other senior business leaders have been jailed on corruption charges, including the head of the tax office of the prime minister's Fininvest corporation.

Paolo Berlusconi was implicated in bribes totaling \$210,000 paid to tax inspectors for favorable audits of the Fininvest Corporation. The prime minister, who ran Fininvest personally, denied direct knowledge of corruption up until now. Index shares on the Milan stock exchange dropped nearly 2 percent July 27 amid rumors that the prime minister was the object of an arrest warrant and had resigned.

Poverty up in United Kingdom

A report issued by the Department of Social Security of the United Kingdom said the income of the poorest 10 percent of the population has fallen 17 percent in real terms since 1979. The number of people living below the European poverty line rose from 5 million to 13.9 million in that period. Nearly one-third of all children, some 4.1 million, are today living in poverty. The report said the number of people in jobs who experience poverty has tripled to 12 percent since 1979. One in four couples with children are today officially living in poverty.

Russian troops to leave Estonia

The governments of Russia and Estonia signed an agreement July 26, under which the last of 2,000 Russian troops will leave Estonia by August 31. The accord postpones two other Estonian demands—the return of some Russian territory that had been a part of the pre-World War II Estonian Republic, and an apology from Moscow for the occupation and repression of Estonia after the war. Troops have left Lithuania and are leaving Latvia.



Some 40,000 protesters marched July 23, against the Criminal Justice Bill, currently making its way through the British Parliament. The bill would grant expanded powers to police and curtail democratic rights of the accused.

Khmer Rouge attacks train

Khmer Rouge forces attacked a passenger train in Cambodia July 26, seizing more than 60 people, killing 10, and wounding 20. The attackers robbed the passengers and forced them to carry the loot up a heavily mined mountain.

The Khmer Rouge, which now controls less than 10 percent of the country, killed more than 1 million people in Cambodia during its 1975-78 rule. The government in Phnom Penh has appealed for more U.S. military aid in its fight with the guerrillas, who have routed them in battles in the north and northwest regions of the country this year.

S. Korean cops crack down

The South Korean government July 29 ordered a nationwide roundup of 120 student leaders suspected of sympathizing with North Korea. Seoul's national security

law prohibits sympathy with Pyongyang, but dissidents have demanded that the government send condolences for the death of North Korean president Kim Il Sung. The government has refused and threatened to severely punish anyone who does.

Some students hung banners and passed out pamphlets praising the late president as an opponent of Japanese colonialism on the Korean peninsula. One student organization has been expelled recently from the campus of Hanyang University in Seoul allegedly for being pro-North Korea.

More protests rock Nigeria

Thousands of protesters erected street barricades, made bonfires of old tires, and emptied out a prison in Nigeria July 28 to denounce the treason trial of Moshood Abiola, winner of the presidential election in 1993. In addition, a widening antigovernment strike started by oil workers three weeks earlier has paralyzed the economy.

At least five people were killed and 50 wounded in Abuja, the capital, when police opened fire on a crowd of protesters July 28. Deji Giwa, head of the Campaign for Democracy, was killed in Lagos, the largest city, during a protest on the same day. In Abuja, University of Ibadan Student Union president Chris Eluwa told protesters to resist "police brutality, because you are claiming your rights."

State of siege in Haiti

The military-dominated regime in Haiti decreed a state of siege August 1, in a television broadcast announcing further restrictions on civil liberties. The government also warned they may rescind the licenses

of radio and television stations if their news coverage is considered unpatriotic. Reynold Georges, a supporter of the military coup that ousted Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991, was shot and wounded August 1, after he said Haiti's military ruler should give up power.

Haiti's army commander, Gen. Raoul Cédras, said that a U.S. military invasion was inevitable. Clinton administration officials said they were laying the ground work for intervention if sanctions fail to dislodge the military-backed regime. U.S. president Bill Clinton's national security advisers also discussed setting a public deadline for Haiti's generals to leave.

Dollar rises against yen

The U.S. dollar rose to its highest level against the Japanese yen in a month, July 28. In New York trading, the price of a dollar reached 100.10 yen, up 1.5 percent from the previous day's closing quote of 98.45.

This reflects the strength of the dollar, despite its recent slippage against the yen, as the upswing in the U.S. business cycle continues into its fourth year. Manufacturing productivity grew by 9.6 percent and U.S. export volumes are currently about 7 percent above last year.

The dollar is stronger against most world currencies, especially those of Washington's major trading partners, Canada and Mexico. The U.S. currency remains in its trading range of the past few years against the yen.

Mother loses child custody fight

In late July a Michigan judge ordered that custody of a child be taken away from a single mother who had placed her daughter in day care while attending college. Jennifer Ireland, 19, became pregnant in 1990 by her boyfriend at the time, Steven Smith. She raised her daughter, Maranda, for three years with little involvement from Smith.

Last year Ireland enrolled at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor on a scholarship. While in school, she put Maranda in day care for several hours a day.

In ruling that the child should live with her 20-year-old father, Judge Raymond Cashen indicated that the day care issue was the deciding factor against the mother. Two days after winning custody of Maranda, Smith was arraigned on the charge of assaulting Ireland in December 1992.

"Women should not be penalized for working outside the home," said Lynne Hecht Schafran, a lawyer with the National Organization for Women. "That is what is happening in many courts today." Ireland said she will appeal the judge's ruling.

—MAURICE WILLIAMS

Jonathan Silberman in Manchester, England, and Marcella FitzGerald in London contributed to this column.

THE MILITANT

U.S. troops out of Rwanda

Washington claims U.S. troops are being sent to Rwanda on a humanitarian mission. In fact, they will be used to back up imperialist interests in the region. Follow events in Rwanda in the pages of the 'Militant.' Don't miss a single issue!



Rwandan Patriotic Front soldiers in Kigali

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Washington sends troops into Rwanda

Paris loses control of African country

BY SARA LOBMAN

Under the guise of humanitarian aid, Washington is taking new steps toward military intervention in central Africa, rapidly replacing Paris as the dominant imperialist country in the region. On July 26 the U.S. government announced plans to establish a large military base in the Rwandan capital of Kigali with upwards of 2,000 soldiers and other personnel. In addition, U.S. president Bill Clinton said he will send 4,000 troops to the bordering countries of Uganda and Zaire.

The U.S. troop total "is going to grow, and it's going to grow to support the requirement" of the expanded intervention, Lt. General John Sheehan, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said. "We're talking about a continental-wide infrastructure," he added.

During a trip to the area, U.S. defense secretary William Perry said the troops will stay in Rwanda for a year or more.

Three thousand United Nations troops from seven countries are also expected to arrive in Rwanda over the next month.

Nevertheless, Washington is nervous that, like its occupation of Somalia in 1993, intervention in Rwanda may turn into a political and military quagmire. On July 29 Clinton announced the deployment of 200 U.S. soldiers to Rwanda to reopen the country's major airport. In what the *New York Times* termed "a clear allusion to the military's relief effort in Somalia, where dozens of soldiers died in combat," the White House insisted that these troops are not to get involved in fighting between the new government and the remnants of the army of the former regime.

Washington had initially planned to set

up its main base in Goma, Zaire, not Kigali, but relented after the French government complained that Goma was its turf. Paris, which has long supported the 20-year brutal reign of Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana, already has some 2,500 troops in the country. It helped engineer the crisis in Rwanda and had confidently expected to use the turmoil to strengthen its hand in the region. It failed to do so and has only reluctantly recognized the new government headed by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

Some 500,000 people were massacred by government troops, militias, and vigilante squads after Habyarimana and Cyprien Ntaryamira, president of neighboring Burundi, were killed in a plane crash April 6. Before the government was defeated by forces organized by the RPF in mid-July, it ordered a mass exodus of the country, spreading fear and hysteria with rumors that the RPF would kill anyone suspected of being of Hutu origin.

Members of the capitalist class who are Hutu had ruled Rwanda since colonial rule ended in 1962. In addition to political opponents of the government, many of those massacred were targeted as members of the Tutsi tribe. About 85 percent of the population of Rwanda is considered Hutu, 15 percent Tutsi.

Former gov't officials spread terror

As a result of this terror campaign, more than a million fled the country, joining hundreds of thousands of other refugees who had escaped the government-sponsored killing earlier. More than 1.2 million are currently living — and dying — in disease-ridden camps in Zaire and other



Defense Secretary William Perry meets with U.S. soldiers stationed in Goma, Zaire. Washington has announced plans to establish a military base in Rwanda's capital.

countries.

Supporters of the former government are roaming the refugee camps, continuing to spread rumors and threatening to murder anyone who argues it may be safe to return to Rwanda. The radio station that is still controlled by defenders of the old regime claims that the rightist forces will return from exile within a month after building a 5-million-strong army. On July 25, ousted government officials issued a statement calling for the deployment of an international force in the country, the disarming of the RPF, repatriation of their own army, and, under these conditions, elections to establish a new government.

The RPF-led government, which was installed July 19, called on all refugees to return to their homes. The guarantee of security, the new president, Pasteur Bizimungu, said, includes those "who crossed the country's border under the pressure of the advance of the Rwandan Patriotic Army forces.... In addition to

granting them protection," he said, "the government will do everything possible to bring them the necessary food aid, basic services, and health care." The new government also says it will abolish the identity cards that labeled every citizen as either a Hutu or Tutsi.

Much of Rwanda, including the capital, has been devastated. There is no electricity, telecommunications, or running water.

While saying they will guarantee the security of refugees returning to Rwanda, the government also says it will prosecute and execute those responsible for the slaughter. "Those who committed crimes should be brought to justice," said Paul Kagame, an RPF leader and vice president and defense minister of the new government.

Washington is urging the new government to incorporate into its ranks members of the former regime.

So-called humanitarian effort

Meanwhile a cholera epidemic is ravaging the refugee camps in Zaire. By the end of July, more than 18,000 people had died from the disease, which is curable 99 percent of the time if clean water and rehydration fluids are available. Untreated, the death rate can be as high as 50 percent.

The Clinton administration, which claims it is sending troops into the region for humanitarian reasons, has been sharply criticized by aid workers for hindering the distribution of food and medicine. On July 24, the U.S. military picked Katala, a town in Zaire that is about 30 miles from Goma, where most of the refugees are camped, as the location for its first food drop.

The crates, dropped by parachute, missed their target by a mile and crashed down on a building that was under construction. Aid workers pointed out that unlike the much more crowded Goma, Katala had an adequate supply of food and clean drinking water. U.S. officials made sure to fly in a planeload of journalists from Germany to witness the unloading of the food.

Some of the 1.2 million Rwandans in Zaire are beginning to recross the border, initially closed by the government in Zaire in an act of support for the ousted Rwandan regime. Officials at the airport in Goma have charged a landing fee to planes arriving there with food and medicine.

Mexico's rulers face political instability

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As the August 21 national elections approach in Mexico, the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has run the country for the past 65 years, faces a political crisis. This coincides with increasingly harsh economic times confronting workers and peasants there.

"As the country heads toward another presidential election, calls for political reform within and outside the world's longest-reigning party are threatening to split it apart," said an article in the July 13 *Wall Street Journal*. "No matter who wins in August, the country will move toward a...less stable era." "The political system is deteriorating very fast," stated Sergio Aguayo, a leader of Alianza Civica, a group campaigning against election fraud.

"With less than six weeks before Mexico's presidential election," wrote Damian Fraser in the July 11 *Financial Times*, "investors in the country's stock and money markets are uneasy.... While equities have recovered a little this month, they were down nearly 9 percent in June and, over the year, the principal index has lost 19 percent in dollar terms."

The three main contenders for president are Ernesto Zedillo of the PRI, Diego Fernández de Cevallos of the right-wing National Action Party (PAN), and Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), a liberal capitalist party.

Earlier this year, the PRI was shaken by a peasant rebellion in Chiapas and a series of protests by workers and peasants demanding land, jobs, and democratic rights.

Zedillo was chosen to replace the PRI's initial candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio, who was assassinated while campaigning in Tijuana last March. Following a May 12 presidential debate, Fernández's standing has risen in the polls and he is now running virtually even with Zedillo.

The increasingly common political and economic perspective put forward by the PRI and PAN point to the rightward shift of capitalist politics in Mexico. Both candidates insist that they would continue the privatizations and austerity drive pursued by current president Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The constitution bars Salinas from seeking reelection. Cárdenas of the PRD has charged Fernández with establishing an alliance with the PRI to rig the August 21 election results. According to Arturo Nuñez, director of Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute, when vote-counting computers showed Salinas losing to Cárdenas in the 1988 presidential race, unnamed officials, "obviously opted to crash the system." Since 1991, Salinas has had to force three PRI governors to step down after fraudulent practices were exposed in state elections.

Privatization drive

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, aides to Colosio had approached the PRD prior to his assassination about the possibility of joining a coalition cabinet after the elections. But "there have been no such feelers from the PRI since...Zedillo became the candidate," stated the *Journal*. Cárdenas has spoken out in favor of the PRI-led privatizations, offering tactical suggestions on how best to carry them out.

"The Party of the Democratic Revolution was not, and is not, opposed to privatization of state enterprises as such," Cárdenas stated earlier this year. "What we oppose is the way these measures were implemented." Cárdenas has gone out of his way to express his support for investment in Mexico from abroad and more trade with the United States.

In the aftermath of Washington's approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) last year, exports from Mexico to the United States grew 22 percent during the first three months of 1994, three times higher than with the rest of the world. NAFTA is the codification of an agreement between capitalists in both the United States and Mexico to rapidly transform a still largely agricultural country into one that will serve as a platform for exporting manufactured goods. Capitalists on both sides of the border will profit.

Mexico's bourgeoisie is catching up with a process begun earlier in the 1980s by the exploiting classes in Argentina, Chile, and a number of other semicolonial countries that have reached a certain stage of industrialization. This wrenching process aims to

drive peasants off the land and into the urban centers where they have nothing to sell but their labor power and are forced to sell it very cheaply.

U.S. auto companies, for example, are increasing their investments in new assembly plants and parts factories in Mexico in an industrial belt that will stretch from Mexico City almost to Monterrey. Government officials project production rising to 1 million cars and trucks by the end of the decade from 600,000 in 1993.

While a tiny minority of wealthy capitalists and some in the middle classes are being further enriched, the vast majority of working people are forced to get by on less.

According to a report released in May by the Monterrey Technological Institute, fewer than 10 percent of the population receives more than 60 percent of the national income. In contrast, 59 million people—two-thirds of the population—receive only 10 percent of annual gross income. Over the past 11 years, the minimum wage in Mexico has declined 47.5 percent. Meanwhile, the richest 20 families in Mexico account for 50 percent of total national income.

Jordan's King Hussein signs pact normalizing relations with Israel

BY GREG ROSENBERG

The Israeli regime took another step toward normalization of relations with other bourgeois governments in the Middle East July 25. Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a pact in Washington.

Rabin and Hussein signed the accord at the White House. Washington gave prominent support to the talks. Immediately after the treaty was signed U.S. president Bill Clinton placed a phone call to Syrian president Hafez al-Assad urging Damascus to start negotiations with Tel Aviv. Especially since its 1990-91 assault on Iraq, the U.S. government has relied less on Tel Aviv and cultivated the other capitalist regimes in the region to promote imperialist interests.

The Israeli army captured the West Bank

and East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967. Since that time, relations between the two governments have been mostly quiescent. The Jordanian monarch has, when he found it expedient, claimed to speak in the interests of the Palestinian people. Some 80 percent of Jordan's population is Palestinian.

In 1970 Hussein's army, with U.S. and Israeli government support, launched an all-out attack on Palestinian refugee camps and communities in Jordan, aiming to weaken the growing militancy of Palestinian freedom fighters and maintain stable relations with Israel. More than 8,000 Palestinians were killed in the assault. The pact says that "the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel has been terminated." Among the measures agreed upon

Continued on page 4

Wave of strikes bursts across S. Africa

BY GREG ROSENBERG

A strike wave has burst out across South Africa. More than 100,000 workers have downed their tools and walked out of automobile factories, petrochemical facilities, hotels, paper plants, and municipal courts. They are fighting for an increase in the abysmal wages doled out by employers to Black workers and for the eradication of racist practices on the job. They are fighting against the legacy of apartheid.

The strikes have provoked a growing discussion and debate among leaders of the African National Congress, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), and South African Communist Party (SACP) over how to respond to the demands of the working class for rapid economic and social justice.

"Democratization does not end in Parliament and regional legislatures, but has to start on the factory floor," said COSATU assistant general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi July 28. "Workers do not expect to be called 'boss boys' and insulted on racial lines."

COSATU leaders have accused employers of taking advantage of what big-business perceived as a post-election "honeymoon" period, during which capitalists hoped that the government, in order to attract investment, would not support demands by trade unionists. "Business is sheltering behind this honeymoon," said Vavi, "but if they think they will be protected by the government they are in for a rude shock." The Reconstruction and Development Programme put forward by the ANC within the constituent assembly "has to address the social wage of workers whether it is the price of commodities, health care, housing transport, or a social welfare system lifting the standard of living of workers. Then the question of monetary wages would not be all or nothing."

Auto workers struck Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz, BMW, Nissan, and other plants beginning August 1. Some 78 percent of union members voted in favor of a strike. Altogether, some 25,000 members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) have shut down 14 large car factories and offices, demanding wage raises. NUMSA national orga-



Striking South African gold miners in May. Workers are fighting to eradicate legacy of apartheid, including superexploitation and racist practices on the job.

nizer Gavin Hertford said the union wanted quicker action by the bosses to rectify wage inequalities in the plants. The Automobile Manufacturers Employers' Organization wants four years to complete the task.

At least 11 of the 15 affiliates of the 1.3 million member COSATU have declared disputes with the employers. Most of these have not yet reached the stage of strikes.

On July 28, 500 workers at AEGIS Insurance Co. walked off the job in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging region in a fight over wages and affirmative action demands. Construction workers in the Western Cape region have struck. Miners are preparing for possible strike action. Some 3,000 workers shut down the Sun City resort complex for a week at the end of July.

The 15,000 grocery workers striking Pick 'n Pay stores settled their strike August 3. Members of the South African

Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union won a \$40 per month wage increase and a \$308 monthly minimum wage. The strike was marked by brutal police attacks and arrests of strikers.

Debate over strikes

The ANC is fighting for a nonracial, nonsexist, democratic South Africa. Key to accomplishing this goal is smashing the fetters of racist discrimination and super-exploitation imposed on working people by the capitalist class.

South African president Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the ANC met with union officials, including Sam Shilowa, general secretary of COSATU, July 30 to discuss the strikes.

"The workers are entitled to have high expectations because they see their white counterparts enjoying the rights that they are entitled to," said Mandela. "What our concerns are at the meeting is that the de-

mands of the workers should be addressed without conflict and there should be cooperation between employees and employers to end this."

In a joint statement read by Shilowa, COSATU and the ANC placed the main responsibility for economic growth and "healthy industrial relations" on the employers. The statement said that a bill would go before Parliament by the end of this month to extend labor laws to all parts of the country, including the former Bantustans; and that the existing labor law would be redrafted to bring it in line with South Africa's interim constitution, particularly guarantees of the right to strike and picket.

Writing in the July 22 *New Nation*, a weekly paper that supports the ANC, columnist Amrit Manga said, "While the ban on picketing does not necessarily justify violence, it certainly mitigates the case of workers who acted physically.... If we are to prevent a recurrence of last week's [Pick 'n Pay] clashes, it is important for government to move speedily to write into law the right to picket."

At the same time, the SACP is using the current labor disputes to attack the leadership of the ANC and particularly Nelson Mandela. A recent SACP statement said, for example, "What is...disturbing has been the tendency from the side of some of our comrades in the ANC leadership, including President Nelson Mandela himself, to echo some of these views (that strikes hamper development)."

Big business fears militant labor

The big-business press and other mouthpieces of capital around the world are worried about the militant actions by workers in South Africa.

"The [South African] labor force is costly, unskilled and militant," complained a front-page article in the August 3 *New York Times*. "There are doubts about the Government's long-term commitment to capitalism, about whether Mr. Mandela can contain the expectations of the impoverished majority." The *Times* article stated that, as a result, foreign investment in South Africa is declining.

"We are facing a dangerous labour crisis," said an editorial in the July 26 *Citizen*, a big-business daily published in Johannesburg. "The government had better take firm action to defuse the situation and ensure that the unions do not overstep the bounds of acceptable conduct."

But many ANC leaders insist they will not support pushing aside the interests of the working class in order to attract investment. "There are two categories of investors and one of them are the type of investors we do not want," ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa told parliament August 1. "Those investors who want a strike free environment and low wage policies that will lead to the exploitation of workers are the type of investors we do not want in our country."

The constituent assembly convened August 1 for its first full three-month session, which will feature debate on bills to be introduced by the ANC. These include legislation on land reform, allocation of resources for housing and education, affirmative action, and the establishment of a truth commission to investigate political crimes committed during apartheid's reign.

U.S. jets bomb Serbian forces near Sarajevo

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

On August 5, under NATO auspices, U.S. Air Force jets bombed weaponry controlled by rightist Serbian forces near Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital. This attack occurred one day after troops loyal to Serbian Democratic Party leader Radovan Karadzic snatched back some weapons that had been placed under United Nations jurisdiction more than six months ago.

Two U.S. A-10 ground attack aircraft operating out of Aviano Air Base in northern Italy fired 600 cannon rounds at a Serb army's anti-tank gun. According to Pentagon officials, Dutch F-16 and French Mirage fighters escorted the U.S. planes, but were not directly involved in the actual bombing. The air strike was the first to be carried out to enforce a UN-declared weapons exclusion zone set up last February in a 12-mile radius around Sarajevo. NATO jets in April bombed Karadzic's forces in the eastern Bosnian town of Goradze.

Closure of land route

After returning most of the heavy weapons seized from the UN arms compound, Serb forces proceeded to step up their sniper fire on residents of Sarajevo. This resulted in the closure of the only overland route into the city and suspension of the food aid airlift. These latest moves break a six-month cease-fire that had been observed for the most part by the warring parties.

Attacks by Karadzic's army come in response to recent gains being made on the battlefield by the Bosnian army. Government troops have been advancing against Serb forces near the northern Bosnian town of Brcko. They have also captured significant territory southwest of the town of Vares, near Sarajevo.

To discourage Serb forces from seizing more weapons from the UN arms compound, UN officials suggested placing its

soldiers between the Bosnian and Serb forces in the Vares area. Serb military commanders agreed to the plan, but the Bosnian army rejected it.

On August 7, Bosnian army soldiers in Sarajevo dropped hand grenades on a Russian armored personnel carrier patrolling the city as part of the UN force. A day earlier, Karadzic had decreed that all able-bodied adults in the areas under his control in Bosnia must report for what he termed work brigades.

This stepped-up fighting occurs after Karadzic rejected on July 20 the plan being pushed by the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Russia to partition Bosnia along ethnic lines.

The proposal would have given the rightist Serb forces in Bosnia—who currently control 70 percent of the former Yu-

goslav republic—49 percent of the land. The remainder would be allotted to a Muslim-Croat federation.

In a public show aimed at winning the ear of some imperialist powers, Slobodan Milosevic, president of the republic of Serbia, announced August 4 that his government would bar Bosnian Serb leaders from entering Serbia and ban all trade with Serbian-controlled parts of Bosnia except for shipments of food and medicine.

Belgrade hopes that such a declaration will lead to an easing of the economic sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council in May 1992 against Yugoslavia, which now comprises Serbia and Montenegro. The embargo has led to virtual economic collapse in Serbia, with working people suffering the most. Milosevic, however, has never carried out similar threats in the past.

Jordan normalizes relations with Israel

Continued from page 3

are direct telephone links, opening two new border crossings, granting free passage to third country tourists, linking the two countries' electricity grids, speeding up negotiations on international air travel, and expanding cooperation between Israeli and Jordanian police.

In a slam against the Palestinian fight for self-determination, the treaty states that "Israel respects the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim Holy shrines in Jerusalem. When negotiations on the permanent status will take place, Israel will give high priority to the Jordanian historic role in these shrines." A Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) statement said the agreement "predetermines the fate of Jerusalem and...ignores Jerusalem as a political, Palestinian, Arab, Christian and Islamic issue and ignores the

fact that it is an occupied city." Meanwhile, the Israeli government is pressing for talks with Damascus. At the end of June, Rabin warned that if no treaty is reached with Syria, war in the years ahead is a likely outcome. The centerpiece of these negotiations would be the strategic Golan Heights, which Tel Aviv has held onto since it seized them in 1967.

Syrian officials expressed irritation with the PLO and Jordanian negotiations with the Israeli government since they did not control them. Syrian foreign minister Farouk ash-Sharaa warned, "The fact that certain Arab parties have bypassed Arab solidarity, and secondly Israel's efforts to dismantle that solidarity" are obstacles to coming to an agreement with Tel Aviv.

Tensions have continued to simmer between Israeli troops and Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, now under the Palestine

National Authority, and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. On July 17, widespread fighting broke out at a Gaza border checkpoint when Israeli guards delayed the entry of thousands of Palestinian workers into Israel. In the ensuing battles, Palestinian police and Israeli troops exchanged fire. Two Palestinians were killed and more than 100 wounded. Until the Palestinian *intifada* broke out in 1987, some 80,000 Gaza residents held Israeli work permits. Today Tel Aviv allows only 20,000.

Israeli troops have cracked down on protests in the West Bank city of Hebron. They arrested at least 42 youths for interrogation in June and July, many of them without warrant, under regulations allowing detention without charge or trial. Some 7,000 Palestinian prisoners remain in Israeli jails.

Rightist kills doctor

Continued from front page

Organization for Women (NOW) as was her husband.

At the rally NOW hung a huge banner saying "We Won't Back Down: Stand Up For Justice!" Handmade posters read "Abortion Violence Is Not Free Speech" and "Clinic Workers Demand Protection! We Are Dying."

Escambia County NOW copresident Chicky Desmarais chaired the rally. Desmarais had volunteered as a clinic escort for 16 months alongside Jim and June Barrett. She called on "all citizens to stand up to the terrorist violence that has poisoned our community."

'Now is the time to act'

"It is time for all of us, regardless of race, religion, gender, or political views to demand justice," Desmarais continued.

The NOW activist put forth three local demands: an emergency city council meeting to approve a safety "buffer zone" around the clinics; a meeting with the mayor, abortion providers, and NOW representatives to discuss the situation; and dispatching the police to protect the clinics.

Escambia NOW copresident Michele Lawson also spoke. "Until the anti-abortion protesters stop using violent and harassing tactics to force their decisions on us, it is our job to stand up and prevent the vigilantes from taking over our community. Now is the time to act, while we are still enraged by the injustice," Lawson said.

NOW national vice president Rosemary Dempsey told the audience, "We are part of a civil rights movement. What will it take before the federal government takes some action?"

Dempsey raised four additional demands: that Attorney General Janet Reno and Florida governor Lawton Chiles meet with Pensacola abortion rights activists; a nationwide FBI investigation; an emergency session of the Florida state legislature; and the streamlining of the process whereby out-of-state doctors can practice in Florida.

Other speakers included representatives from the American Association of University Women, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL), and local churches.

Some townspeople attending the rally discussed with other participants the importance of women's equality and told about their own personal experiences with abortion. "I don't necessarily believe in abortions," said one. "But I am here because we can't go back to the days of butchery. My own aunt was sterilized from using a crochet hook to perform an abortion."

Several young clinic defenders also expressed their opinions, including the right of high school students to have abortions. One said she started escorting patients right after the murder of Pensacola doctor David Gunn because she felt that it was not enough to "just be pro-choice."

Gunn was murdered by abortion rights foe Michael Griffin in March 1993 at the Pensacola Women's Medical Services clinic just two miles from The Ladies Center. Upon hearing of Britton's murder, Gunn's son, David Gunn, Jr., who is active in the pro-choice movement, told the media that if nothing is done "there will be someone else dead in six months."

"I want to see a doctor be able to walk into his office like you or me...without having to wear a bulletproof vest or a bulletproof helmet," he added.

Responding to her own father's assassination, Britton's daughter Pamela Britton stated to the press, "My father was not intimidated by those who resort to terrorist tactics to oppose legal family planning methods."

Currently both Pensacola clinics are open but patients are being seen at Women's Medical Services or in Alabama, a state where single-parent consent laws are enforced. The Pensacola clinics also serve the rural area between Tallahassee, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama. Linda Taggart, director of The Ladies Center, said she has received a "stack of messages" from doctors offering to replace Britton.

Over the past 10 years, rightist forces have targeted the Pensacola clinics in a terrorist campaign of intimidation. One clinic was firebombed in June 1984. All three of the then-functioning clinics were bombed Christmas Eve of that year.

In 1986 it was in Pensacola that Randall Terry announced the formation of Operation Rescue, one of the largest antiabortion rights organizations today.

In addition to the murder of Britton and Gunn, another doctor who performed abortions in Pensacola, George Patterson, was killed in Mobile last year. Police ruled the killing the result of a robbery, but clinic activists dispute that analysis.

The Pensacola clinics have faced countless right-wing demonstrations and constant verbal abuse. Last June, Paul Hill was arrested for screaming at patients, "Don't let them make you the mother of a dead baby."

Advocates of assassinations

Hill is the head of Defensive Action, a group he founded after Gunn's murder. Members openly advocate the assassination of doctors and defenders of abortion rights. Hill attended and spoke out at the trial of Gunn's assassin as well as the trial of Rachel "Shelley" Shamon, accused of wounding Dr. George Tiller outside a Wichita, Kansas, clinic last year.

Two months ago, Hill attended an antiabortion rights strategy session in Chicago. He works with other rightist figures — such as Michael Bray, who served four years in prison for a clinic bombing, and Roy McMillan, head of the Christian Action Group in Jackson, Mississippi. McMillan compares Hill to rebel patriots in 1773 who dumped tons of tea into the Boston Harbor. "I would say that stopping the murder of unborn babies is more important than stopping your tea



Militant/Janet Post

Abortion rights activists protesting the murders of Dr. John Britton and clinic escort James Barrett in Pensacola. Right-wing terrorism has outraged working people.

from being taxed," he said after the murder of Britton and Barrett.

Following Gunn's killing, 30 leaders of antiabortion rights groups signed a petition defending the extermination of doctors and pro-choice advocates as "justifiable homicide." The letter was distributed by Hill and his organization.

A suspended Catholic priest, David Trosch, who also works with Hill recently sent a letter with the "justifiable-homicide" letterhead to members of Congress. The letter reads, in part, when "the normal constraints of pacifism, which permeates throughout this country, is overcome, then we will see the beginning of massive killing of abortionists and their staffs. In time the killing...will begin to spill over into the killing of the police and military who attempt to protect them."

"Members of the National Organization [for] Women, members of Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion/choice organizations will be sought out and terminated as vermin are terminated."

Trosch says that Hill deserves a "medal of honor" for killing Britton and Barrett.

In addition, John Burt, regional director of Houston-based Rescue America, also works with Hill and provided him with antiabortion rights propaganda material. Although he publicly disassociates himself from the murder, in a televised interview Burt said, "If you take away peoples' ability to protest they will turn to violence," referring to the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

At Griffin's trial, Burt testified, "I can't help it when what I do inspires someone to go off the deep end."

Federal marshals have now been dispatched to 12 of the more than 3,000 clinics nationwide, including Pensacola. The other clinics are located in Fargo, North Dakota; Des Moines, Iowa; Wichita, Kansas; Little Rock, Arkansas; Jackson and Gulfport, Mississippi; Mobile, Alabama; Melbourne, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Ft. Wayne, Indiana; and Falls Church, Virginia, where the Commonwealth Women's Clinic was heavily damaged in an apparent arson the weekend af-

ter the Pensacola murders.

Around the country other doctors who perform abortions are being threatened. After Britton's killing Dr. Tom Tvedten in Little Rock received a call saying that he "would be next." Dr. Joseph Booker of Jackson, Mississippi, has received death threats and is a target of a week of anti-abortion protests that began August 6.

The right-wing American Coalition of Life is demonstrating in Jackson to make Mississippi "the first state to be functionally free of child killers." This is the first activity of this coalition.

Pro-Choice Mississippi has pledged to defend the New Woman clinic and Booker and is calling for pro-choice activists and supporters to come to Jackson. "Dr. Booker is determined not to back down in the face of this threatened activity," said a spokesperson for the organization.

Clinic volunteers around the country are also being threatened. A young staff member at a NARAL office in Minneapolis reported bomb threats and 35 threatening calls in the first few hours after the Pensacola murders, saying, for example, "You're next" and "We're going to kill them off one by one."

Florida governor Lawton Chiles responded to the Pensacola murders with a statement that "Florida will not tolerate any act of violence."

Commenting on the governor's inaction to date the president of the Florida Council of Abortion Providers said, "The governor showed up at a rest stop wearing a flak jacket when a tourist was killed. It would have been even more appropriate if he showed up at any number of clinics especially in Pensacola."

In the past week pro-choice activists in several cities including Cleveland, Miami, and Tampa held protest actions to discuss defending the clinics and abortion rights and to call for many more such actions.

Pro-choice activists in Birmingham, Alabama, will hold a rally and vigil August 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Kelly Ingram Park sponsored by the Birmingham Clinic Defense Team, Alabama NOW, Alabamans for Choice and Planned Parenthood.

Alabama school torched, racist principal ousted

Continued from front page

August 16-19 national convention in Dallas, Texas. The local chapter is planning an August 20 protest march to demand justice here.

In February, Humphries told an assembly of juniors and seniors that he would cancel the school prom if interracial couples showed up. When 16-year-old Revonda Bowen got up to protest, Humphries called her a "mistake," since her mother is Black and her father is white.

The racist remarks set off a storm of protest, beginning with a march by Blacks to the courthouse in March demanding Humphries's ouster. Black students began a boycott of the school, organizing a "Freedom School" at a local church.

On March 14, the school board suspended Humphries with pay for two weeks. The same day a bomb threat forced the school to close. Bowen sued the school district and Humphries. She received an out of court settlement of \$25,000, with the board admitting no guilt.

When the board reinstated Humphries,

board member Joe Ballow, who is white, resigned in protest. The lone Black member remained the only dissenting voice on the body.

Under pressure from rising protests, the U.S. Justice Department filed a motion August 2 asking that Humphries be removed from his post or barred from contact with students, pending trial on charges of racial discrimination it filed against the Randolph County school system.

The SCLC had planned a protest march for August 6. The Ku Klux Klan initiated plans to bring as many racists as it could to Wedowee on that day. In the wake of the fire, the SCLC called off its march and rescheduled it for August 20.

Violations of desegregation orders

The federal case indicts the school district for long-term violations of school desegregation orders. A hearing is scheduled for August 11. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights says a "racially hostile environment" exists in the school district. Violations regarding stu-

dent discipline, transportation, and hiring are mentioned in the complaint. The high school was not desegregated until 1972. Humphries has been the principal since 1969.

A motion has been filed requiring the school board to immediately develop a plan to eradicate this situation. It seeks to prohibit the school district from filling any existing or future staff vacancies until affirmative action hiring plans are developed.

The fire that gutted the school was set around 1:00 a.m. At the scene of the fire, Humphries and a couple of others attacked television cameraman Bill Giff, who is Black. As Humphries's hand went over Giff's camera, another man said, "You Black sons of bitches burned this school." Another voice can be heard saying, "Go before you die."

Randolph County sheriff Larry Colley reacted angrily to reporters covering Black protesters later that day. "Where were you this morning when Hulond Humphries was out there fighting that fire with his bare

hands? Where were these damn Blacks?" said the sheriff.

Rising protests by working people and students, mostly Blacks, have put the heat on local police and town officials, who lashed out at the demonstrators.

Mayor Terry Graham speculated the arson might be the work of "radical outsiders" who "come in here and stir up trouble."

But the people the town administration went after were 21 Black residents, who were charged in July with violating an undemocratic ordinance that required a \$50 fee and 10 days' notice for public marches. With the national spotlight on Wedowee, the mayor dropped the charges — and the ordinance — on August 7.

The SCLC has offered a \$3,500 reward for any information leading to the arrest of the arsonist. Alabama governor Jim Folsom has offered a \$10,000 reward.

Tim Mailhot and Beth Hanon from Birmingham, Alabama, contributed to this article.

UAW pickets turn back scabs in York

Continued from front page
the first day of work after the shutdown. They claimed strikers had lost confidence in their union and would cross their own picket lines.

In response, union members in York and four Illinois Caterpillar plants — in Aurora, East Peoria, Mossville, and Pontiac — organized car caravans and plant gate rallies that day.

Among the largest delegations here were Teamsters fresh from their victory against the trucking companies. Steelworkers, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, and Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union activists from the Philadelphia area made the early morning trip to join the action.

Police foray fails

Around 7:00 a.m., 20 police in riot gear joined the few state cops already present. They formed a narrow wedge at the edge of the crowd and pierced the edge. But the workers didn't give an inch. Few spoke to the cops. Pickets remained calm and kept circulating.

Five minutes into the standoff, the police got visibly nervous. Unable to budge the crowd and widen their wedge to open the

gates, the cops turned tail and marched out. A collective whoop of victory erupted as strikers, their family members, and other unionists congratulated one another. Though state police helicopters patrolled the skies, no further probes were made against the union forces.

News of the York action spread to picket lines in Pontiac that same morning. Striker Jim Perkins reported there were also between 400 and 500 at the gate in Pontiac and "more than that at our union meeting at 8:00 a.m."

The August 1 action in Mossville was a follow-up to a July 28 car caravan organized by UAW Local 974's Families in Solidarity group. Caterpillar striker Jim Landrith and his wife Mary counted 267 cars on that caravan. "People came out of their houses and cheered for us," said Landrith.

According to striker Mike Reeser, who picketed at the Mossville Technical Center August 1, "there were no new crossers at any Mossville gate today. In fact, three members came back out as of this morning."

UAW international officials raised strike benefits to \$300 a week. "Many of us would have stayed out with the strike pay



Militant/Kathy Mickells

More than 500 striking auto workers and their supporters milling around entrance to Caterpillar plant in York, Pennsylvania, August 1. Action helped push back company-organized back-to-work campaign.

at \$100," said Reeser. "But this makes it easier to continue. If someone's family is hurting, steps can be taken now to help them out. Today's activities were like a good, hard smack to the nose for Caterpillar. But they will step up their publicity, harassment, and intimidation."

Caterpillar reported record earnings for the second quarter, which ended just nine

days after the strike began. Profits rose 258 percent against the same period in 1993, with earnings of \$240 million and revenue of \$3.6 billion.

Caterpillar chief financial officer Jim Owns bragged, "At this point it appears the labor situation will have minimal impact on our sales or profit for the full year 1994 even if — and we emphasize we hope it doesn't — but even if the current strike continues." But on August 5, Caterpillar stock dropped \$2.88 a share to \$104.75.

Many Mossville strikers wonder about reports that 10,000 engines have been built, since there are no tell-tale signs and smells of production. "When they test an engine the test cell belches black smoke," said Earl Gudeman, one of 35 workers illegally fired by the company. "I've been here every day. I'll tell you what they do—they drive the same loads round and round to different plants. It's a war of nerves."

Rollande Girarde, reporting from East Peoria, and Bev Bernardo, reporting from Pontiac, contributed to this article.

Caterpillar strikers rally in Chicago

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

CHICAGO — Some 1,500 striking Caterpillar workers and their supporters rallied and marched here August 5 to demonstrate their strength outside a Caterpillar stockholders meeting.

United Auto Workers (UAW) members on strike against the earthmoving equipment giant dominated the crowd, with unionists bussed in from Illinois strike locations. UAW Local 974 in the Peoria area sent 18 buses, while three each came from Local 145 in Aurora and Local 701 in Pontiac. UAW Local 751 in Decatur sent about 100 members.

A popular topic of discussion was the August 1 action organized by strikers at the York, Pennsylvania, plant, when hundreds of workers kept scabs from entering the factory. Each local had rallied August 1 at struck plants in response to company-placed rumors that more scabs would be herded in. Strikers reported these actions made a big impact.

UAW Local 145 member Mike Finn telephoned 10 fellow UAW members who had crossed in the days leading up to August 1, urging them to join the strike — three did. "They say it's chaos inside," Finn remarked. "The lights are out and they've got over 100,000 orders to process. One temporary guy came out after three days and joined the union." Finn is inspired by the strike and the support it's beginning to tap from others in the labor movement. "This is the future of unions in this country," he stated.

Among the throng in Chicago were strike supporters from Families in Solidarity, including strikers' spouses and children. Retirees were also present and one sported a T-shirt reading, "Retired from Cat but not my union."

Doug Hurt is among the "illegally terminated" strikers. The 33-year-old unionist had only five months in the plant when the company fired him for union activity. Caterpillar claimed he had falsified his employment application. "I was organizing action in the plant, talking up the union, and getting yellow cards signed," said Hurt.

Prominent support delegations came from Teamsters, including fighters against

Pony Express; United Transportation Union members on strike against the Soo Line railroad owned by Canadian Pacific; and International Association of Machinists members who are auto mechanics here.

One speaker at the rally said unionists who work for Caterpillar at its plant in Brazil had gone out on strike. Later reports, however, indicated their wage negotiations were faltering and they may join the strike action soon.

Decatur, Illinois: a center of union resistance against the bosses' offensive

BY WENDY LYONS

DECATUR, Illinois — This city of 84,000 is an important place to watch. Three major unions here are resisting the employers' offensive at the same time.

Caterpillar workers organized in the United Auto Workers union (UAW), members of the United Rubber Workers (URW) at Firestone/Bridgestone, and corn processing workers at A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co. organized in the United Paper Workers International Union (UPIU) are walking picket lines and holding solidarity activities.

Workers at the bustling UPIU command center saw the recent walkouts by Caterpillar and Firestone workers as reinforcement for their 13-month-long fight against Staley's lockout. "The other strikes will give us more momentum," said Mike Griffin. After working seven months under a company-imposed contract and trying to resist it, Staley locked the workers out. The

company had gutted the grievance procedure, eliminated most seniority rights, and forced workers onto 12-hour rotating shifts without overtime pay.

Frank Travis kindly offered to escort this reporter from the command center to the picket lines around town. He proudly wears the title "Road Warrior" — the name locked-out Staley workers have dubbed those of their ranks who travel around the country to tell the story of their fight.

Caterpillar strikers warmly welcomed Travis when we showed up at their picket lines. The strikers expressed anger about the 12-hour shifts Caterpillar wants and felt they had to take a stand after being forced back to work with no new contract following their 1991-92 strike. During that time they began calling Decatur a "war zone" for labor. The name has been picked up by the other unions now walking picket lines.

Rally for rubber workers

About 200 Caterpillar and Staley workers held an impromptu rally July 12 to greet the rubber workers when they went out on strike. These workers showed up at the scene of the action knowing that the URW contract deadline was at noon and a walkout would likely occur.

Caterpillar pickets told us the company had just sent a videotape to all employees' homes, urging them to come back to work. A small percentage of UAW members have crossed the picket lines. Management spread the rumor that many would cross August 1, the end of what had been the yearly-scheduled plant shutdown. Caterpillar workers around the country prepared expanded picket lines and rallies in front of the gates that day.

When we pulled up at the Firestone picket line, Travis greeted the unionists who were clearly glad to have a Staley worker join the line. The pickets explained that the company had demanded large pay-

ments for health insurance, a seven-day week of 12-hour shifts, wage reductions for some jobs, and a 30 percent wage cut for new hires. One URW member explained that the key demand for him was against the 12-hour rotating shift.


Regarding the simultaneous walkouts taking place in Decatur, striker Dennis Stelland said, "We all have to be on strike. It's not just one company trying to bust the unions — they are all out to do it. But the whole town is sticking together now." He pointed to rallies where people from each of the striking unions came together. As we made the rounds of the rubber workers picket lines, Travis urged people to deepen the solidarity between the strikes, encouraging them to come out to Tuesday night meetings.

At URW Local 713 headquarters, where the \$100 per week strike benefits were being given out, President Roger Gates told the *Militant*, "We had bought into the idea of working together with the company but now they are trying to blow us out of the water." He said he was surprised the company would demand such deep concessions when "they are so prosperous, had recalled all laid-off workers, and were even hiring new workers."

Travis talked about how grateful he was for the support Caterpillar workers have given to the Staley fight. There have been sizable actions organized by the Staley workers every month since the beginning of the year, with Caterpillar workers playing a big part in them.

At all the picket lines we traveled to, Travis appealed for people to become more involved in visible support for each other. He feels the labor movement is up against something very big and it's going to be a long hard fight.

Wendy Lyons is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 352 in Philadelphia.



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Canadian Pacific rail strike remains solid

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Grit and determination mark picket lines here as United Transportation Union (UTU) members dig in for their second month on strike against the Soo Line, the ninth largest railroad in the United States. The carrier is owned by the Canadian Pacific, one of the largest railroads in North America and one of only two transcontinental carriers.

More than 1,100 UTU members in 11 midwestern states set up picket lines July 14, ending four years of negotiations with the multibillion-dollar, Montreal-based carrier.

In a powerful show of solidarity, an additional 3,000 CP-Soo workers in 16 craft unions are honoring UTU pickets, despite the bosses' attempts to spark a back-to-work movement.

The rail bosses seek to slash road and yard switching crews in half, creating "conductor only" jobs, while cutting wages and creating a third tier of unprotected workers. It has been six years since Soo workers received a pay raise.

The sharp confrontation is unfolding ahead of the Jan. 1, 1995 expiration of the national UTU rail contract.

Minneapolis-St. Paul is a center of the strike. Three hundred fifty UTU members here are backed by nearly 1,000 allied rail unionists who remain united against the carrier. Less than 25 workers have broken ranks and crossed the line.

Some 156 of the 160-member Transportation Communications Union (TCU), which organizes office workers at CP's Minneapolis headquarters, hold firm "because people who stay on the line make us strong, and our strength is the pride of the union," said TCU member Bob Johnson.

Dave Lorendo, local chairman of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) Local 928, said track worker solidarity "is really good. We are tired of being lied to [by CP Rail], tired of being pushed around. Our people are saying 'enough's enough.'" BMWE members on the Canadian Pacific in Canada began solidarity informational picketing in Montreal in late July.

Hundreds of unionized rail workers have attended solidarity rallies from Harvey, North Dakota, to Chicago, and from Mason City, Iowa, to Milwaukee and LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Two hundred fifty union members and their families attended

one such event here August 7.

The carrier launched its sharpest effort yet to intimidate workers by running 23 potential scab engineers through qualifying tests here. On August 8, the replacements were brought to the CP's training center in a passenger bus, startling UTU pickets. "You always hear about 'the bus,' and then there it is," said picket captain Bill Sullivan, a 26-year rail veteran. "[The scabs] taunted us, thumbed their noses, laughed at us. It really got our blood going."

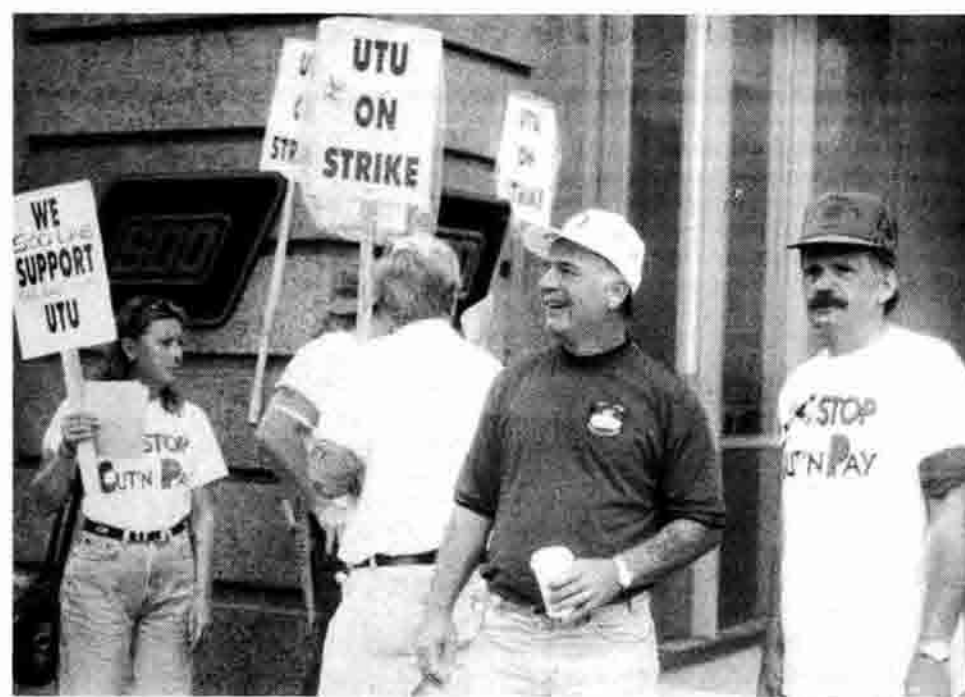
Scab crews and CP-Soo managers are also being used at the big St. Paul Ford truck assembly plant, where normal service has been maintained. The CP, Ford, Burlington Northern, and Chicago and Northwestern (CN&W), are servicing the United Auto Workers-organized truck plant, hauling trains to their respective yards, where UTU crews then take over.

Unionized CN&W crews now work the large Koch oil refinery on joint CP and CN&W track.

UTU officials say railroad business is down by 90 percent, a figure disputed by CP spokesman John Bergene, who claims "substantially more" work is being done.

An article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press noted that the carrier's "competitors have estimated the shutdown is 75 percent effective."

Despite the potential to organize and unite railroad workers on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border in a common fight



Militant/Jon Hillson

UTU members in Minnesota picketing against the Soo Line railroad.

against this union-busting outfit, top union officials are appealing to national chauvinism as the strike unfolds.

Top UTU officials have responded to the CP's union-busting offensive by campaigning against what they call Canadian scabs, and pressing for the government to

deport them. Some signs produced in English and French declaring "Canuck scabs go home" are being used on the picket lines, along with upside down Canadian flags.

Jon Hillson is a member of UTU Local 1882 on strike against CP Rail in St. Paul.

British rail workers hold one-day strike

BY TIM RIGBY

MANCHESTER, England — Railroad signal workers organized by the National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers (RMT) at Railtrack in Britain, held a 24-hour strike August 3. The walk-out was the eighth shutdown since the dispute began June 15. The important stakes in this conflict are underlined by the public support the government of Prime Minister John Major has given to the management of the state-owned company. The London-based *Daily Telegraph* noted on August 3 that the dispute is "the longest bout of disruption on the railways since the first World War."

On August 2 RMT officials announced that a further 24-hour action would be held August 12 and a 48-hour strike on Monday

and Tuesday of the following week.

The union is demanding a wage hike of 11 percent to compensate for large increases in productivity of signal workers over the past few years and for a fall in their already low wages. The bosses' central aim is to clear the way to force restructuring on the workforce. In 1984 there were 6,695 signal workers, today there are 4,642. Over the same period, the number of train miles operated per signal worker have increased from 35,878 to 52,783.

Restructuring threatens the disappearance of overtime payments, the inclusion of Sunday and public holidays in the normal workweek, and rostered 12-hour shifts at straight time wages. Today signal workers have a basic 39-hour workweek on top of which extensive overtime is worked. To illustrate the existing low levels of pay, strike picketers outside Manchester's Piccadilly railway station have been handing out copies of a pay slip for a basic workweek to passersby. One hundred eight pounds [US\$1.50-£1] remain after deductions.

The aims of the Railtrack bosses are backed by the government, which is determined to hold down public sector wage rises, a stance encouraged by employers in private industry. Eddie George, the gover-

nor of the Bank of England, told the *Observer* newspaper July 24, "British workers and trade unions will have to get used to wage increases of two to three percent as the norm."

The great majority of RMT-organized signal workers have remained loyal to the strike despite a recent offer by management for a one-time payment of £770 to those who cross picket lines. "They are turning the screw more and more, but that just gets our backs up and makes us even more determined to fight it out," said one worker.

Railtrack is steadily increasing the number of trains running on strike days. While in the first strikes the rail network was essentially shut down, the bosses claimed one-third of all trains operated in the 48-hour strike ending July 28. This has been achieved by using supervisory employees in the signal boxes. Some have no signalling experience, while many have not worked in the boxes for several years.

One supervisor allowed a passenger train into a station that had been closed due to a fire alert. Track workers have not been protected, and many incidents have occurred with level crossing barriers being raised, while a train was passing, or barriers being closed trapping pedestrians.

NUMMI auto workers stage walkout

BY MARGARET JAYKO

FREMONT, California — In their first strike since the plant opened 10 years ago, auto workers at New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) here in northern California walked off their jobs August 3 at 12:01 a.m. They were protesting company demands for givebacks as part of negotiations for a new contract. NUMMI is jointly owned by Toyota and General Motors. The 3,500 production and maintenance workers, members of United Auto Workers Local 2244, build Toyota Corollas and pickups, as well as GM Geo Prizms.

A tentative four-year agreement, subject to membership vote, was reached two hours after the walkout began.

Overtime work without overtime pay

A union leaflet distributed one hour before the strike read in part, "the company's last and final proposal still contains several provisions that would undermine decades of union struggle and progress. The key provision is the company's insistence that we give up the hard-won principle of premium pay for work over 8 hours per day. The company is demanding Alternative Work Schedules in Stamping and Plastic which would require our members to work 10-hour days and Saturdays without overtime premium." The leaflet stated union officials' willingness to consider the alternative work schedules, but added, "overtime work without overtime pay is not acceptable."

At midnight, as second- and third-shift workers streamed out the doors, management lined the halls with extra security guards and company personnel. In some departments everyone walked out, in others participation was closer to 80 percent.

NUMMI management likes to project the image that this factory is different than other U.S. auto plants. They claim it is organized through team work, cooperation, and mutual trust and respect between union and management. This was captured by the headline in one major local daily, "NUMMI workers threaten strike; rare discord at auto plant."

In reality, however, discord is rather common — and on the rise. On some parts of the assembly line, repetitive motion injuries affect a majority of workers.

Those who report their injuries are often harassed by management and accused of "faking it." Workers also face speedup, forced overtime, job overload, and woefully inadequate sick and vacation days, to name just a few of the issues over which there is daily discord between workers and management.

In these circumstances, most people welcomed the union officials' call to resist management attempts to make things even worse. Many were disturbed, however, that union officials refused to inform the membership about the issues in the strike, and didn't provide any response to the barrage of company propaganda. Some workers recalled their own previous strike experiences where the membership had been more involved.

Returning to work the next day, most workers felt proud that they had stood up together against the company. They felt that they had accomplished something important, even though they knew they still had to see what was in the contract and vote on it.

Margaret Jayko is a member of UAW Local 2244 and works on the truck assembly line at NUMMI.

'Militant' now produced entirely by staff using desktop technology

This issue of the *Militant* registers an important change in the way the paper is produced. Working-class fighters around the world will be pleased to learn that the *Militant* staff is taking advantage of computer technologies to eliminate substantial duplication of efforts in the paper's production and thus save invaluable labor time. This will allow the editorial staff to improve the political content, timeliness, and appearance of the paper.

Every step before the printing stage of this issue was accomplished entirely on computer screen, without any of the work that used to be done by a printshop composition department to lay out the paper. Staff writers prepared the page layouts, using Microsoft Publisher, a new software program that cost \$90. They wrote the headlines; designed some advertisements; formatted and dropped in text — all on computer screens on their desks in the editorial department. In coming weeks photos will also be scanned, and cropped and placed in position on screen.

For decades, even after the advent of computers, the editorial staff spent massive amounts of time with paper, pencils, calculators, and rulers laying out the paper. This work was then duplicated in a composition department in the shop, where the newspaper is printed. Now the duplication of effort is gone.

As a result, the *Militant*, and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, are in a better position to bring readers news and analysis in the interests of working people every week.

In addition, we now receive a growing percentage of articles from the field by electronic mail, eliminating the time and effort needed to type or scan this copy. We urge all correspondents to send in reports by E-mail if possible.

And we encourage our worker correspondents to keep these articles coming in. Soon, the *Militant* itself will be available via electronic mail every week upon request. And we welcome readers' comments and suggestions, not only on the paper's political content, but also its design.

Labor resistance, revulsion by youth against capitalism's evils at center of SWP convention

Continued from front page

people to the communist movement.

Altogether some 750 people attended the convention and participated in the conference activities surrounding it. These included workshops aimed at increasing the effectiveness of political work by party members and supporters, classes on a wide range of political and historical topics, and working meetings of party members active in eight industrial unions. The founding meeting of a new, nationwide socialist youth organization, the Young Socialists, also took place during the gathering.

At the opening of the convention, the 144 regular and fraternal delegates and 600 other conference participants were welcomed by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes and by SWP National Committee member James Warren, a steelworker and the party's candidate for president of the United States in 1992. Some 110 delegates and observers were under the age of 27. They came from 55 cities across the United States and from 14 countries around the world. Thirty-one languages were spoken by one or more of the conference participants.

Aside from the 62 delegates with decisive vote elected from party branches in 23 U.S. cities, members of the party's National Committee chosen by the 1991 convention were seated as fraternal delegates. Other fraternal delegates were from communist leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom; from groups in France and Iceland; as well as representatives chosen by at-large party members in Peoria, Illinois, and the Albany-Schenectady area in New York and by the young socialists leadership.

Revolutionary struggle in Cuba

The first political report and discussion at the convention was "Defend Cuba, Defend the Cuban Socialist Revolution" presented by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. The party's National Committee placed this report at the opening of the convention, Waters said, because the Communist Party in Cuba remains the only leadership holding state power anywhere in the world that continues to defend the interests of the working class and the worldwide fight for socialism.

The Cuban government and its leadership, Waters said, has maintained this course, with whatever mistakes and hesitations, despite the fact that the revolution has been forced into a retreat by formidable economic and social difficulties and political challenges in the opening years of the 1990s. These setbacks stem first and foremost from the demise of the revolutions in Grenada and Nicaragua in the 1980s and the stalemates or decline of popular struggles elsewhere in the



Militant/Rosa Garmendia

Delegates at 37th Constitutional Convention of Socialist Workers Party

Americas.

Decisive layers of the working class in Cuba, Waters stated, have demonstrated the capacity and determination to defend the revolution's socialist conquests. While working people have been affected most severely by inflation and the black market trading in dollars, a broad mass vanguard of the Cuban working class has not been so worn down or demoralized by the country's current economic crisis — as layers of middle class professionals have been — that they are no longer ready to fight for a socialist course.

The assessment in Waters's report was borne out at the close of the SWP convention, as half a million workers and students mobilized in the streets of Havana August 7 to protest the murder of a young police officer by armed thugs who had tried to hijack a local ferry to the United States (see article on front page). The report — which dealt with a range of questions, from the current economic and social policies of the Cuban government to the political impact of the collapse of the Stalinist regimes in the former Soviet bloc — will be edited for publication later this year in an issue of the Marxist magazine *New International* and its sister publications in Spanish, French, and Swedish.

Defending socialist revolution in Cuba

For the reasons outlined in her report, Waters said, Wall Street's class hatred for the Cuban revolution and its communist leadership remains implacable. The U.S. government is not about to drop its trade embargo, travel ban, and other aggressive

policies against Cuba. The masters of the empire in Washington believe that the fighting men and women of Cuba must be taught a lesson in order to deter all those around the world who are unwilling to live on their knees — who are unwilling, that is, to accept the domination of the capitalist market system.

All the convention delegates had participated in the party's efforts to get out the truth about the Cuban revolution through the circulation of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press. Many had also been active over the past year in a range of activities with other individuals and political forces in defense of the Cuban revolution.

Some had participated in youth brigades to Cuba doing agricultural work and reporting on their experiences upon their return. Chris Hoepfner, a delegate from Seattle who is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 289, described the revolutionary-minded young people from the United States he had worked alongside in June during the Freedom to Travel Campaign trip to Cuba, which defied the U.S. travel ban. Other delegates talked about the importance of the U.S. speaking tour of Cuban youth leader Pável Díaz Hernández in March and April.

"When a Cuban communist speaks directly with young people and workers in the United States it has a substantial impact," said Martin Koppel, a delegate from Brooklyn, New York. Koppel is editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* and the Spanish-language magazine of Marxist politics and theory, *Nueva Internacional*.

Koppel also talked about his visit to a cigar factory in Havana in February during a reporting trip for the *Militant* newspaper. He said many Cuban workers identified immediately with the fight of Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist who was framed up by police in Des Moines, Iowa, in the middle of a fight to defend 17 immigrant coworkers from victimization by the government.

Several delegates pointed out that what communist workers do in the United States to defend Cuba weighs in the outcome of the class struggle in both countries. A member of the United Steelworkers union reported on efforts being initiated by unionists to organize a trip to Cuba by rank-and-file workers in the United States to exchange experiences with workers there. Leaders of the Cuban trade union federation have expressed interest in sponsoring such a trip. A delegate from Iowa spoke about the possibilities to organize a tour by working farmers to Cuba.

Responding to greetings to the SWP convention from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, delegates sent back a message. "Defense of Cuba and of its socialist revolution is part and parcel of our activity as a communist party inside the United States," the message said.

"It is among those in struggle

today — from strikers on the picket lines against the giant Caterpillar corporation, to defense lines at abortion clinics, to those working to use the space for politics opened by the new democratic revolution in South African revolution — that we find the best fighters who identify with the Cuban road, the road to socialism.

"We fight to convince class-conscious workers not only to express their solidarity with fellow fighters in Cuba," the message said, "but to learn from and follow the example of the Cuban revolution. And we explain to them that the vanguard of the working class in Cuba, in face of the hardships at numerous turning points in the revolution, learns from and draws inspiration from the class struggle in the United States and around the world."

The SWP convention also received greetings from the African National Congress of South Africa; the Workers Party of Korea; the Union of Young Communists of Cuba; the Movement of Landless Rural Workers and the Workers Party (PT) of Brazil; the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a Miami-based organization of Cuban-Americans who support the Cuban revolution; and the Socialist Forum of Mexico. This week's issue of the *Militant* features the messages from and to framed-up unionist and socialist Mark Curtis as well as the delegates' message to the ANC.

Instability of world capitalism

"Over the past almost seven years, some of the biggest changes in the last half century have occurred," stated the resolution discussed and adopted by the convention delegates. "A new — and descending — segment in the long-term curve of capitalist development was signaled by the October 1987 crash of the world's stock markets. A few years later the Stalinist apparatuses throughout Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union came tumbling down, one after another. Then, a war against Iraq that Washington sought to portray as a glorious military victory ended up sharpening the conflicts of the imperialist world order. At the opening of the 1990s capitalism sank into a worldwide depression for the first time since prior to World War II."

This resolution had been discussed and voted on by branches of the Socialist Workers Party across the country leading up to the convention. Along with reports discussed and adopted by the convention and related material from the past several years, the resolution will also be published in *New International* later this year.

Barnes reported on the resolution at the convention on behalf of the party's National Committee. The capitalists in the United States and other imperialist countries are focusing on cost cutting and "downsizing" to try to boost profits, Barnes said, not investing in new plants and machinery that would expand overall production. They use computerization, speedup, and other methods to squeeze more production out of fewer workers, hoping to hold costs down and outbid the competition.

So far, employers in the United States have traveled faster and further along this road than their imperialist rivals. They have succeeded in driving down wages and working conditions and increasing line speed and productivity to the point where big companies such as Caterpillar and General Motors are taking increasing market share away from their competitors in Japan, Germany, and other industrialized countries. During the current upswing in the capitalist business cycle in the United States, many employers have begun hiring again, including a layer of new, younger workers, even while they continue downsizing and layoffs.

Shakiness of stock markets

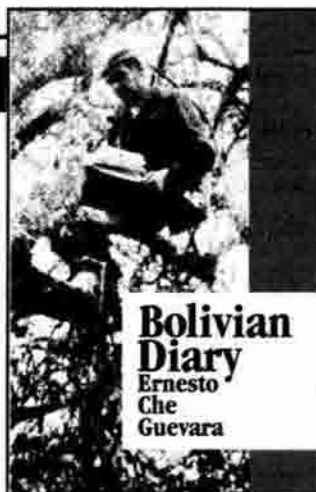
Faced with the insecurity of sharper ups and downs in the world capitalist economy, Barnes said, the upturn and increased hiring of younger workers has fueled a strike wave that has continued to roll across the United States since the first months of 1994.

The early 1990s saw an explosion in paper values on most of the world's stock and

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Bolivian Diary
Ernesto Che Guevara

NEW INTERNATIONAL no. 10



Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War Jack Barnes ♦ What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold ♦ In Defense of Cuba, In Defense of the Socialist Revolution Mary-Alice Waters

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from *Pathfinder*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3.00 to cover postage and handling for the first book and 50 cents for each additional item.

bond markets. An "impending catastrophe built into this stage in the longer-term rhythms of the declining capitalist system is what the 1987 collapse of the world's stock markets pointed to as a coming attraction," the SWP resolution explains.

In his report to the convention, Barnes commented on several recent examples of the results of the capitalists' efforts to expand the workings of stock markets in China, India, and Russia. Just a week prior to the convention, more than 10,000 people — outraged and panicked — demonstrated outside the offices of MMM in Moscow, as the company's pyramid investment scheme began to crumble. The MMM company had used increasing funds from new shareholders to pay off previous investors until the house of cards finally collapsed — for pensioners, demobilized soldiers, and others who had put their savings into it, not for the company's owners and top management.

While spectacular collapses such as this receive much publicity, Barnes said, the MMM scheme is not fundamentally different from dealings in so-called derivatives and hedge funds on the more established Wall Street and other imperialist paper markets, or even in the day-to-day workings of "normal" stock and bond sales. The business and financial pages this year have reported numerous examples of huge collapses in currency and securities tradings.

Barnes pointed to the Canadian computer company Newbridge Networks, whose stocks had started plunging precipitously August 1. Pension funds, medical funds, and others heavily invested in Newbridge began selling to avoid the worst effects of the plunge. By the end of that day, the stock price had dropped by nearly a third.

That same evening, however, these investors were informed that the Nasdaq stock exchange in New York had canceled their trades, and they were left holding the bag. So much for the myth of "guaranteed pension funds" backed by "secure" investment portfolios!

Trade conflicts among rival national capitalists are sharpening as well. Only a few days before the delegates convened, the Canadian government — one of Washington's partners in the so-called North American Free Trade Agreement — seized two U.S. fishing boats for illegally fishing near Canada's territorial waters. Canadian authorities arrested the captains of the two vessels, charged them with fishing illegally for scallops, and set \$5,000 bond for the release of each man. The episode has caused a diplomatic rift between Washington and Ottawa. On July 30, U.S. Senator John Kerry urged sanctions against Canada over the incident.

March toward fascism and war

Intensifying competition among the imperialist powers exacerbates military conflicts over turf as well. The recent bombings by U.S. jets in Bosnia are aimed above all at blocking its rivals in Bonn and Paris from gaining too unchallenged a foothold in the disintegrating former Yugoslavia. Washington's saber-rattling with regard to Haiti has everything to do with asserting its domination in the Americas and nothing to do with defending democratic elections there. The French government intervened in Rwanda this year to reassert its continuing claim to a "sphere of influence" — and profits — on the African continent.

The convention resolution explains, however, that today's trade conflicts alone are not likely to explode directly into large-scale interimperialist wars, such as those the capitalist rulers will ultimately resort to in order to reverse the long-term decline of their profit rates.

But "any thinking worker that fights today and thinks about what they see developing around them can visualize the rot of capitalism and what it has in store," Barnes said. "They can see the mounting dangers of war in a world in which the nationalist and jingoist voice of a Patrick Buchanan or

an Oliver North has a growing place inside bourgeois politics."

This pattern of political polarization and rightist demagoguery is unfolding internationally. An openly fascist party — the Italian Social Movement — is now one of the partners in the ruling coalition government in Rome. During his trip to Europe in June for the D-Day anniversary celebration, Barnes pointed out, U.S. president Bill Clinton made a point of going to Italy, where he demonstratively gave his blessing on behalf of Washington and Wall Street to a government with overtly fascist ministers.

In the days just before and during the SWP convention, the party's national secretary said, the reality of deepening political polarization in the United States was underlined by the cold-blooded murder of Dr. John Britton and volunteer escort James Barrett outside an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida, and the burning of the school in Wedowee, Alabama, whose principal had subjected students to outrageous racist abuse.

Ultrarightists in every country play on the fears and insecurities particularly of the middle classes and newly better-off layers of the working class. They paint large sections of the population — immigrants, single mothers, gays, and others — as less than human, in an effort to undermine working-class solidarity. At the same time they rail against the "decadent elite," seeking to channel working peoples' resentments into the ranks of rightist movements that use populist and even anticapitalist rhetoric to mobilize forces against any challenge by workers and the labor movement to the capitalist order. These are the stakes in the "culture wars" declared by Buchanan and other reactionary forces in recent years.

"This battle for the soul of the working class is the battle for the future of humanity," Barnes said.

Centrality of workers' resistance

The wave of strikes in the United States since early 1994 takes place in the context of this growing world capitalist disorder and its political consequences.

In a report to the convention Wendy Lyons, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Philadelphia, reviewed a number of the most important labor battles unfolding today and the resulting openings for more effective communist work in the trade unions.

At the center of the strike wave is the battle by 14,000 workers at Caterpillar in Peoria, Decatur, and Aurora, Illinois; York, Pennsylvania; and elsewhere. Lyons recalled what the *Militant* said in 1992 after the United Auto Workers (UAW) officialdom ordered the Caterpillar workers to end a five-month strike. "The strike did not end because the workers' nerve failed or because picket lines were too weak," said a May 1, 1992, *Militant* editorial. "Caterpillar will now be out for blood. Workers are going back to work but matters are hardly settled."

A little more than two years later, the

UAW members at Caterpillar walked out again. They did so essentially over the right to protest management's attempts to impose harsher working conditions on them and curb their union rights.

The fight at Caterpillar, Lyons said, highlights a common feature of labor struggles today: Whatever the outcome of a given battle, the issues at stake are rarely resolved. Because the questions involved are fundamental to the employers' drive to maximize profits, on the one hand, and, on the other, the need of the working class to maintain elementary standards of conditions of labor. Fights erupt not primarily over wages, but over how long the workday is, how fast the line moves, how much muscle and bone must be torn up simply to make a living.

Lyons described the August 1 mass picket by Caterpillar workers and their supporters in York — which stopped strikebreakers from entering the plant — as something new in the fight. She gave examples of other labor resistance, from the rail workers strike on Canadian Pacific's Soo Line to the first walk-out ever at the NUMMI auto plant in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Delegates discussed the openings to broaden solidarity with these fights among workers and youth and to link up labor battles with other social struggles. Ninety-five delegates were industrial workers and members of industrial trade unions.

"When young socialists come to the picket lines," said Brian Pugh, a delegate from Peoria, "that tells strikers something about the world." And meeting workers on strike gives radicalizing young people a glimpse of the social force that can change society, Pugh and other delegates pointed out.

In the weeks before the convention, members of the Socialist Workers Party who belong to eight industrial trade unions had met to discuss the strike wave and how



Members of National Committees of SWP and of the Young Socialists sing *Internationale* at closing of socialist conference at Oberlin College August 6. Top right, Mark Curtis, newly elected member of SWP National Committee, who could not be present because he is incarcerated at the state penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa. Curtis was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary six years ago in the middle of a fight to defend 17 immigrant coworkers at Monfort meatpacking plant where he worked.

Militant/Dave Wulp

to advance their political work in the labor movement. On the Sunday morning following the final convention session, these workers met again to discuss and decide plans for strike solidarity work through their unions; defense of the socialist revolution in Cuba; defending abortion rights; sales of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, and revolutionary books on the job; and other political campaigns.

Guide to action

The resolution and the reports on it were prepared as a guide for action for revolutionary-minded workers and youth.

During the convention itself, a number of delegates and observers took off to participate in a rally in Chicago called by workers striking against Caterpillar as well as in an abortion rights action in nearby Cleveland protesting the July 29 murder of a doctor and volunteer escort at an abortion clinic in Pensacola.

On their way to the convention, 10 participants from Iceland, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., including five delegates, joined in the August 1 mass picket outside Caterpillar's York plant. Others hit the road immediately afterwards, heading for Peoria, Decatur, Pensacola, and Wedowee.

Youth begin to rebel

Alongside the resistance brewing within the working class is a growing reaction among youth against the horrors of capitalism. One evidence of this fact was the decision by some 100 young socialists participating as delegates and observers at the convention to launch a nationwide socialist youth organization. During two sessions of a youth meeting held during the conference, they took the name Young Socialists and decided to call a founding convention for the December 31-January 1 holiday weekend at the end of this year.

Jack Willey reported this decision to the convention on behalf of the new group. The Young Socialists decided to make defense of the socialist revolution in Cuba and solidarity with the struggles of workers and farmers in South Africa central campaigns of their organization. They voted to orient to the working class as the only social force capable of preventing capitalist society from dragging humanity into the pit by organizing a new government, a workers and farmers government, and joining in the fight for a socialist world.

Nineteen members of the new youth organization were also delegates to the SWP convention. They and other young socialists are among a new generation of leaders of the SWP's branches and of its trade union work in cities across the United States.

During the discussion on the report back

Continued on page 12

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Elected by 37th Constitutional Convention
August 3-7, Oberlin, Ohio

REGULAR

Jack Barnes
Joel Britton
Steve Clark
Naomi Craine
Mark Curtis
Estelle DeBates
Betsy Farley
James Harris
John Hawkins
Chris Hoeppner
Martin Koppel
Sara Lobman
Wendy Lyons
Luis Madrid

Ernie Mailhot
Paul Mailhot
Argiris Malapanis
Greg McCartan
Francisco Picado
Dave Prince
Greg Rosenberg
Norton Sandler
Ma'mud Shirvani
George Stevenson
Maggie Trowe
Mary-Alice Waters
James Warren

ALTERNATE

1. Joe Swanson
2. Aaron Ruby
3. John Cox
4. Frank Forrestal
5. Rollande Girard
6. Peter Thierjung
7. Andy Buchanan
8. Laura Garza
9. Holly Harkness

10. Tamar Rosenfeld
11. Ken Riley
12. Brian Pugh
13. Brian Taylor
14. Angel Lariscy
15. Toni Jackson
16. Mark Gilsdorf
17. Jason Coughlin

Socialist conference arms youth, workers to be better fighters

BY SARA LOBMAN

OVERLIN, Ohio — "Before I met you I couldn't think of linking our struggle in Korea with those in the United States and the rest of the world — we hate U.S. imperialism so much," Kim Young said. She was among the hundreds of youth and workers who participated in the international socialist conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 3-7. Before moving to Singapore half a year ago, Young, 25, explained, she was active in student struggles in South Korea to demand the reunification of her country and to support the struggles of auto workers and others for better living conditions and against government repression.

Tom Leonard, who was a 25-year-old seaman at the outbreak of the Korean War, also attended the conference. He shared his experiences with Kim Young and several other conference participants over a beer at the conference center one night. "The Socialist Workers Party has a long history of opposition to U.S. intervention in Korea and in support of reunification that goes back to before the Korean War," Leonard explained. "The experience I had as a seaman during that war made me a communist," he added. He joined the SWP in 1951 after he returned to the United States.

The conference activities accompanied the proceedings of the 37th constitutional convention of the Socialist Workers Party at Oberlin College here. They brought together hundreds of working-class fighters from around the world. In five days of workshops, classes, and informal discussion, industrial workers, students, and others exchanged experiences in order to become more effective participants in labor battles and movements of social protest and to better be able to practice communist politics with others in struggle.

"I first came into contact with the party when I was taking a class on the history of Mexico," Brian Miller, a warehouse worker in Philadelphia, said. Miller, 24, decided to become a candidate for membership in the SWP, as well as a founding member of the Young Socialists.

Miller explained that he saw a leaflet about a mushroom workers' strike posted up at school. He went to the rally the strikers had organized, met some socialist workers who were there too, and bought his first subscription to the *Militant*. Miller joined the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) in April when Mark Gilsdorf, one of the leaders of SYOC, was on a speaking tour in Philadelphia. He has since participated in solidarity teams to the picket lines of striking garment workers at Leslie Fay in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and auto workers at the Caterpillar plant in York, Pennsylvania.

Strikers at Canadian Pacific Railroad and many other embattled workers also attended the international gathering.

In the middle of the conference exhibit and display center, Frank Travis and Tom Bly fielded questions about the struggle of workers at the A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co. in Decatur, Illinois. Travis and Bly are members of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU). The company locked out nearly 800 UPIU members a year ago after unionists resisted the imposition of a concession contract. Prior to the lockout, Staley employees worked for seven months under a company-imposed contract that gutted the grievance procedure, eliminated most seniority rights, and forced workers onto 12-hour rotating shifts without overtime pay.

"When our fight first started, it was all I thought about," Travis said in an interview, explaining how he has changed since meeting unionists and other fighters from around the world. "Then I heard Pável Díaz speak." Díaz, a Cuban youth leader, spoke at a socialist educational conference in Chicago in early April as part of a nationwide speaking tour. Travis attended the Chicago conference and invited Díaz to Decatur soon afterward. The Cuban youth received a standing ovation from Staley workers after speaking to their union meeting on the challenges and opportunities confronting Cuban workers and youth as

they fight to defend the socialist revolution in that country.

"Now at this conference alone, I've met people from Australia, New Zealand, all over, and I see that our fight against one company in Illinois is part of a much bigger international fight," Travis said. He added that he and other workers at the conference were discussing plans for a contingent of U.S. unionists to visit Cuba to discuss politics with working people there.

Conference workshops

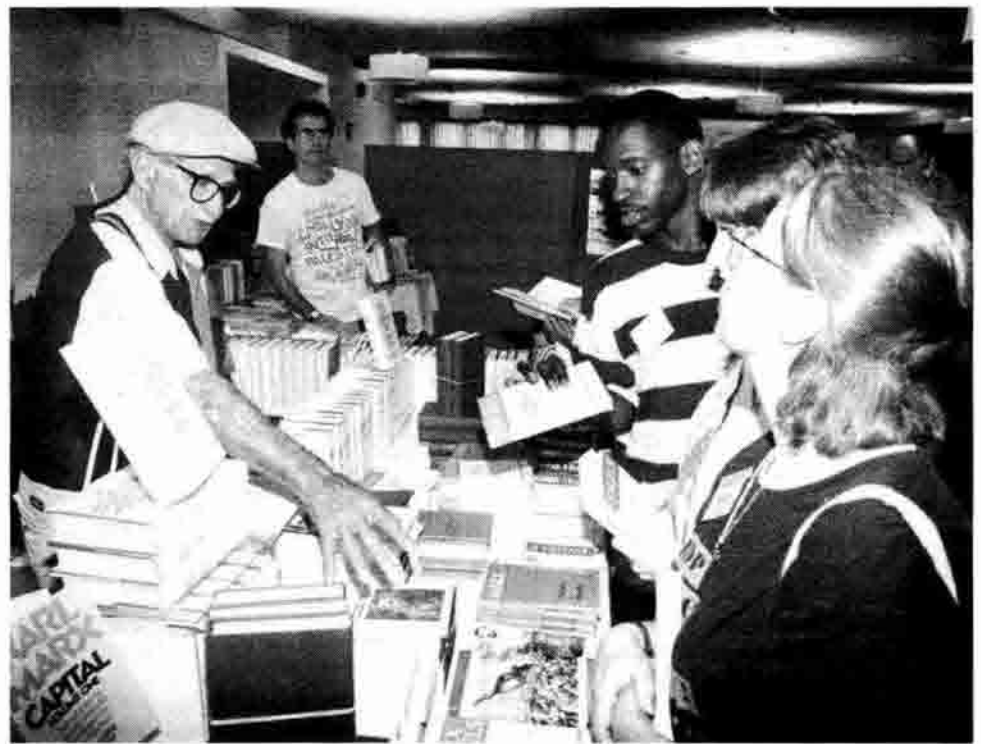
"More than a dozen young people were hired at the same time as me, and several of them are interested in socialism," Rebecca Gettleman, a 22-year-old rail worker from San Francisco, told the 150 people attending the workshop "Communist Workers Talking Socialism on the Job," which took up the sales of Pathfinder books and the revolutionary press on the job, workers correspondence for the *Militant*, and the education program for candidates for membership in the SWP. This was one of four workshops held during the conference.

Gettleman explained how she posts articles from the *Militant* in the break room at work. "Sometimes I'll start a discussion with one or another coworker about South Africa or something and by the time break is over almost everyone else is involved as well," she said.

SWP Trade Union Director Joel Britton urged workshop participants to send in articles on political discussions they were part of on the job, including debates on topics such as gay rights and the O.J. Simpson case. Britton encouraged all participants to jot down and send to the *Militant* regularly over the next month short stories on the response by coworkers to the demand by socialists for federal troops to defend women and medical personnel under attack by rightists at abortion clinics. While the *Militant* has a small professional staff, he noted, it depends on working people around the world for most of its coverage of the labor movement, social struggles, and political debates and discussions among factory workers. Such reports will allow the *Militant* editorial staff to have its fingers on the pulse of the working class and thus make the paper more interesting and compelling.

Shellia Kennedy, a rail worker in Sheffield, England, agreed, noting that it is as important for communist workers to write for the *Militant* as to read and distribute it.

"I found the discussion at the workshop very useful," Brian Miller said in an interview several days after the conference. "I had never brought any socialist literature into the warehouse, but when I got back



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Participants at the August 3-7 International Socialist Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, snatched up \$10,000 worth of books, including titles by Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

from Ohio I brought in a copy of [Pathfinder's pamphlet] *Two Speeches by Malcolm X* for a guy I work with. He sat down and read it right there."

A second workshop, titled "Strengthening Nonparty Institutions," took up the role of Militant Labor forums and Pathfinder bookstores as tools that can be used effectively by all working-class fighters. Participants in other workshops discussed financing a communist party of workers, Socialist Workers election campaigns, Mark Curtis defense work, selling the *Militant* at plant gates, and other topics.

Debates on fascism, abortion rights

"We had a pretty lively discussion at the class I gave," Norton Sandler, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party and member of the International Association of Machinists, said. Sandler and Nell Wheeler, a packinghouse worker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, prepared a presentation for the class on "Countermobilization: How to Fight Fascists from the Silver Shirts to Today." Both Sandler and Wheeler live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Ivan Rosero, an 18-year-old conference participant born in Colombia, noted that several of the young people attending the class, who were faced with fascist-minded youth in their high schools, wanted to know where they could read about past experiences of antifascist fights. "I told them they should read *Teamster Rebellion*," Rosero said. "The book's author, Farrell Dobbs, explains how workers can organize to defend themselves against the cops and other thugs who wanted to destroy their fight." *Teamster Rebellion* is one of a four-part series that chronicles the strikes and organizing drive in the 1930s that transformed the Teamsters union in Minnesota and much of the Midwest into a fighting industrial union movement.

Altogether, nine classes were held dur-

ing the conference, including "Youth and the Working Class Movement: From Marx and Engels through Lenin to Today," "Abortion Rights, Women's Liberation, and the Fight for Socialism Today," "Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam," and "South Africa's Unfolding Democratic Revolution and the Forging of Communist Leadership." In addition, informal discussion sessions were organized during dinner breaks on the convention reports and discussions.

While dozens were attending their first international socialist conference and SWP convention, many were veterans of decades of struggle. Charlie Scheer and Harry Ring were new members of the organization when it adopted the name Socialist Workers Party in 1938. Both became delegates to the party's convention the following year.

"The new grouping of young people coming around the party today gives me great satisfaction," Ring said. "Young people today have a big advantage. When I joined the communist movement, the Stalinist murder machine still carried a huge weight in the workers' movement. This is no longer true today. In addition, the women's liberation movement, civil rights movement, the fight for gay rights, and a number of other social struggles were still decades away."

Conference participants wasted no time in putting the five days of political discussion and debate to good use. By the time volunteers began taking down the displays and book tables at the exhibit center, dozens of people had signed up for campaign teams in New York state to collect 22,000 signatures to put the Socialist Workers slate on the ballot there. Others were heading to the Caterpillar and Staley picket lines in Peoria and Decatur, Illinois; to defend abortion clinics in Pensacola, Florida; and to oppose racist violence in Wedowee, Alabama.

SWP sends greetings to South Africa's ANC

Printed below is a message the delegates and guests to the 37th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party sent to the African National Congress.

The 750 delegates, young socialists, and other participants in the 37th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party send revolutionary greetings to our brothers and sisters in struggle in the African National Congress of South Africa. We received with great enthusiasm the revolutionary greetings to our convention from the ANC Department of International Relations and look forward to a representative of the ANC being with us at our next gathering.

The world capitalist order today at the close of the 20th century is marked by depression conditions, increasing insecurity and instability, and growing rightist dangers and pressures toward war. The delegates to this convention and other participants have exchanged experiences and views on how to deepen our involvement in building labor solidarity with a wave of strikes and union resistance that has been

unfolding in the United States this year. We have charted a course to continue fighting alongside others against murderous rightist attacks aimed at denying women the right to abortion and at pushing back their drive toward full economic and social equality. We reaffirmed our commitment to tell the truth about and to defend struggles by working people and youth in other countries, from Nigeria to Argentina, from France to Korea. We discussed how best to advance our work with others in defense of Cuba and its socialist revolution.

The victories you have scored have opened new and hitherto unseen opportunities in the fight for a nonracial, democratic, united, and nonsexist South Africa. We reaffirm our continued efforts to win working people and youth to join you in the struggle to expand on the broadest levels — social, economic, and political — the democratic conquests in South Africa, to overcome the gross injustices and inequalities apartheid inflicted on millions, and to open up space for even more widespread and politically conscious organization of working people, rural toilers, and democratic-minded forces.

You proved that with political leadership, organization, and determination it is possible to fight and win enormous ground against stupendous odds. Your victory has strengthened — and brought closer together — the resistance by toilers the world over to the devastating consequences of the world capitalist economic catastrophe. It has and will in the years ahead make it more possible for all of us to deal blows to racism, national chauvinism, and all forms of oppression, exploitation, and injustice the world over.

As part of this five-day international gathering of our movement, some 100 young socialists met here and decided to form a nationwide organization that will hold its founding convention at the end of this year. The members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and the young socialists pledge to continue exchanging experiences and forging links of common struggle with our sisters and brothers in the ANC and the ANC Youth League. We plan to be with you in South Africa in coming months to learn more about your efforts and to bring back the truth to workers, farmers, and youth in this country.

Judge rejects appeal of framed-up unionist

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — On July 14 Federal District Court judge Charles Wolle rejected the appeal of union and political activist Mark Curtis, which called for the overturn of his 1988 frame-up conviction on charges of rape and burglary.

Curtis had submitted a writ of habeas corpus — a legal motion asking that the state be forced to release him — last October. Curtis's attorneys, William Kutmus and Jeanne Johnson, argued that Curtis's constitutional rights were so badly violated during his trial that the conviction must be thrown out. In particular, they pointed to the fact that the judge refused to instruct the jury that it could consider finding Curtis not guilty because he established an alibi — he was in Los Compadres, a restaurant and bar, with dozens of witnesses at the time prosecution witnesses claimed he was committing rape.

Second, the judge refused to allow Curtis to cross examine the main witness against him, a Des Moines cop who claimed he caught Curtis "with his pants down." Curtis's attorneys were prevented from informing the jury that the cop had once been suspended from the police force for beating a suspect and then lying and manufacturing evidence to cover up the incident.

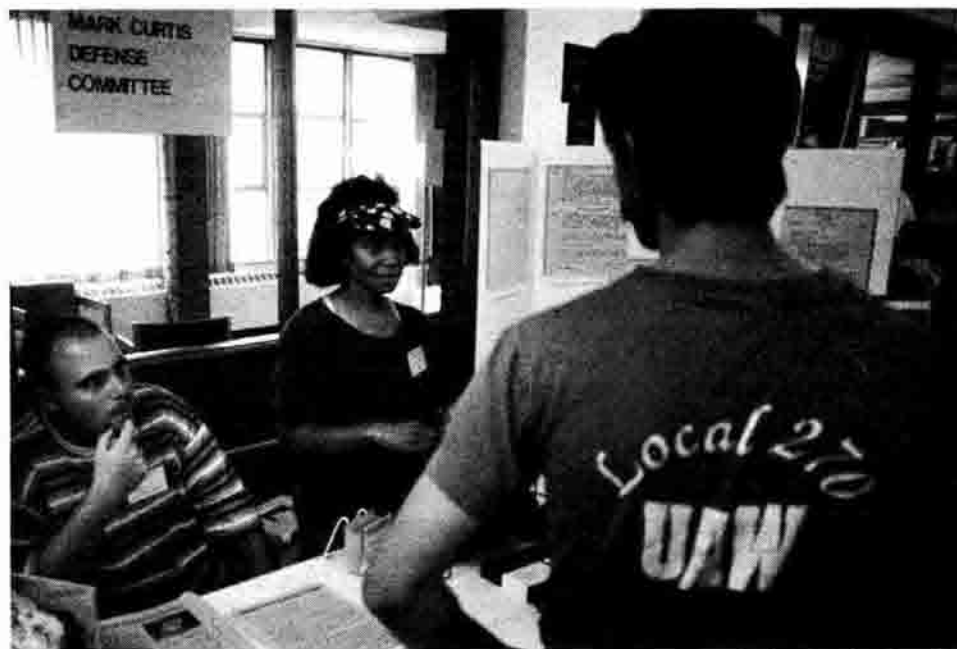
In addition the trial judge refused to allow Curtis to introduce evidence that indicated that the Des Moines police framed him for his union and political activity. This included the beating he received from the Des Moines cops the night of his arrest and FBI files on Curtis's political activities.

These violations of Curtis's rights, along with others in his appeal, were brushed aside — both individually and taken together — by the Federal District Court judge.

A central obstacle to Curtis's appeal is a bipartisan drive in recent years in both Congress and the courts to severely curtail prisoners' rights to appeal their conviction.

Wolle ruled that for Curtis's petition to succeed, he would have to prove that each of the trial rulings he challenged was "so grossly prejudicial it infects the whole trial."

Citing a recent Supreme Court ruling, the judge denied Curtis's complaint based



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Defenders of Mark Curtis explain his fight for justice at socialist conference in Ohio

on the trial court refusal to allow him to cross examine the cop who framed him. The ruling states that a defendant is only entitled to "an opportunity for effective cross-examination, not cross-examination that is effective in whatever way, and whatever extent, the defense might wish." So, Judge Wolle ruled, Curtis cannot chal-

lenge the trial judge's "wide discretion to impose reasonable limits on cross-examination."

Curtis has 30 days from the court ruling to file legal papers in an attempt to appeal the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals. His lawyers are drafting the necessary documents.

This is not an easy process. Under the law, a prisoner is not guaranteed the basic right to appeal the rejection of a habeas corpus petition.

Instead, Curtis's lawyers must file a motion with Wolle — the judge who just denied his appeal — requesting that he issue a legal ruling that Curtis in fact has a good case for appeal.

"We will continue to take every avenue — political and legal — to challenge the frame-up conviction of Mark Curtis," said Nell Wheeler, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa. "Ultimately the battle for Mark's freedom will be won in the court of public opinion. Support for his release on parole — especially from unionists forced on strike at Caterpillar, Firestone, and elsewhere and from youth radicalizing in response to the injustices they see in society around them — is growing. The spread of this movement is what will be decisive in winning justice for Mark and pushing back the attacks on the rights of all those behind bars."

In addition to working with Curtis's lawyers to file the next stage of his appeal, the defense committee is campaigning for letters urging the Iowa State Board of Parole to grant Curtis a hearing this fall and order his freedom.

John Studer is a member of United Auto Workers Local 270 in Des Moines.

SWP delegates send Curtis greetings

Printed below is a message the delegates and guests to the 37th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party sent Mark Curtis.

The 750 delegates, members of the Young Socialists, and other participants at the 37th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party warmly received your greetings — the greetings of a co-fighter against imperialism's assault on the world working class, the greetings of a fellow unionist imprisoned on frame-up charges for political and union activity, and the greetings of a fellow communist and party member who continues to face

imperialism's march toward fascism and war with the conviction that building a proletarian party of communist workers is not only the most rewarding activity for a worker or youth but an absolute necessity today.

We also agreed with your assessment that your fight is not in the past but is about the present and what is surely coming down the road in the clash between the barbarous future the wealthy minority will seek to impose and the resistance to that drive by workers, peasants, working farmers, and youth from Argentina to Nigeria, as well as China to Europe and the United States.

It is among those in struggle today — from strikers on picketlines at Caterpillar and elsewhere, at clinics to defend abortion rights, to activities to defend Cuba's socialist revolution, and among those working to advance the new stage of the revolution in South Africa — that we have and will find the staunchest supporters of your fight. These battles will aid in the effort to win a new parole hearing and continue to raise the political price the government and its agencies must pay for keeping you behind bars.

Recently the authorities have had to bow a little to the fact that they have not been able to break you, to make you cease communist work, or make their case against you credible in public opinion. Your winning of a gate pass is testimony to these facts.

Your fight will be discussed in meetings of the party's industrial union fractions meeting here at the conclusion of the convention. Party branches and growing numbers of young socialists will join in the new campaign to win parole. Conference participants discussed how your fight is a central part of reaching out politically into the strike wave and out to young people being radicalized by the deep-going crisis of world capitalism.

We look forward to your continued worker's correspondence in the pages of the *Militant*, to news of new subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* sold to fellow inmates, to continued orders of Pathfinder titles from workers behind bars — to all our common communist work.

Delegates to the 37th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party.

'My defense campaign is about the future'

Printed below are greetings Mark Curtis sent the 37th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party. Curtis, a union and political activist, has served almost six years in prison on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

Best luck in your deliberations this week. As you discuss the challenges and opportunities for the communist movement in the 1990s one theme you will keep coming back to will be how similar the experiences of the working classes are across the planet. Downsizing, attacks on the social wage, and the rise of rightist movements

will continue to grow. Immigrants, which is just a word for rootless workers, will be among the first layers to be scapegoated and hounded in attempts to divide us and weaken class solidarity.

So will those militants, rebel youth, striking workers, protesting farmers, and communists be targeted for police abuse, frame-ups, and jail.

That is why my defense campaign, your defense campaign, is about the future, not the past. The victories, the politics, and the lessons developed in this fight belong in the arsenal of the class-struggle fighters as useful weapons for now and for later.

'Militant' launches sales campaign

BY HILDA CUZCO

OBERLIN, Ohio — The *Militant* newspaper and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, announced a 10-week international campaign to sell 3,300 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 700 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 1,250 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International* during an international socialist conference here. The drive, which will run from September 3 through November 13, was enthusiastically adopted by hundreds of participants at the International Socialist Conference that coincided with the Socialist Workers Party convention here August 3-7.

At a workshop at the conference on "Reaching Out Politically," supporters of the socialist periodicals from around the world discussed the best way to get the news and working-class analysis offered in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to young people, unionists, and other fighters.

Participants in the workshop noted that sales are picking up even before the drive

begins as distributors of the socialist press hit the streets in support of striking workers and against rightist attacks. *Militant* supporters, for example, sold 18 copies of the paper to Caterpillar strikers and their supporters at an August 5 rally of more than 1,500 people in downtown Chicago. The new readers of the paper include several high school students.

Distributors have also set up literature tables at political events, including the conventions of the National Organization for Women and Committees of Correspondence last month. *Militant* staff writer Maurice Williams reports that many high school and college students from all over the country attended the NAACP convention in July. Four participants bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and 60 people picked up single copies of the paper.

Supporters of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* around the world are encouraged to discuss and adopt ambitious local goals for this campaign.

Our work in the coming year, the campaigns and the irreplaceable work of building a party will meet with greater interest and demand as capitalism enters deeper crisis and more resistance breaks out. I am firmly convinced that this rise in the class struggle will result in a stronger proletarian party. And I also believe that this favors the conditions for my vindication and release.

This is one of the last conventions I will be absent from!

Rebuild the industrial union fractions, the pillars of our party!

Forward with the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee!

Build the international communist movement!

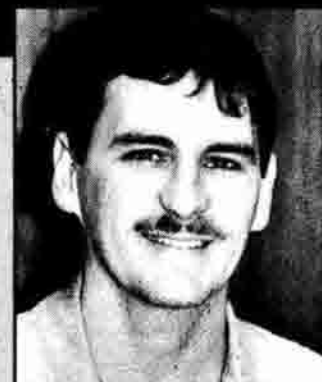
Mark Curtis
July 26, 1994

WRITE TO FRAMED-UP UNIONIST MARK CURTIS

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist currently serving a 25-year sentence on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. During his six years in prison, Curtis has kept in touch and solidified with fighters involved in struggles around the world and has taken part in numerous efforts while in jail to support prisoners' democratic rights. He has participated in politics by writing for the *Militant* and sending messages of solidarity to other fighters.

Curtis seeks out political discussion and welcomes correspondence from workers, youth, and other activists. You can write to him about activities in your area, and send unframed photos and news clippings of events. Be sure to include your full name and address on the letter.

Send all correspondence to:



Mark Curtis #805338
JBCC Box 316
Fort Madison, IA 52627

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CURTIS'S DEFENSE EFFORT WRITE TO THE MARK CURTIS DEFENSE COMMITTEE, BOX 1048, DES MOINES, IA 50311

500,000 Cubans rally to defend revolution

Continued from front page

turning the passengers safely and detaining the hijackers.

In the early morning of August 5, a crowd of several hundred people hostile to the government began to gather around the harbor area. In a phone interview from Havana, Rogelio Polanco, the head of international relations of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), recounted the day's events.

A group of 21 tried to commandeer a boat but were repelled by dock workers and the police, said Polanco. Around midday the crowd, which had grown to about 700, began to roam the Old Havana and Central Havana neighborhoods, assaulting individual policemen and attacking hotels and stores with rocks and bottles, in particular the Deauville Hotel.

"Workers from the hotel and other workplaces in the area, together with members of the police, fought off the provocateurs," Polanco reported. The rioters smashed windows and looted some stores. One police officer was seriously injured with a broken neck.

As word of the street clashes spread, thousands of Havana workers from around the city converged on the scene. In the forefront were hundreds of workers from the Blas Roca Contingent — a unit of workers who organize themselves on a voluntary basis to carry out priority jobs in construction and agriculture.

Workers join battle

"The workers' response was overwhelming," Polanco said, noting that youth from the UJC and others joined them. Defending themselves with sticks and other homemade weapons, the workers beat back the attackers.

They were joined in the streets by Cuban president Fidel Castro. Speaking on the scene, he stated that the Cuban government held Washington responsible for the boat hijackings and disturbances because of its policy of restricting legal immigration from Cuba while hypocritically encouraging illegal immigration by boat.

In a televised news conference later that day, Castro explained that he had instructed his bodyguards not to shoot. "I

told the comrades who were escorting me: 'Not a single shot. You can't make any decision if I don't give the order.' Of course, I wasn't going to order the bodyguards to shoot," Castro said. "My most powerful weapons are moral."

Speaking with Castro at the news conference, Arleen Rodríguez Derivet, UJC leader and editor of the weekly newspaper *Juventud Rebelde* (Rebel Youth), pointed out that "the mass mobilization was absolutely spontaneous. I don't think anyone called or knocked on the door of a single person who showed up."

By nighttime calm prevailed. Some 35 people had been injured, including 10 police officers. A number of rioters were arrested.

"The workers spent the night guarding the workplaces and schools in the area," Polanco reported.

The next day was quiet except for demonstrations of youth organized by the UJC in several parts of Havana.

On Sunday, August 7, "thousands of people queued up for blocks and waited for hours to file past the casket of the young

police officer who'd been killed," reported Chris Morris, an engineering worker from Manchester, Britain, who witnessed the event. Morris was working in Havana province as part of a volunteer minibrigade of Cuban construction workers.

Members of the Blas Roca contingent and the UJC organized security, Morris said in the phone interview. "Silence reigned throughout the city," he remarked.

That evening, in one of the biggest revolutionary mobilizations in years, half a million people turned out for a "Combative Rally" to pay their respects to the young martyr and express their support for Cuba's socialist revolution. Demonstrators chanted, "The streets belong to the revolutionaries" and "Fidel, for sure, hit the Yankees hard!"

The plaza was filled with "Blas Roca Contingent members wearing their T-shirts, older men — veterans of the revolutionary war — who wore their medals of honor, and whole families with their children," Morris reported. Many youth carried portraits of revolutionary heroes like Camilo Cienfuegos.

Addressing the crowd, General Ulises Rosales del Toro, a member of the Council of State and of the Communist Party's Political Bureau, announced that Lamoth would be awarded posthumously the Order of Antonio Maceo, one of Cuba's highest decorations.

Del Toro condemned the U.S. government for its criminal immigration policy toward Cuba and held Washington responsible for the death of Lamoth and the 22 Cubans who died in the July 13 tugboat accident.

Reiterating Castro's warning two days earlier, he stated that if the U.S. administration did not stop encouraging illegal immigration from Cuba, "we will instruct our border police not to prevent in any way the departure or arrival of vessels in our country" to take any Cubans who want to emigrate to the United States. At the same time, he expressed Cuba's willingness to discuss immigration policy with Washington.

The U.S. State Department, placed on the defensive, issued a statement urging Cubans not to leave. It stated that "we will not permit Fidel Castro to dictate our immigration policy or to create a replay of the Mariel boatlift." In 1980, following a series of U.S.-promoted provocations, the revolutionary government opened the port of Mariel to a boatlift by which some 125,000 Cubans emigrated to the United States.

A fifth hijacking took place August 9 in which a group of 27 took over a Navy boat and murdered a lieutenant in the Revolutionary Armed Forces. Cuban authorities have demanded the U.S. government prosecute the attackers or return them to Cuba.

Socialist Workers Party national convention

Continued from page 9

from the young socialists meeting, several delegates pointed to some of the debates that had taken place. Participants in the meeting, for example, had expressed different viewpoints on whether or not the new organization should give priority to winning young people to the fundamentals of Marxist politics explained in works such as the *Communist Manifesto* and educate its own members along these lines.

Jason Coughlin, a member of the Boston SWP delegation and leader of the young socialists, said that greater clarity on the organization's working-class orientation had been gained at the meeting, but that there was still substantial ground to be conquered.

Brian Taylor, a leader of the SWP and young socialists from Chicago, pointed to the completely classless and amorphous politics that had been presented at the youth caucus during the recent national convention of the Committees of Correspondence. The organization is a centrist regroupment of individuals from various Stalinist, Trotskyist, and petty-bourgeois radical backgrounds, dominated by members expelled from the Communist Party several years ago.

Revolutionary-minded workers should not grow too self-satisfied by looking at middle-class currents such as this, however, Taylor cautioned. "We can't put up our heels and wait for youth to 'ripen' into communists," he said. It takes conscious political work, collaborating with young socialists as equals whether or not they are in the youth organization or have decided to join the SWP.

Troops to protect abortion clinics?

In his convention report, SWP national secretary Jack Barnes raised the demand that federal troops be sent to protect abortion clinics in Pensacola, Florida, and anywhere else women or medical personnel are under physical threat by right-wing terrorists.

This sparked considerable discussion among the delegates. Several said they opposed the demand, since local, state, and federal governments have been carrying out attacks on gains women won with the 1973 Supreme Court decision decriminalizing abortion.

Other delegates spoke in favor of the call for federal troops. They pointed to times during the civil rights battles and fights for school desegregation — from Little Rock in 1957, to voting rights enforcement in Mississippi in the 1960s, to the Boston busing struggle in the early 1970s — when communists made similar demands on the federal government to enforce the laws upholding basic democratic rights that have been won in hard-fought struggles.

"We hold the government responsible for the safety and well being of working people," said James Warren from Chicago. The call for federal troops is not counterposed to working to build the social protest movements that can take on those who would forcibly deny women their right to

abortion, he and others explained. It is part of the political battle to build such a movement.

In his summary, Barnes said the federal government had been complicit in the lynchings and political killings of most Black rights fighters throughout the 1950s and '60s. They are involved in attacks on abortion rights today, he said, and federal cops are complicit with violent antiabortion forces despite their claims to the contrary.

But revolutionists recognizing these political facts has nothing to do with whether or not the labor movement should call on the federal government to send troops to protect children desegregating a school or patients and medical personnel at an abortion clinic.

When the workers movement does not yet have the strength or leadership to prevent people from being killed or maimed for exercising their democratic rights, then communist workers must demand that the authorities act to do so.

Moreover, the national secretary said, communists must take account of the massive illusions that still exist among broad layers of working people who think the government does act, at least to some degree, to advance democratic and social rights. Calling on Washington to enforce the laws working people have won is part of the process of dispelling such illusions over time among thinking workers and youth.

It is essential for the labor movement to take up the fight for abortion rights and

against this sort of terror, Barnes said. This is part and parcel of combating the ultrarightist forces bred by capitalism in its decline.

Women are not the ultimate target of the ultraright's culture war, the SWP leader said. Reaction goes after the rights of women on its way to attacking the working class as a whole, to break its most basic institutions, the unions, as well as its will to fight.

Barnes pointed to the need, and to the growing opportunities, to link up defenders of abortion rights with Caterpillar strikers and other fighting workers. Doing so not only brings the power of the unions into important social struggles, but also broadens the social vision of the labor movement and its fight for the moral and political high ground in battling the employing class.

Building the communist movement

The politicization among youth, combined with the upturn in strikes and other working-class struggles, makes it possible for communist workers to begin to reconquer habits that were lost during the retreats of the working class in the 1980s, Barnes said. It makes it more possible for workers to regain the habits of solidarity and discipline as an automatic response to developments in politics and in the class struggle.

There will be no end to the rightward shift in bourgeois politics and its spawning of more, and more violent, ultrarightist

Continued on page 14

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Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516. Tel: (203) 688-5418.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 803 Peachtree NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 724-9759.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway. Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Albany: P. O. Box 2357, E.S.P. Zip: 12220. Tel: (518) 465-0585. Brooklyn: 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257. New York: 214-16 Avenue A. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2652. Zip: 10009. Tel: (212) 388-9346; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip: 27406. Tel: (910) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 221-2691. Cleveland: 1855 Prospect. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. Pittsburgh: 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 6969 Gulf Freeway, Suite 250. Zip: 77087. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E. 900 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 1802 Belmont Rd. N.W. Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010.

Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 071-928-7993.

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839-1766.

Sheffield: 1 Gower St., Spital Hill, Postal code: S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Montreal: 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369.

Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

FRANCE

Paris: 8, allée Berlioz 94800 Villejuif. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

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

SWEDEN

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

A matter of values—"The annual advertising budget for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes is twice the budget for the National Cancer Institute's entire '5 a Day' program, which promotes the consumption

to educate them on why our jeans are \$65 instead of \$35."—Andy Baker, marketing specialist for Marithe & Francois Girbaud, maker of upscale jeans whose sales have dropped.

Food for thought—"The workers don't understand why they make less money if the products they produce are as good as Phillips [the Dutch electronics company]. Why is there such a difference in wages? Since the Iron Curtain was removed, people can see what is happening elsewhere."—Janos Szlivka, official of the Independent Trade Union of Tungsram Employees.

challenged his bills. One tab seemed triple the going rate, the other included the doctoring of an invoice from the company that did the actual cremation. In one case he also wanted an extra \$300 for digging up the remains.

dropped the idea of a logo featuring a silhouette of Alfred, a 9th Century king of England. Bleated a promonarch student: "I wonder whether a person who is white and male can stand for anything positive in today's society."

And now the bad news...—(AP)—"Coffee futures prices fell sharply amid speculation that the damage to Brazil's coffee crop from two recent freezes were not as bad as initially thought."

Give it a try—Greeted by student and faculty protest, Alfred University in western New York

Taking care of business—The government has the authority to regulate the price of medicines developed with taxpayer dollars. But, a survey showed, the drug barons usually charge more, not less, for such products. The feds do have an employee—that's right, "an" employee—assigned to track the \$8 billion spent annually to subsidize drug research.

Harry Ring
of fruits and vegetables."—News item.

Higher education—"We have

Student journalists visit Pathfinder Mural in N.Y.

Student journalists from 16 Washington, D.C., high schools visited the Pathfinder mural and bookstore while in New York for the 70th annual journalism convention, held at Columbia University. Rashie Keys, editor of the Margaret Murray Washington High School newspaper, *Brighter Days*, wrote the article below, which is reprinted from the April-May issue of the student paper.

BY RASHIE KEYS

Contradicting the American mainstream, comrades of Pathfinder press and bookstore, in New York, tenaciously regard Fidel Castro (an archenemy of the U.S. and a Cuban revolutionary), as inspirational. His saying, "The truth must not only be the truth... It must also be told" is Pathfinder's motto.

The bookstore's paramount attraction is the mural painted on the Pathfinder Press building at the corners of West and Charles Streets in Manhattan. Student Journalists from M.M. [Margaret Murray] Washington, along with fifteen other District of Columbia Public Schools visited the mural and bookstore in March, while attending the Seventieth Annual Journalism Convention on the Columbia University campus.

The mural features portraits of the most controversial revolutionary leaders of the twentieth century, whose writings and speeches are published by Pathfinder. W.E.B. DuBois; Fidel Castro; Malcolm X; Ernesto Che Guevara, a Cuban socialist leader; Thomas Sankara of the Burkina Faso Revolution in West Africa; Rosa Luxemburg, a central leader of the socialist movement in Germany and Poland in the early twentieth century; and Mother Jones, a working-class labor fighter, are among the countenances depicted on the mural.

Intriguing enough in the mural, Castro's quote (The Pathfinder's motto) issues out of a red printing press bearing the name Pathfinder, thus representing Pathfinder's quest to present the truth and allow the public to weigh the issues and make intelligent decisions. This has made Pathfinder printing press as equally despised and admired as the leaders it promotes. The two

attempts to deface the mural with white paint by irascible forces and its two restorations by supporters corroborates this truth.

Mr. Bowman, an English/journalism teacher at M.M. Washington High School explained the significance of Pathfinder by saying, "'Pathfinder' has made the original speeches of revolutionaries such as Malcolm X accessible... I have taught *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, written by Alex Haley, which is a good introduction to Malcolm, but nothing compares to reading his actual speeches, which are published by Pathfinder."

When asked about the symbolism behind the printing press and Castro's quote,

'The truth must not only be the truth... It must also be told' —FIDEL CASTRO

Al Newell, coeditor of H.D. Woodson's paper, *The Insider*, said, "It symbolizes the right to tell the truth and to allow the truth to take its course without undergoing censorship." To the comrades of Pathfinder, the mural is a living inspiration to young people.

"The mural is very much alive and I hope that it will inspire young people to learn about and take the place of the revolutionaries and leaders painted in the mural. The mural is our future," said Marilyn, a Pathfinder comrade and the student's tour guide. As a two-year project, the mural was completed in 1989, and represents the collaboration of more than eighty artists from twenty countries.

Adjacent to the mural and printing press lies the Pathfinder bookstore, which was opened on the site of the Pathfinder Press in 1992 in honor of African National Congress member Dumile Feni of South Africa, one of the muralists, who died in October 1991.

The bookstore is rather small and has the capacity to hold 15 to 20 people at a time. Its bookshelves are neatly stocked with all of the speeches and writings of revolutionaries printed by Pathfinder Press.



Pathfinder/Andrea Brizzi

The six-story mural in New York's Greenwich Village includes portraits of Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and U.S. communist leaders James P. Cannon and Farrell Dobbs. Eighty artists from 20 countries helped create the Pathfinder Mural, which was unveiled and dedicated to working people around the world on Nov. 19, 1989.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
August 22, 1969
Price 10¢

PHILADELPHIA — As a result of city, state and municipal budget cuts on welfare spending, Philadelphia's public health services are in a major crisis. Only massive protests prevented six of the city's major hospitals from closing their emergency wards at the beginning of this month.

In response to the hospital-closing threats, the Community Active Medical Students and physicians, nurses and welfare recipients staged a demonstration at City Hall. They set up a mock emergency ward complete with medical equipment, "wounded patients" on cots, and red liquid to simulate blood. Wearing white coats, the demonstrators carried stretchers and picket signs reading, "Medical Care for ALL the People," "Don't Play Politics with People's Lives," and "Health Should be TOP Priority."

The medical students called a press conference to which city and state politicians were invited to explain the crisis. None appeared. But a number of community people and sympathetic hospital physicians did explain. They laid the responsibility on the politicians: the fact that billions of dollars of public funds are being spent on the war in Vietnam and space programs while health and welfare spending has low priority.

In the face of the protests, the hospitals backed down, and the doors of the emergency rooms are still open. But the crisis continues: Funds are still lacking and

the politicians who control the purse strings are still in power.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y.
August 19, 1944
FIVE (5) CENTS

August 19, 1944

When 28 Pennsylvania anthracite coal companies virtually pleaded guilty to conspiring to fix prices in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, Federal Judge John Clark Knox, appointed to the bench by the late President Wilson, publicly displayed his bleeding heart at the prospect of having to impose sentence on the criminal coal barons.

The companies pleaded nolle contendere — refusal to contest the government's suit. Judge Knox thereupon suspended sentence against the guilty coal bosses, and set minimum fines for the companies of from \$750 to \$5000, a mere bagatelle compared to the millions they looted through their conspiracy. Then the worthy Judge wound up with an abject apology because he was forced by law to impose even these chicken-feed fines.

The tender-hearted Judge declared that "one might plausibly argue that the defendants, instead of being evil-minded malefactors were animated by worthy motives and accomplished good ends," and he "doubted that the public had been made to suffer because of the misdeeds of the defendants."

We can only wonder now how Judge Knox, would have acted toward striking coal miners, who risk their lives daily to provide the profits for these same coal barons, if they had been hauled into his court. We doubt that he would express regrets as he "threw the book" at them.

VISIT THE MURAL BOOKSTORE in New York City

Adjacent to the Pathfinder Mural, the Mural Bookstore at 167 Charles Street offers a full selection of Pathfinder titles. Also available are posters, postcards, and photographs of the mural.

- poster of entire mural (16"x20"), \$20
- posters of Malcolm X or Nelson Mandela portraits (18"x23"), \$8
- Mandela or Malcolm X postcards, \$1
- photographs, \$2



Mural materials can also be ordered from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York NY 10014. Add \$4.00 per order for shipping and handling, \$5.00 for international orders.

Federal troops to Pensacola!

Responsibility for the cold-blooded murder of Dr. John Britton and James Barrett by a rightist thug in Pensacola, Florida, on July 29 rests squarely on the shoulders of the federal government. Defenders of abortion rights, as well as the entire labor movement, should demand the Clinton administration immediately send U.S. troops to physically defend the clinics — in Pensacola and elsewhere — and to protect a woman's constitutional right to control her own body. Massive protests by working people and others to condemn the murders are crucial to pushing back this attack.

Paul Hill, the killer who took the lives of Britton and Barrett, calls his action "justifiable homicide." But there is nothing justifiable about it — not on religious, moral, or any other grounds. It is murder, plain and simple, just like the killing of Dr. David Gunn last year in the same city. And it won't stop here. Already several other doctors and clinic defenders have been threatened.

It is the U.S. government, not Hill or other individual rightists, that is ultimately to blame for the deaths in Florida. It is the federal government that allows states to pass laws restricting the civil rights of women when they become pregnant, that allowed the state of Michigan to decide Jennifer Ireland should lose custody of her child for placing her in day care while attending school, and that stands by while clinics are bombed and doctors are threatened and killed.

The capitalist rulers have been able to push back abortion rights in the United States. In most parts of the country it is harder today than five years ago to get a compe-

tent and safe abortion. But their success has been limited. And that's where the ultraright comes in, pushing further. "I can't help it when what I do inspires someone to go off the deep end," John Burt, leader of the antiabortion outfit Rescue America, said during the recent trial of the man who killed Gunn. Not only is his feigned innocence patently false, it obscures the main point. It is *capitalism* itself that breeds rightist terror.

The working class is not yet strong enough to take on the rulers directly, to stop the killings by itself. But the federal government does have that power and the labor movement should demand it use it to protect the health of working people and to uphold the constitution. This will not be the first time workers and others have insisted Washington protect our rights. The successful call for federal troops to help integrate the schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957 and in Boston 17 years later made victories in those struggles possible.

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

Defenders of abortion rights have a big stake in the outcome of labor battles such as the auto workers strike against Caterpillar. And striking workers should be on the front lines demonstrating against every rightist attack on democratic rights.

Mobilize to defend abortion rights!
Federal troops to Pensacola now!

Mobilize against racist terror

Working people throughout the United States are outraged by the torching of the Randolph County High School in Wedowee, Alabama. This act of terror is part of the ongoing controversy surrounding the racist actions of the school's former principal, Hulond Humphries.

What brought Wedowee to international attention was the fact that working people and youth there stood up and said "No!" to a pattern of racist discrimination and abuse. Black students refused to stand for Humphries's threat to cancel the school prom if interracial couples attended. Furious over his remark to one student that she was the result of a "mistake," students launched a school boycott and organized their own classes at a local church.

Over the course of six months, working people held rallies, marches, and picket lines. Through their determination, a victory was scored when the local school board, which had fought to retain Humphries in his position, was forced to reassign him to another job.

The government, from the local to the federal level, bears responsibility for the destruction of the school. While local officials backed or tolerated the racist conduct of the school principal, U.S. authorities dragged their feet on their responsibility to guarantee the civil rights and safety of students. By doing so, they gave the

green light to the Ku Klux Klan and other ultrarightist terrorists who have rallied behind the ousted principal. Only after repeated protests by working people in the community did U.S. officials act — and then only by filing a court suit. Workers and farmers will face more and more attacks by rightist and fascist forces in the coming months and years as capitalism declines further into a social and economic crisis.

The face of American fascism ranges from the white-sheet cowards to the budding ultrarightists, such as Patrick Buchanan and Oliver North, who emerge from the ranks of Democrats and Republicans alike. The racist thugs in Wedowee are of a piece with right-wing terrorists like the one who murdered Dr. John Britton at an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida. All are a deadly threat to the working class and small farmers and must be met with large, broad, public mobilizations.

The labor movement should throw its weight behind protests called in Wedowee on August 20 to demand justice in Alabama and a halt to racist attacks. Working people and youth can take this opportunity to demand that the federal government enforce desegregation orders and expand affirmative action in hiring and education for all working people who are victims of discrimination.

No to U.S. bombing of Bosnia

The bombing raid carried out in Bosnia by U.S. Air Force fighter jets in early August should be condemned by working class fighters throughout the world. This action, done under the cover of NATO, is a sign of Washington's increased military involvement in the first war in Europe in nearly half a century.

The slaughter in the former Yugoslavia, which has ravaged Bosnia for the past 28 months, is not an ethnic struggle. The forces fighting there are led by contending bureaucrats of the former privileged ruling caste who want to integrate the economies of the different republics into the world capitalist system, an extremely difficult task in today's depression conditions. They use the banner of nationalism to wage a ruthless gang war for control of land and other resources. The latest round of fighting occurs in the aftermath of the rejection by Serbian Democratic Party leader Radovan Karadzic of a so-called peace plan that partitions the country along ethnic lines. The proposal, which would have reduced the areas controlled by the rightist Serb forces from the current 70 percent to 49 percent, is being jointly promoted by the governments of the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Russia.

This plan, like other imperialist "solutions" for Bosnia, is simply an attempt to freeze the current relationship of forces among the rival gangs competing for economic

and political power. It simply attempts to legitimize the brutal land grabs already carried out there at the expense of the lives and livelihood of working people throughout the former Yugoslavia.

Military intervention by Washington, Paris, London, or Bonn, whether under the auspices of the United Nations or NATO, places further obstacles in the way of the working class being able to utilize political space to organize and fight in its own interests. Only working people, who are the victims of this slaughter and destruction, can resolve the conflict through forging unity in struggle against the bureaucratic wannabe-capitalist gangsters who rule over them.

Despite their pretensions, the U.S. rulers and the other imperialist powers in Europe have no humanitarian concern whatsoever for the victims of the carnage in the former Yugoslavia. In fact, the policy of each of these governments has been to slam the door shut to the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the slaughter there. The economic embargo imposed against Yugoslavia more than two years ago has a brutal class bias. It leads to untold suffering by millions of working people. It should be immediately lifted. Working people around the world should join in protests against the U.S. bombings in Bosnia and to demand an end to all U.S., UN, and NATO intervention in the region.

SWP convention

Continued from page 12

forces, Barnes concluded in his report to the convention.

"In the face of this sewer bred by capitalism," he said, "workers' instincts — the instinct of human solidarity, the class instinct of helping each other — are different from those of the middle class and the bourgeoisie, which are marked by individual insecurity, panic, and greed."

"But class instincts alone cannot stand fast against what is coming as the crises of capitalism accelerate," Barnes said. "The communist movement offers workers and young rebels the only kind of equality there is or can be in capitalist society — political equality, as cofighters to wipe this system of oppression, exploitation, and war from the face of the earth."

At the final session of the SWP convention on Saturday afternoon, delegates elected members to fill the 44 places on the National Committee to lead the work of the party until the next convention. Nearly half of the committee's members are currently active in industrial trade unions; others are currently carrying full-time responsibilities for the movement before returning to an industrial job a year or so down the road. Six are members of the Young Socialists.

Following the final convention session, the conference closed with a political summation of the gathering by Barnes and a rally to launch a \$125,000 International Pathfinder Fund to help finance the completion of the publishing house's 1994 and early 1995 publication plans. These include a new, definitive edition of *The Bolivian Diary* by Ernesto Che Guevara, to be published in early October to mark the anniversary of his murder by U.S.-organized Bolivian troops in 1967, as well as many reprints and new editions of Marxist classics and other titles.

In addition, a special slide presentation on Thursday evening entitled "Produce the Books the Workers of the World Need Now!" launched a capital fund for contributions of \$1,000 or more. The fund is designed to help finance the large outlays in recent years to pay for the presses, computer equipment, and network installation that have already been acquired by taking out large loans but must now be used effectively in order to have the kind of printshop and editorial and business operations needed to produce the political weapons of the international communist movement.

By the end of the conference, more than \$300,000 had been donated or pledged to the Capital Fund, and initial pledges to the August 15-November 15 Pathfinder fund were almost \$100,000.

National Committee

The Saturday night rally got under way a couple of hours later than planned, as participants awaited the conclusion of the second session of the Young Socialists meeting. The members of the new organization were electing their national leadership committee, which took longer than expected. But as the youth organization's 100 charter members and fellow young socialists from around the world marched into the hall behind their banner — chanting "Hey, hey, ho, ho! Capitalism's gotta go!" — the lateness of the hour proved no barrier to a rousing welcome.

At the end of his closing talk to the conference, Barnes introduced the newly elected leadership committees of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists to all those present the last evening of the conference. He read the names of those seated on the stage.

Among the newly elected regular member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee who could not be present was Mark Curtis. Framed up by the police on false rape and burglary charges, Curtis is currently imprisoned in Fort Madison, Iowa. Barnes pointed out that Curtis was the first National Committee member in several decades to be held in prison. Since his jailing nearly six years earlier, Curtis had not only stood up under pressures that had broken other fighters and revolutionaries, but had advanced politically as a leader of the communist movement as he carried out political work behind the prison walls.

FOR FURTHER READING

COUNTER-MOBILIZATION

A Strategy to Fight Racist and Fascist Attacks

FARRELL DOBBS

EDUCATION FOR SOCIALISTS

Counter-mobilization
A Strategy to Fight Racist
and Fascist Attacks
by Farrell Dobbs



Education for Socialists bulletin
8 1/2 X 11 format,
\$5

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

Monon workers in Indiana win strike demands

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines

described the new contract as "a vast improvement. The maximum we can be forced to work per day is down from 12 hours to 10, and we're guaranteed one weekend off per month, as well as all holiday weekends," he said.

A union safety chairman will now have access to the plant to investigate all serious injuries, monitor air quality, and accompany all

The Air Line Pilots Association at USAir has proposed to take \$750 million in wage cuts over a five year period. USAir has said that as soon as one of the unions accepts the concessions it will unilaterally impose more cutbacks on all noncontractual employees.

On July 22, USAir filed a lawsuit in the federal district court for the District of Columbia against the IAM. In the lawsuit USAir asks for a court order affirming its long-held position that it is not required to maintain current

conditions while a first contract is being negotiated. This would mean that USAir has the right to impose concessions on the fleet service along with other nonunion employees.

Locked-out Minnesota miners return to work

Due to an increase in the production of steel in the United States, some 600 locked-out taconite miners on Minnesota's Iron Range are scheduled to return to work in mid-August.

National Steel locked out United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2660 members Sept. 16, 1993. The iron ore miners attempted to report for work after voting to accept the company's final contract offer. They were told



Militant/Barbara Bowman
United Rubber Workers on strike against Pirelli Armstrong in Des Moines, Iowa. The unionists, who walked out July 15, are demanding reinstatement of health benefits to retirees. Rubber workers at Firestone are also still on strike.

the company's proposal was "no longer on the table" and they were not permitted to enter the mine. The steelworkers had struck the company Aug. 1, 1993. National Steel's owners claimed they could buy taconite cheaper on the market than producing it out of the Keewatin, Minnesota, mine.

The Steelworkers union has organized several support rallies for the locked-out miners, picketed other mining facilities in protest actions, and sent teams to leaflet National Steel's two mills that use the taconite pellets produced in Keewatin.

Plans to reopen the Keewatin mine are conditioned on an agreement by the Steelworkers union to a concession contract. Dave Foster, head of USWA District 33, which

includes Minnesota's Iron Range, said that a new five-year agreement at the mine calls for about 100 fewer workers and more "flexibility" in work rules. The contract calls for a two-year wage freeze and offers improvements in retirement benefits and early-retirement incentives that will minimize layoffs. The union has also agreed not to pursue unfair labor practices filed against the company last fall.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Johanna Ryan, member of USWA Local 1011 in East Chicago, Indiana; Edwin Fruit, member of IAM Local 1976 in Pittsburgh; and Marea Himelgrin, member of USWA Local 9198 in Roseville, Minnesota.

ON THE PICKET LINE

about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Members of Carpenters Local 2323 held a victory rally July 2 in Monon, Indiana, to celebrate the end of a month-long strike against Monon Corp. The workers voted to return July 1 after winning major improvements in the key areas of forced overtime and job safety. They were joined by rubber workers preparing to strike Firestone Inc., and by United Auto Workers members from two locals. Dave Watts, president of United Paperworkers International Union Local 7837 in Decatur, Illinois, gave greetings from the 700 unionists locked out by A.E. Staley. In the midst of their own strike, Monon workers had collected a semi-trailer of food for the Staley workers.

The breakneck pace of production at the giant trailer plant and the resulting high injury rate led Monon to hire 7,000 workers over the past several years to fill the 3,000 jobs at the plant. Larry Tetzloff, chief steward of Local 2323,

OSHA and other government inspectors.

Union members are now discussing how to enforce the contract gains and what measures, if any, to take against those who crossed the picket line. They are also fighting to defend 16 workers fired for "picket line misconduct." So far, 10 of them are back on the job, said Tetzloff.

Machinists union wins election at USAir

One of the biggest national organizing drives in recent years was successfully completed July 20 when the National Mediation Board certified approximately 8,000 fleet service workers at USAir as members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM). The results of a runoff election gave the IAM 3,353 votes—63 percent of the ballots cast. The United Steelworkers of America received 1,976 votes—37 percent. The IAM now represents some 16,000 employees, making it the largest union at USAir. Mechanics, cleaners, and stock clerks had already been represented by the union.

LETTERS

Labor solidarity

On July 13, 50 workers from the Midwest School for Women Workers organized a support rally for the workers on the picket lines in Decatur, Illinois.

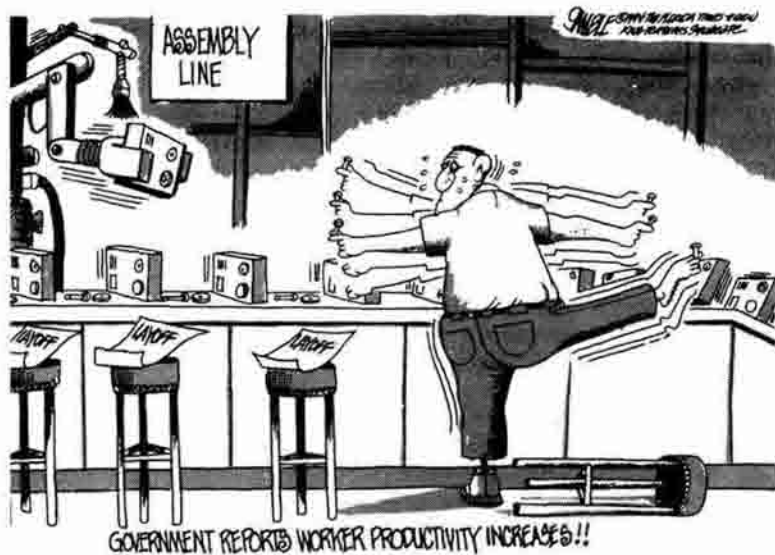
The Midwest School for Women Workers is a week-long educational seminar for women (and men) active in the labor movement.

The rally was organized by the students as an educational activity on their free night. A bus was sponsored by United Steelworkers of America Local 9198. The rally began with a 45-minute drive to Decatur. The first stop was at Bridge-stone/Firestone, where 1,250 members of the United Rubber Workers were idled when the strike began July 12.

The second stop was the Caterpillar plant. The United Auto Workers Local 751 members here have been on an unfair labor practice strike since June 21. Caterpillar advertised for security through "Soldier of Fortune" magazine. Rally participants got a good look at these well-armed thugs when the thugs approached the pickets using video cameras and walky-talkies. The operations at Caterpillar are being run by nonunion employees and scab labor.

The rally then moved on to its last stop—the Staley corn processing plant where 762 United Paperworkers International Union members have been locked-out since June 30, 1993.

For many of the students attending the Midwest School for Women Workers, the Decatur picket support rally was the highlight of the week. Seeing people from the community walk down to join the rally in songs and chants and feeling the sense of solidarity between the individual struggles lets us know the war has not been lost. Workers must join together and hold their ground to stop corporate



America from eroding the quality of life of the workers in our country and to raise the workers across the borders to a humane lifestyle.

Mary Dylkowski
Moundsview, Minnesota

Cop conviction in Detroit

Former Detroit police sergeant Freddie Douglas was found guilty July 1 of neglect of duty for failing to stop lower-ranking officers from fatally beating Malice Green in November 1992. Former cops Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn were convicted of second degree murder for beating Green to death with their flashlights in a trial last summer.

A District Court jury took only one hour to find Douglas guilty in a verdict which stunned the ex-cop and his lawyers. Juror Mia Mitchell told the *Detroit Free Press*, "I thought he was lying, plain and simple. If he had not gotten on the stand, we may have been able to render a not guilty verdict. Once Douglas got on the stand and said he saw nothing...it's like, you've got to be kidding."

The former sergeant was origi-

nally indicted on felony charges, but later had his charges reduced to a misdemeanor by the District Attorney. Douglas faces up to a year in prison.

Gary Boyers
Detroit, Michigan

Crisis in Nicaragua

The 1996 presidential elections are many months away, but campaigning has already started here. The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), which lost to President Violeta Chamorro in 1990, has not named its candidate, but the FSLN's current slogan of "1994-1996, Onward to Victory" appears every day in the newspaper *Barricada*.

The FSLN held a Special Congress in late May, from which it emerged without a formal split but publicly divided into two tendencies. The tendency of the "Democratic Left," led by former president Daniel Ortega and FSLN founder Tomás Borge, came out in control of the party structure. But the "Tendency for a Sandinism that returns to the majority," led by former vice president Sergio Ramirez,

is supported by most of the FSLN deputies to the National Assembly. The newspapers here are full of commentary about the tendencies, but real political differences between the two remain obscure.

Leaders of both tendencies have stated publicly that the Special Congress did not even address the devastating social and economic crisis facing working people and peasants in Nicaragua—unemployment of upwards of 60 percent, declining access to health care and education, growing dependence on food aid.

Both also admit that if the presidential elections were held today, the FSLN would have no chance of winning. According to a column by Sandinista Assembly member Fernando Cardenal in the June 15 *Barricada*, support for the FSLN had fallen to 23 percent in a poll taken just before the congress. "I imagine that it has fallen even lower since the congress," said Cardenal. Particular concern is raised in this column and others about the lack of support for the FSLN among young people.

Matilde Zimmermann
Managua, Nicaragua

[The following letter appeared in the May 31 Washington Post.]

Castro liked in S. Africa

The *Post*'s article on Cuban President Fidel Castro's attendance at the installation ceremony of South African President Nelson Mandela both incorrectly stated and underplayed the impact of the Cuban role in Angola in the 1980s.

The article stated that Cuban volunteers helped "the Angolan government repel a South African- and U.S.-backed anti-communist revolt." In fact, at the request of the Angolan government, Cuban volunteers helped repel several South African army invasions of Angola,

the first on the eve of Angola's independence from its colonial ruler, Portugal.

The most important military confrontation took place later in the decade, at what became known as the "Battle of Cuito Cuanavale." There, Cuban and Angolan troops and fighters of the South West African Peoples Organization defeated a massive South African invasion that was meant to open up the entire region to domination of the apartheid regime.

[Post writer] Paul Taylor's misrepresentation of these events underestimates why the Cuban people and Fidel Castro are held in such high esteem by millions in South Africa, something I have personally witnessed on several trips to the country.

The Cubans' defeat of the racists' army inspired a new generation inside South Africa and shattered the myth of the white rulers' invincibility.

Nelson Mandela, addressing a rally in Cuba in 1992, said the military and political outcome of the Angola events played a decisive role in his being able to walk out of prison and open up the historic new opportunities in South Africa today.

Much information is available on these events in two books: "How Far We Slaves Have Come," two speeches by Mandela and Castro, and "In Defense of Socialism," by Fidel Castro. They are available from Pathfinder Press.

Greg McCartan
Washington, D.C.

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.

Join the Young Socialists!

Young workers and students form nationwide organization

BY VANESSA KNAPTON
AND BRIAN PUGH

OBERLIN, Ohio — More than 100 young people met in a packed hall to launch a nationwide organization, the Young Socialists (YS). The Socialist Youth Organizing Committee convened the meeting, which coincided with the 37th convention of the Socialist Workers Party held here August 3-7.

"This is the best time in history for us to move toward building a society based on human solidarity," said Jack Willey, a leader of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee, in his opening political report to the meeting. "As fascism and imperialist war grow more likely, as attacks against our democratic rights continue, as the capitalist crisis deepens, those who are questioning are looking for alternatives to this

horrific system," Willey said.

His report reviewed many of the rallies, protests, and political activities the young socialists have participated in since forming the organizing committee in April. Young socialists have joined the picket lines with strikers at Caterpillar and other companies; built celebrations around the elections in South Africa; participated in the Freedom to Travel Challenge and other activities opposing the U.S. government embargo against Cuba; and joined in anti-racist and abortion rights protests.

"Through this common activity and political work, we've outgrown the form of an organizing committee and should move on to formalize ourselves as the Young Socialists," Willey said. Eighty-two people signed up at the meeting as members of the new group.

The meeting included participants from all over the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, and New Zealand.

The 'Communist Manifesto' today

There was considerable discussion on what sort of youth organization is needed today. One member proposed the Young Socialists should "produce a primer on socialism, one aimed directly at the youth, that uses current examples," instead of using the *Communist Manifesto* as a central



Young Socialists arrive at final rally of socialist conference at Oberlin College to cheers of hundreds after forming organization and electing a National Committee.

Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

YOUNG SOCIALISTS NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Elected at national gathering
August 5-6, Oberlin, Ohio

Naomi Craine	Tami Peterson
Mark Gilsdorf	Brian Pugh
Robin Kissinger	Ken Riley
Victor Manga	Brock Satter
Diana Newberry	Damon Tinnon
Cecilia Ortega	Jack Willey



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Eighty-two people signed up for the Young Socialists and paid \$1 membership fee

Mark Curtis sends greetings to launching of Young Socialists

Printed below are greetings union and political activist Mark Curtis sent to the meeting of the Young Socialists that took place during the convention of the Socialist Workers Party in Oberlin, Ohio, August 6, 1994.

I HATE CAPITALISM. I hate any system that grinds down human beings by daily degradations or snuffs them out in wars like they were ants. I hate the arrogant and brutal U.S. government that claims its so-called right to invade Haiti, Korea, Somalia, Bosnia, Iraq, and anywhere else it says its interests lie.

I hate their telling women they cannot have control over their own bodies, telling us there are "superior" and "inferior" races of humanity; telling workers we must accept the inhuman working conditions they establish to be competitive. I hate them telling us what we cannot do, how limited our capacities as men and women are. And I hate how they spy on us, beat us with

cops, frame us with their courts, and imprison us with their wardens.

Millions feel the same hatred I do, and millions more will as the capitalist system barrels down the road to catastrophe and barbarity in a desperate fight to preserve their rule.

Only the international working class can fight our way out of this, revolutionize our world, and construct a new world. Those of us who share this hatred and perspective must build an organization that can lead, that can take part in the fights going on now, and do so with a program, a communist, revolutionary perspective.

I salute you in your steps to build an organization that can win young fighters to these ideas. I wish you success and stand with you in your work.

FORWARD WITH THE SOCIALIST YOUTH ORGANIZING COMMITTEE!!

Mark Curtis
Fort Madison, Iowa
July 26, 1994

political guide supplemented by other socialist literature.

Eva Braiman from New York said, "The *Communist Manifesto* is as clear, as popular, and as far-reaching as when it was written. It is just as clear as a draft notice!"

"We're carrying out communist politics, we just happen to be youth," commented Brian Taylor from Chicago. "Nothing we put forward is counter to the *Communist Manifesto*. The key is not to hand someone a book, but rather to study and discuss its ideas with others." The young socialists agreed they should build an organization that orients to the working class as the decisive force for revolutionary change, as the *Manifesto* itself explains.

There were a lot of ideas for what the new organization should do. Ken Riley from Los Angeles reported that Ross Perot's United We Stand America, together with another rightist outfit, was planning an anti-immigrant rally at the California-Mexico border August 20. "We need to be there to oppose this and join the counterdemonstration that's been called," Riley said.

Meg Novak from Olympia, Washington, said the Young Socialists should speak out against Washington's policy against refugees from Haiti. "We should also take up the issues of curfews and cuts in education, and our organization should have a new education series that includes more on women's rights and the labor movement," she added.

Some of the main campaigns the Young Socialists set for themselves included: defending the socialist revolution in Cuba and building a youth brigade to the Caribbean country in January; joining strike solidarity activities; protecting abortion clinics in Pensacola, Florida, and elsewhere; petitioning to get Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot in New York state and other places; defending immigrant rights and fighting racism and police brutality; and carrying out a recruitment drive leading up to a founding convention at the end of the year.

The YS decided to extend the fund drive started by the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee until September 15 and raise its goal to \$12,000. As part of this drive, the group held a raffle during the five-day conference here, bringing in about \$3,000. A lot more money in contributions from supporters of the communist movement and from fund-raising events will be needed to finance the activities of the organization, however.

Young socialists from Australia, Britain, Canada, Iceland, and Mexico presented greetings to the meeting, as did Mary-Alice

Waters on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party. Messages from the Union of Young Communists in Cuba and from framed-up union activist Mark Curtis were also read.

At the end of the meeting, the Young Socialists elected a 12-person National Committee to lead the political work of the group over the next several months and draft a statement of principles to put before the membership for a vote at the founding convention at the end of December.

The Young Socialists then marched en masse to join the final rally of the conference, chanting "Hey, hey, ho, ho, capitalism has got to go!" to the cheers of hundreds of other participants.

Vanessa Knapton and Brian Pugh are YS members in Los Angeles and Peoria, Illinois, respectively. Ryan Kelly in Minneapolis also contributed to this article.

SUPPORT THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS FUND DRIVE!

Young socialists across the United States are working to build a nationwide organization that can be part of the international working-class movement to put an end to the horrors of capitalism and begin to build a new world.

You can help by contributing to the \$12,000 YS Fund Drive. Just fill out the coupon below and send it with your contribution to the Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009.

- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
☐ I pledge \$ _____
☐ I would like to join the Young Socialists
☐ Please send me more information

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____