

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Excerpts from Che Guevara's 'Bolivian Diary'

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Youth, workers in L.A. protest Proposition 187 Anti-immigrant measure passes in California

BY LAURA ANDERSON AND JOHN EVENHUIS

LOS ANGELES — In the week preceding the November 8 elections, high school students organized virtually daily walkouts throughout southern California to protest Proposition 187. Spanish-speaking garment workers and truckers also carried out job actions here in opposition to the measure.

Proposition 187, which would legally bar undocumented immigrants from public education, health care, and social services, was approved at the polls by a substantial 59 percent margin. Incumbent Republican governor Pete Wilson, who handily won reelection over Democrat Kathleen Brown, had actively campaigned for the proposal.

The day after the approval of the initiative, some of its provisions were blocked by federal and state judges. Several lawsuits were filed challenging its constitutionality.

Some 2,000 garment workers stopped work here November 7, the day before the elections, and took to the streets to oppose Proposition 187.

The walkout began in the morning in a couple of nonunion garment shops with a small group of workers who marched to the downtown garment district, which has dozens of shops. The marchers stopped periodically along the way, chanting to workers in other factories to join them. The crowd of mostly Mexican workers continued to grow as it snaked through the garment district. Many other workers watched from windows. The marchers then headed to city hall, followed by police and television helicopters.



High school students rally on steps of Los Angeles City Hall November 7 to oppose anti-immigrant Proposition 187, which voters approved the next day by a 3-2 margin.

Later on November 7, hundreds of truck drivers drove their big-rigs, with horns blaring and hand-lettered banners draped over them, in a convoy that began at the Port of Los Angeles and ended at city hall. Some 70 big trucks slowed traffic on the freeways and in the downtown area.

The demonstration was organized by the

Latin American Truck Drivers Association (LATA), which represents the nonunion drivers, mostly Mexicans and Chicanos, who serve the railways and the Port of Los Angeles daily with shipments. Along with banners opposing Proposition 187 in the convoy, others declared "Stop police bru-

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What U.S. elections revealed

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Media pundits are working overtime to dissect the meaning of the 1994 elections. Reams are being written on what is being called a *tsunami*, a tidal wave of change reflected in the Republican victory at the polls. The Republican Party now has a majority in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and control of the state legislatures in 7 of the 8 biggest states in the country.

But the election results do not signal a change for the working class. The 1994 elections simply registered the continuing bipartisan shift to the right of capitalist politics in the United States. At the same time, the elections did not demonstrate a rightward move in attitudes in the working class. Workers continue to bear the brunt of capitalist depression conditions, and most see no way out of the crisis other than to vote for someone different, or in big numbers not to vote at all.

Summing up the results of a survey of 5,260 voters leaving the polls, *New York Times* writer Richard Berke surmised, "Though the newly elected class of House and Senate Republicans has a conservative tilt, it does not appear to reflect an ideological shift among the voters."

With no sustained working-class fight-back against the consequences of deflationary pressures on jobs, real wages, and economic security, the political vacuum keeps getting filled by the rightward march of the dominant capitalist parties and the government. The middle class especially, and large numbers in the working class, are frightened by a present and future that

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Antiabortion terrorist guilty of murder

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

MIAMI — A Pensacola, Florida, jury found antiabortion terrorist Paul Hill guilty November 2 of two counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted first-degree murder.

Last July, Hill opened fire with a 12-gauge shotgun outside The Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, killing Dr. John Britton and volunteer escort James Barrett. Hill wounded Barrett's wife, June, who also volunteered to shield patients from antiabortion protesters and to drive doctors to and from the clinics.

The jury unanimously recommended two death sentences for Hill. Judge Frank Bell will decide whether to side with the jury and send Hill to the electric chair or sentence him to life in prison.

Three U.S. doctors who perform abortions have been shot in the past 18 months, two fatally. A doctor in Canada who performs abortions has also been shot recently. Vancouver physician Dr. Garson Romalis was shot in his kitchen November 8 by a sniper using an assault rifle. He took one bullet through the thigh and lost a large amount of blood. Romalis was taken to a hospital where he is in serious but stable condition.

Antiabortion forces had previously demonstrated in front of Romalis's house and office, throwing roofing nails on his driveway and harassing him at Vancouver General Hospital. His family also received

threatening phone calls.

Prior to the July 29 shooting, Paul Hill openly defended the actions of Michael Griffin, who was convicted of the March 1993 murder of Dr. David Gunn outside the other Pensacola clinic that provides abortions. Hill regularly marched in front of The Ladies Center with a huge sign reading, "Execute Murderers, Abortionists, Accessories."

During his first trial Hill was convicted on federal charges of interfering with and injuring those involved in the delivery of reproductive services. These charges were the first ever filed under the recently enacted Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) law. Hill faces a possible life sentence on these charges also.

In both trials Hill requested to use "justifiable homicide" as a defense, arguing that the murder of abortion providers is justified to prevent "the killing of innocent babies." Judges in both trials rejected this defense on the grounds that abortion is a legal medical procedure. Hill acted as his own attorney, offering no testimony or defense.

Debate over death penalty

On the heels of the verdict a debate has broken out over whether Hill should be sentenced to death and whether such a sentence will deter other anti-abortion rights fanatics.

Patricia Ireland, president of the Na-

tional Organization for Women (NOW), and Eleanor Smeal, president of Feminist Majority Foundation, both advocates of abortion rights, spoke against the death penalty. "Paul Hill is a menace to society, but his execution would only serve to cheapen humanity and add to the already pervasive climate of violence," said Ireland.

Spokespeople for anti-abortion rights groups expressed different views. Flip Benham, head of Operation Rescue National, said Hill "must forfeit his own" life for killing Britton and Barrett, because "that is God's way."

Other anti-abortion rights leaders who visited Hill during the recent trials likened him to "a soldier dying in a war for his country" and a martyr who "would be more powerful dead than alive."

A *Miami Herald* editorial on November 7 called for the death penalty, claiming it will send a message to those who might emulate Hill.

In her nationally syndicated column, Ellen Goodman says that Paul Hill himself is "proof of the absurdity of believing in the death penalty as a deterrent." She points out that Hill was a "diligent student" of the "moderate" antiabortion movement and cautions abortion rights supporters against thinking that Hill "was just another sick, disaffected loner with no one to replace him on the picket line."

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Defenders of Cuba protest rightist attack in Miami

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — In one of the most serious attacks on activists here who oppose the U.S. embargo of Cuba, four rightists attacked the offices and warehouse of the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC) November 2.

Three of the attackers — Sixto Reinaldo Aquit, 55; Miguel Angel Suárez, 50; and Jorge Luis Valdés, 54; were captured by the police at around 10:00 p.m. as they broke a window to the ATC office. They were armed with 10 gallons of gas, fuses, and a fully loaded semiautomatic handgun.

The ATC warehouse contained more than 10 tons of medical supplies. Less than a half hour before the terrorist attack several Cuba solidarity activists had been in the warehouse labeling and packing these supplies to be donated to Cuba on the upcoming U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan.

According to the *Miami Herald*, the FBI's Terrorism Task Force had learned that the ATC headquarters was to be fire-bombed and moved to capture the men. They were charged with attempted arson.

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Palestinian death sparks protest

Angry street protests by Palestinians took place November 3 in several West Bank towns and in East Jerusalem, sparked by a car bomb explosion the day before that killed Hani Abed, a leader of the group Islamic Holy War. In the West Bank town of Nablus, Palestinians threw rocks at Israeli soldiers, who shot at demonstrators and wounded four. Thousands of Palestinians marched in Gaza City November 4.

Many Palestinians accused the Israeli government of planting the bomb that killed Abed. Mourners at a funeral ceremony, led by supporters of Islamic Holy War, shoved Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat out of a mosque when he tried to join the service. They shouted "Arafat is a collaborator," blaming the Israeli government's continuing anti-Palestinian violence on the PLO's signing of an agreement with Tel Aviv.

Indonesian unionist jailed

Amosi Talambanua, an Indonesian trade union leader, was given a 15-month prison sentence for "inciting" protests by more than 50,000 workers in the Medan area, northwest of the capital city of Jakarta. The workers were demanding a minimum-wage increase and the right to organize their own union.

Tokyo to pay A-bomb victims

The Japanese government agreed to pay compensation to families of the victims of the atomic bombs that U.S. forces dropped on the civilian populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The payments, \$1,000 to each of 280,000 families, are much less than what organizations of bombing survivors have demanded for years. Families of Japanese citizens killed by conventional weapons during World War II are not included in the plan. The agreement also excludes the thousands of victims kidnapped from Korea and elsewhere and forced to work in Japanese factories.

First national strike in Taiwan

About 20,000 workers walked off their jobs for one hour throughout Taiwan to protest an increase in health-insurance payments. The island-wide strike was said to be the first in Taiwan's history.



Workers shovel petroleum sludge from ruptured pipeline in the Russian Arctic. The oil spill, which began August 12, could be as large as 2 million barrels. The rupture was caused by corroded and poorly maintained conduits.

Oil town retaken in Angola

Angolan government troops recaptured the oil-producing town of Soyo November 1 from the right-wing National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The town was retaken less than 24 hours after the two parties reached an accord to declare a cease-fire beginning November 17.

Negotiations between government and UNITA forces are being held in Lusaka, Zambia. According to a proposed agreement, the U.S., Portuguese, and Russian governments, which are sponsoring the talks, are to contribute troops to the 7,000-member "peacekeeping" force in Angola under the United Nations banner. Since the moment it won independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola has been devastated by a war waged by UNITA, with backing from Washington and the former apartheid regime of South Africa, that has left 600,000 people dead.

Strikers cripple airline in Spain

Airline workers in Spain organized a 24-hour strike November 2 against Iberia, the government-run airline. The workers are protesting the carrier's refusal to pay back-

wages due at the end of October, a planned wage cut averaging 15 percent over the next two years, and the elimination of 2,100 jobs. The airline was forced to cancel its international flights on routes covered by other airlines and 70 percent of its domestic flights. Unionists plan a second strike November 11 against Iberia, which could lose \$352 million this year.

Pension scandal in Britain

Workers in the United Kingdom have been burned in a pension ripoff that has affected almost 1.5 million in the last six years. Scores of workers were convinced to switch from company pension plans to private plans run by insurance companies that lost money after plundering workers' pension funds. Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher actively promoted the "personal pension" scheme in 1988.

The pension fiasco could cost the British insurance business an estimated \$3.3 billion, adding another element of instability to the British economy. According to the lawyer of a coal miner who was bilked out of his union-backed pension program, there is no guarantee workers will get adequate compensation for the money they lost.

Menem defends 'dirty war'

Argentine president Carlos Menem has provoked widespread outrage by publicly praising the country's military for its "dirty war" of repression, in which — in the name of fighting terrorism — tens of thousands of unionists, students, and others were tortured and murdered during the military dictatorships of 1976-82.

"Thanks to the armed forces, we triumphed in that dirty war that pushed our community to the brink of disintegration," said Menem to 500 army officials during a ceremony. Several military officers were previously tried and given life sentences but Menem formally pardoned them in

1990.

Fare hike protests in Guatemala

Bus drivers went on strike and demonstrators barricaded key bus routes to downtown Guatemala City November 2 and 3 to protest the doubling of public bus fares. The protests against the fare hikes paralyzed public transportation in the capital. The government of President Ramiro de León Carpio took a hardnose stance, vowing to break the strike.

Stock market decline

Despite the seemingly strong financial picture indicated over the last several months by the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a commonly used formula based on stock prices of 30 major U.S. industrial companies, a look at the two main Wall Street stock exchanges reveals a dramatically different — and more accurate — picture. Phil Rettew, a vice president at the Merrill Lynch brokerage firm, reports that, as of the end of October, 98 percent of the stocks on the New York Stock Exchange were down 10 percent from their peaks, reached in the period from Jan. 1, 1993, to March 31, 1994. And almost half were down 30 percent, while more than 10 percent were chopped in half or worse.

The other big U.S. stock exchange, NASDAQ, fared even worse. While 98 percent of those shares were down 10 percent, 51 percent had dropped in value by 40 percent or more. And one-third of these stocks had diminished by half or more.

Affirmative action program cut

A federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, ruled October 27 that an affirmative action scholarship program for Black students, used at the University of Maryland, was unconstitutional. In November 1993 a U.S. court in Baltimore ruled that the scholarship program was constitutional because the school had a poor reputation for recruiting Black students, who were underrepresented at the school. The university announced October 29 it would appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. The latest ruling follows a trend of several court rulings restricting affirmative action programs.

Nuke tests conducted on 23,000

A panel appointed by the Clinton administration released a report in late October stating that more than 23,000 people in the United States were deliberately exposed to radioactive substances in experiments from 1944 to 1975. The experiments involved 1,400 government-sponsored tests, 400 of which are fully documented. People were often exposed without their knowledge, the report said. While at least 23,000 people have now been identified as radiation guinea pigs, that figure does not include tests sponsored by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy, which could add thousands more, according to Ruth Faden, chairperson of the panel.

—MAURICE WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Support fight for immigrant rights

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Capitalists demand privatization in Haiti

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

With thousands of U.S. troops still occupying Haiti, officials from imperialist financial institutions are meeting in early November in that Caribbean country to discuss prospects for profitable capitalist investment there. Representatives from the World Bank, The International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program have mapped out plans to reorganize the Haitian economy.

First of all, they call for privatizing state-owned enterprises such as the flour mill, cement company, port authority, telephone company, electric utility, and airport. International investors also want to eliminate about half of the 45,000 jobs of public employees.

Third, they propose eliminating protective tariffs and resuming debt payments to imperialist creditors.

In addition, the plan calls for breaking up the private monopolies of Haitian capitalist families to increase penetration by imperialist corporations in agriculture and in industries such as the manufacture of baseballs, garments, and electrical appliances. The wealthy Mevs family, thought to be Haiti's largest employer, has 14,000 workers at 20 companies that sew baseballs, assemble shoes, make soap, and refine sugar. Another Haitian ruling family, the Brandts, dominate coffee and other agricultural markets.

USAID projects in Haiti

To keep workers and farmers in check, the imperialist governments want to consolidate a reliable police force and stable capitalist institutions.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has outlined a \$7.5 million "Local Governance" project to fund pro-government community groups and undermine independent peasant and labor organizations.

A \$20 million "Elections Assistance" program is projected to create an electoral council and build up bourgeois political parties. Elections for more than 2,000 parliamentary, regional, and local seats are scheduled for January but no date has been set.

On October 12, a delegation from the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) met in Haiti to step up its activities there. AIFLD is notorious for its involvement in CIA-funded efforts to dis-



Workers from Haitian American Sugar Co., protest at National Palace in Port-au-Prince. The laid-off workers were demanding back wages and their jobs back.

rupt trade unions throughout Latin America. AIFLD chief William Doherty and George Exceus, the Haiti representative for AIFLD, attended the meeting.

Doherty's recent appointment as U.S.

ambassador to Guyana was dumped when Guyanese president Cheddi Jagan exposed his role in the CIA-sponsored operation that led to his defeat in the 1963 elections.

Meanwhile, despite the continued pres-

Workers occupy apartments in S. Africa

BY PRENAVIN PILLAY

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — More than 40 families broke open a metal gate and occupied a block of apartments in central Johannesburg October 29. The block of 40 flats had been lying vacant for the last four years.

The new residents, many of whom have been living on the streets or with friends and relatives in overcrowded dwellings, are members of the Johannesburg Tenants Association (JOTA). The group has been campaigning for a flat rate of R250 rent per month for low-income city residents (1R=US\$0.28). JOTA has currently identified six other vacant buildings for occupation by homeless workers in Johannesburg.

JOTA spokesman Moses Mashoeshe said the organization would continue to occupy more units until the city council and government responded to its demands.

"The city council has contributed a great deal to the inner city decay. They should see to it that they do something about it soon," he said. Mashoeshe has also accused the government of leaving the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Program in the hands of individual landlords and businessmen.

Inner city residents are exploited by landlords and estate agents who charge high rents and ignore the maintenance of their buildings. JOTA is demanding legislation that will protect urban tenants from such abuse. It is also fighting for the repeal of the racist Sectional Title Act, which makes it difficult for Blacks to buy homes in the city.

On October 30, families were eagerly cleaning their new apartments and corridors. Some were moving their furniture in. Gertrude Ntuba, one of the new residents,

ence of heavily armed right-wing death squads terrorizing Haitian workers and peasants, U.S. national security adviser Anthony Lake told a November 3 news conference in Port-au-Prince, "We cannot set as a goal the disarmament of Haiti. It's not realistic."

Some 400 prisoners, many of them attachés and former cops, organized a massive jailbreak between October 15 and October 30. At one prison, U.S. authorities found guards casually commingling with inmates hanging around outside their cells.

Haitian workers and peasants have launched a number of struggles to press for their rights. Recently about 250 workers from the Haitian American Sugar Company demonstrated outside the national palace demanding back wages and their jobs back.

The workers, who were laid off by the Mevs family in 1992, said they would protest outside the presidential seat until an official heard their complaints. They held up signs saying "There is no democracy without work."

On October 27, 1,500 people attended a church service and protest to commemorate those killed under the military regime and to demand justice for the victims of the 1991 coup. The demonstration, held in the town of Grand Goave, also protested the U.S. military protection of the attachés.

now occupies a bachelor flat with her three children. The apartment has electricity and running water. "We have problems but we are prepared to fix all that is broken. For instance, we do not have hot water, the doors do not lock and the toilet does not flush.

"This is one way of showing the government how bad the problem of housing is and how urgently they need to address the problems faced by inner city residents," she said.

JOTA is currently searching for the owner of the block of apartments to negotiate the payment of R250 rent per month by the new residents.

Due to a moratorium on evictions held by the provincial government, the Johannesburg City Council, while condemning the flat occupation, is prohibited from evicting the new residents. The moratorium on evictions was called earlier this year by the African National Congress-dominated regional government in Pretoria-Witswatersrand-Vereeniging after the Johannesburg City Council demolished shacks built during a land invasion on the coldest night of the year.

Toronto socialists defend immigrants

BY GEORGE ROSE

TORONTO — In the final days before the municipal elections here, the Communist League candidates have campaigned to defend the Cuban revolution and to build the November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C. At a November 5 campaign meeting, Communist League mayoral candidate John Steele urged his listeners to "get on the bus to Washington" along with coworkers, classmates, and as many others as possible.

Steele lambasted as hypocrisy the talk by the capitalist candidates about a "new vision" for Toronto. "There can be no common vision for Toronto because there is a division, a class division, in Toronto, across Canada, and around the world," Steele said, "between those who own the wealth, and those who work to produce the wealth."

Socialist opposes police brutality

The employers' "new vision" includes increased police violence against working people, Steele said. None of the big-business candidates has opposed the police murder in late September of Albert Moses, a Black bakery worker. Steele and supporters of the socialist campaign were part of the protests against the racist killing.

The Communist League candidate denounced the government's anti-immigrant campaign. The Liberal Party government of Canada has announced restrictive new policies against immigrants, and the news media and capitalist politicians of all parties are trying to whip up a hysteria blaming crime and other social problems on immigrants and refugees.

The aim of the restrictions, Steele explained, is not to stop immigration. Work-

ers who are exploited by capitalism around the world "will continue to come here, with or without papers, because they have to. Canada's rulers know that, and they are not out to stop it. What they aim to do is create huge pools of cheap labor — workers with no legal rights who can be scapegoated and exploited."

Earlier that day, Steele and many campaign supporters participated in a demonstration of 250 people through downtown to protest the anti-immigrant restrictions.

The Communist League candidate and his supporters distributed an open letter about his campaign to his coworkers at Ford Electronics after management there prohibited him from giving campaign literature to another worker during lunch break.

Hundreds of workers took copies of the open letter, which was passed out at the factory gate and at a union meeting of the International Association of Machinists.

Nojan Emad addressed the November 5 campaign event on behalf of the Young Socialists. He urged students and workers alike to join a November 16 national demonstration in Ottawa against education cutbacks.

Also speaking was Susan Berman, who had returned from Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, site of a major strike by gold miners in 1992-93. Berman reported on the frame-up of gold miner Roger Warren, now on trial for murder. Cops and prosecutors at the service of Royal Oak Mines charge that Warren planted a bomb that killed nine replacement workers in the mine on Sept. 18, 1992.

"Every miner, every unionist, every young fighter against injustice has a stake

in raising our voices against this frame-up," Berman declared.

Berman added that in her discussions with miners about the Cuban revolution, a number of these veteran fighters replied that "the press lied to people in Canada about our strike, they're lying to people about Roger Warren, and maybe they are lying to us about Cuba and what people there are fighting for."

Janet Fisher, Communist League candidate for city council in Ward 2, told the audience about her visit to picket lines and demonstrations of striking Caterpillar workers in the United States. She has conveyed the Caterpillar fight to 330 striking members of the Canadian Auto Workers at Alcatel in Toronto, as well as to demonstrators against social service cutbacks and to her coworkers.

Steele and Fisher have participated in several all-candidates debates, including a major meeting sponsored by the St. Lawrence Forum.

One of those at the socialist campaign meeting was Tom Browning, a student at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Browning learned of the Communist League campaign just a few days earlier when campaigners set up a table on campus.

Browning said in an interview that he is one of about 20 McMaster students who recently formed a group called the Communist Organization. "We're not tied to any particular doctrine," he said. "There are lots of social issue groups on campus, but no one making the connections between the issues." Racism, sexism, and environmental destruction, he said, "are all symptoms of the same thing. We want to address these on a more political level."

'Militant' available on Peacenet

The *Militant* is now available via computer. All articles, columns, and editorials can be picked up on the socialist paper's new Peacenet conference by midday each Friday. Readers will need an account with Peacenet, which is part of the Institute for Global Communications and has affiliates in many countries. In the United States it can be reached at (415) 442-0220. The *Militant's* conference name is: militant.news.

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\$30,000 left to collect to surpass fund goal!

BY CHRISTOPHER HOEPPNER

"The bourgeoisie tries to appropriate all culture, to buy it, but it means nothing to them, to their lives or their wealth. Culture means everything to the working class," Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*, told participants at a rally in Seattle to raise money for the Pathfinder Fund. Seventy people attended the event. "We must make the highest achievements of humanity our own or we cannot replace the current ruling class with a different ruling class capable of advancing humanity. This capacity does not come automatically. With the tremendous pressure of daily life in bourgeois society, we have neither a quiet room nor time to study in, so we have to work at it consciously. There is no other way to understand the sweep of the world and where our struggles fit in," Waters said. "This is the perspective of Pathfinder in publishing the *Diary*. We need a perspective of history."

Pathfinder supporters in Seattle surpassed their goal of \$5,000 by building an event with a broad panel of speakers. Ned Dmytryshyn, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Vancouver, British Columbia, reported on *Militant* and Pathfinder sales teams to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, which has been the scene of a two-year battle between striking miners and the mine owners and government. "Miners have bought more than \$400 worth of Pathfinder Books," Dmytryshyn reported. "The last team sold \$100 in books as well as 14 *Militant* subscriptions."

"I have been teaching in inner city schools for 30 years and find Pathfinder the most reliable source of information for educating students," Michelle Jacobson, a high school teacher and Cuba solidarity activist, told meeting participants.

With one week left to go some \$30,000

needs to be collected to go over the \$125,000 goal for the Pathfinder Fund. In the past week rallies in several cities boosted the collection by \$16,592.

The November 12 march on Washington, D.C. affords a big opportunity to sell Pathfinder literature and raise funds for the fund. A special offer of the *Bolivian Diary* and a subscription to the *Militant* for \$23 will be especially attractive to people getting on buses or driving down in vans.

A contributor of \$100 from Mexico writes, "The long, arduous task of seeing through the transformation of society from capitalism to socialism requires the theoretical and historical foundation that Pathfinder Press helps to lay. I was especially moved by Mary-Alice Waters's introduction to Che Guevara's *Bolivian Diary*."

"Our Pathfinder Fund event in Manchester was extremely successful," Celia Pugh writes from London. "We raised some \$669." Pathfinder supporters in London, are organizing a major round of phone calling to follow up on a large fund mailing. Detailed attention is necessary in the last week in order to successfully complete the drive in each area.

Libby Lindsay, a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America from West Virginia, wrote to Pathfinder Fund supporters in Pittsburgh. "I've been reading Pathfinder books as well as the *Militant* for at least 12 years now. All have been interesting, informative, and thought-provoking. They give me a unique political perspective on why things are the way they are and what's necessary to change them. I salute Pathfinder Press and offer my continuing support." She included a \$50 contribution.

To be counted in the final scoreboard, final payments need to arrive in New York no later than 12 noon EST on Wednesday, November 15.

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund

Goal	Total Paid	Percent	
\$125,000			
Australia	\$1,000	\$657	66%
Britain	\$2,625		35%
Manchester	\$645	\$669	104%
Sheffield	\$480	\$125	26%
London	\$1,500	\$132	9%
Canada	\$3,560		14%
Vancouver	\$700	\$253	36%
Toronto	\$1,430	\$137	10%
Montreal	\$1,430	\$120	8%
France	\$275	\$275	100%
Greece	\$100	\$100	100%
Mexico	\$100	\$100	100%
New Zealand	\$2,500		96%
Wellington	\$100	\$158	158%
Auckland	\$1,850	\$1,783	96%
Christchurch	\$550	\$465	85%
Puerto Rico	\$75	\$75	100%
Sweden	\$710	\$660	93%
United States			
Edinboro	\$625	\$650	104%
Seattle	\$5,000	\$5,140	103%
Albuquerque	\$100	\$100	100%
Cincinnati	\$150	\$150	100%
Denver	\$100	\$100	100%
Morgantown	\$2,175	\$2,175	100%
St. Louis	\$3,300	\$3,121	95%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$7,720	91%
Philadelphia	\$8,000	\$7,247	91%
Brooklyn	\$8,000	\$7,112	89%
Houston	\$3,250	\$2,770	85%
Portland	\$300	\$250	83%
Salt Lake	\$5,700	\$4,435	78%
Pittsburgh	\$5,500	\$4,246	77%
Birmingham	\$3,300	\$2,460	75%
Atlanta	\$5,200	\$3,870	74%
Miami	\$3,000	\$2,228	74%
Newark	\$6,500	\$4,819	74%
Detroit	\$5,000	\$3,550	71%
Twin Cities	\$7,500	\$5,017	67%
Cleveland	\$3,500	\$2,289	65%
New York	\$7,500	\$4,810	64%
Des Moines	\$3,000	\$1,840	61%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$6,015	60%
Washington, D.C.	\$3,000	\$1,791	60%
Chicago	\$7,400	\$4,040	55%
Greensboro	\$2,200	\$1,115	51%
Boston	\$5,000	\$930	19%
Peoria	\$750	\$100	13%
Other		\$14	
	\$125,000	\$95,813	77%

Enclosed is \$ _____ I pledge \$1,000 \$500 \$100 Other _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Country _____

What the November 8 U.S. elections revealed

Continued from front page

seem increasingly out of control. Newt Gingrich, the Republican from Georgia who will likely be the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, expressed the demagogic appeal packaged in various ways by both Republicans and Democrats during the recent elections: "Middle-class Americans want a neighborhood where their children are safe, a school where they actually learn, an opportunity to work, a chance to save much of what they earn, the right to spend it themselves," he stated.

The Democrats had a harder time making the message stick, since their party has been in office and is held responsible for the deteriorating conditions and insecurity of a growing majority. President Bill Clinton's attempt to pull off an "October surprise" against the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq by launching a war that could be a rallying point for the commander in chief and his party never developed. Washington ran up against too many obstacles with other capitalist governments in Europe, the regime in Moscow, and the weakened bourgeois rulers in the Gulf region.

In his appeal to the Republican Party af-

ter the elections, Clinton stressed the need to continue to work together to make it more possible to pursue military options in meeting U.S. capitalism's foreign policy needs. "We must also take more steps to restore the people's faith in our political institutions and agree that, further, in the best tradition of our own foreign policy that politics will continue to stop at the water's edge," he said.

In answer to those who predict "gridlock" now that President Clinton is faced with a majority-Republican Congress, Gingrich spoke about working in a bipartisan spirit. He especially pointed out the meeting of the minds over plans to gut welfare programs and cut the deficit.

The financial markets didn't react to the election results with much agitation either. After a several-minute surge in the stock market the morning after the election, capitalist investors slowed things down and the market ended up just about where it had started. "What happens in the political arena and events of the day, unless they are a total surprise like the Iran-Iraq war, well, the markets tend to do what they are going to do anyhow," said Hersh Cohen, presi-

dent of Smith Barney Shearson Asset Management.

In fact, prominent voices for the wealthy bondholders and financial interests are openly skeptical about the campaign promises of politicians in both the Republican or Democratic parties. Many on Wall Street believe that not enough of these politicians are yet ready to take on the kind of sweeping assaults on government social spending needed to help fuel a sustained increase in capital accumulation like the one the U.S. rulers enjoyed following their victory in World War II.

On the day after the election, for example, the *New York Times* reported that "Mr. Gingrich shrugged off the contention by *The Wall Street Journal* that the tax cuts in [the Republicans'] 'Contract with America' would cost the Government some \$200 billion over five years. He said that all entitlements would be on the table except Social Security."

In its issue just prior to election day, the leading Wall Street weekly *Barron's* suggested that the "bond market's Man of the Year" award be given to Swedish insurance magnate Bjoern Wolrath. Wolrath had announced a few days earlier that his company wouldn't buy a single government bond until the politicians in Stockholm got serious about slashing social spending and taxes. Wall Street's powerful Moody's Investors Service got in on the act, announcing it was putting Swedish government bonds under review for a possible downgrading.

Sweden's newly elected Social Democratic cabinet quickly clicked their heels and stood at attention.

"Imagine for a moment if the chief executive of New York Life or Prudential Insurance declared the U.S. to be an unworthy creditor, a potential deadbeat," *Barron's* crowed. "The Clinton White House is smart enough to know that activist government is impossible if more bondholders around the world get worried and follow Bjoern Wolrath's example."

In fact, as shown by the months-long slide in the price of U.S. Treasury bonds,

the propertied coupon-clippers in the United States are already sending a warning message to their political spokespersons, not just in the White House but on both sides of the aisles in Congress as well.

Far right is big loser

The big losers in this year's elections were the most strident rightists, like Oliver North, the Republican Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Virginia. The ideologues of the "cultural war" and the "crusade for family values" reached too hard and were pushed back for now by the dominant forces in capitalist politics. North, who wrapped himself in the flag of the Confederacy and spent \$18 million to win a Senate seat, was beaten by Charles Robb, who one political analyst, surprised by the results, described as a "damaged liberal Democrat, beholden to President Clinton."

North's defeat showed the limits of the "cultural war" demagogues who seek to exploit the mounting economic and social crisis to target decisive aspects of the gains of the labor movement, civil rights struggles, and women's rights fights of the past half century and more. Without the kind of workers' struggles that begin to threaten the designs of the capitalist rulers to boost their profits and stabilize their rule, the owners of industry are not ready to let rightist forces such as North take the initiative and prematurely deepen the political polarization in the country.

Particularly rankling to prevailing bourgeois public opinion was North's criticism of President Clinton's plans to launch military action against Iraq. When North was asked if he would support the Clinton administration's decision in the event that U.S. soldiers went into action in the Persian Gulf, the right-wing politician and former lieutenant colonel responded that Clinton is "not my Commander in Chief."

North denounced as unpatriotic

Prominent play was given to vice-president Al Gore's rebuttal calling

Continued on Page 14

Cubans protest at Guantánamo, some demand to return home

BY SARÀ LOBMAN

Growing numbers of the 32,000 Cubans forcefully detained at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and in Panama, are protesting the miserable conditions at the bases, demanding U.S. visas, or asking to be returned to Cuba. The Cubans are among the tens of thousands who left Cuba in August and September on rafts in the hope of making it to the United States. The U.S. government has refused to allow them in.

Thirty-nine Cubans escaped from the Guantánamo base on November 7, after breaking down several fences, jumping off a 40-foot cliff, and swimming a mile to

Cuban territory. Another 46 detainees were captured by U.S. troops and returned to the base. Of the 23,000 Cubans being held in Guantánamo, at least 1,000 have asked to return to Cuba.

At one of the U.S. camps in Panama, several hundred Cuban detainees charged U.S. soldiers October 29 and began rocking a bus carrying journalists following a visit by baseball player José Canseco. They demanded their freedom and visas to enter the United States. The following day, between 50 and 75 of the Cubans threw stones at the U.S. troops and destroyed part of the camp. Five soldiers and three of the Cubans were injured.

Sales teams narrow the gap

BY SARA LOBMAN

In the final two weeks of the campaign to win new readers to the socialist press, supporters from New Jersey to New Zealand are organizing to close in on the international goals. Distributors report that getting out the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* has gone hand-in-hand with building the November 12 march in Washington, D.C., against U.S. government aggression toward the Cuban revolution.

Johanna Ryan reports that supporters in Chicago, who have been substantially behind schedule for most of the drive, had their best week yet. All told 33 subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold. The high point of the week was a two-day team to Indiana University in Bloomington. Eleven students bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and five of them decided to travel to Washington, D.C., for the November 12 demonstration. In the wake of this success, several other Chicago distributors are making plans to take off work for a few days to participate in other regional teams.

From Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, Jon Hillson reports that several supporters have been giving slide shows and presentations on Cuba at area campuses. So far they've visited the University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College, and Macalester College, as well as the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse. They've sold six *Militant* subscriptions, a handful of single copies of the paper, and Pathfinder pamphlets and books. Several people have decided to participate in the November 12 march and more than 40 people have signed up to get more information on the January youth brigade to Cuba.

The final week of the socialist election campaign in the United States also helped pick up the pace of sales.

At the Ford assembly plant in



Militant/John Naubert
Militant supporters in downtown Brooklyn, New York, sell the socialist press while soapboxing for Socialist Workers candidates.

Edison, New Jersey, 3 workers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1 picked up a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 13 got single copies of the *Militant* and 2 bought copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Distributors face a challenge in meeting goals for the Marxist magazine *New International*, but are finding that time spent in political discussion is well worth the effort among workers and young people. Railroad workers in Boston sold three *Militant* subscriptions and four copies of *New International* on the job last week. One engineer told distributors that having socialists on the job helped bring information and broaden the scope of discussion among workers there. He renewed his *Militant* subscription, and proceeded to purchase four issues of *New International*, including those featuring articles on the working-class fight for peace, the democratic revolution in

South Africa, and "The Opening Guns of WWII: Washington's Assault on Iraq."

"We won seven new readers to the *Militant* from among members of two striking locals of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union," Floyd Fowler reports from Atlanta. "In addition to joining the picket line, we were able to attend a mass meeting in support of the strike. Before I knew what was happening, a *Militant* was pulled out of my hand and passed around. I sent a subscription card along after it and pretty soon it was passed back, all filled out, with dollar bills coming along after it. I didn't have a chance to say a word!"

The final chart for the circulation campaign will appear in the *Militant* that is published on Wednesday, November 23. All subscriptions that arrive in the business office before 12 noon on Tuesday, November 22 EST will be counted.

Cuba book campaign builds march

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Many defenders of the Cuban revolution who are campaigning to promote the Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End* are participating in the national demonstration in Washington, D.C., November 12. Many young people who have read the book are attending the march.

As of press time, 593 people have bought copies of this book — barely seven shy of the campaign's goal of 600! By November 12, this goal should easily be surpassed.

One activist in Philadelphia reports that 24 people have recently purchased the book through this campaign. A high school student at a rally against the death penalty bought a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *To Speak the Truth*.

"He was reading slanders against the Cuban revolution by some other radical newspaper," the activist said. "After reading *To Speak the Truth*, he came back to me and said, 'you were right about Cuba.'" The student plans to go to the march November 12 and wants to participate in a four-part class series socialists are organizing in Philadelphia.

Sandi Lee, a member of the United Food and Commercial

Workers union in Houston, said a coworker looked for her after receiving a flyer on the Socialist Workers campaign. Lee stated, "My coworker was attracted to our campaign because of its defense of the Cuban revolution. He bought a subscription to the *Militant* and the next day gave me \$10 for *To Speak the Truth*."

Lee continued, "I find that people who buy the *Militant* and the books are reading them. And we have found total open-mindedness toward the Cuban revolution. I tell people the book contains public speeches given [by Cuban leaders] at the United Nations. It explains why they made the revolution and what they accomplished. Workers want to know this. Workers want to know why the U.S. government hates this tiny country."

A student from Mexico who attends Houston Community College bought a subscription and a membership to the Pathfinder Readers Club, which offers discounts on Pathfinder titles. She bought two Pathfinder books including *To Speak the Truth*. She was politically active in Mexico and told Lee she wants to get involved in political activities with the supporters of Pathfinder.

The final scoreboard for the campaign to sell this book will be printed in the next issue. By then, we can go well over the goal.

BOOKS SOLD		
City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	23
Birmingham	15	13
Boston	30	27
Brooklyn	50	45
Chicago	30	10
Cleveland	20	18
Des Moines	20	21
Detroit	18	12
Greensboro	10	14
Houston	20	22
Los Angeles	50	54
Miami	30	23
Morgantown	10	10
New York	50	47
Newark	30	26
Peoria	10	1
Philadelphia	22	24
Pittsburgh	20	9
Salt Lake City	20	11
San Francisco	42	36
Seattle	30	25
St. Louis	12	11
Twin Cities	25	21
Washington D.C.	20	15
France	2	1
Sweden	12	10
Auckland	14	11
Christchurch	5	3
Iceland		2
Sydney	10	6
Toronto	20	14
Montreal	10	10
Vancouver	18	18
Total	695	593
Unions		
ACTWU	8	2
IAM	40	12
ILGWU	10	2
OCAW	29	15
UAW	35	16
UFCW	6	3
USWA	20	13
UTU	35	24

WHERE WE STAND end of week nine

SOLD 73 %

SHOULD BE 82%

	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New International	
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	sold	goal
Belgium	2	2	100%	0	2	0	1
France	4	4	100%	2	5	12	20
Sweden*	40	45	89%	17	20	19	20
Greece	9	11	82%	0	1	3	6
Canada							
Vancouver	66	75	88%	10	10	14	20
Toronto	74	90	82%	9	17	35	40
Montreal	56	80	70%	15	25	24	45
Canada total	196	245	80%	34	52	73	105
Australia	27	35	77%	4	8	12	18
United States							
Portland, OR	4	2	200%	0	1	0	2
Cincinnati, OH*	20	13	154%	2	2	0	4
Albany, NY	14	10	140%	1	1	1	3
Denver, CO	5	5	100%	1	3	0	2
Hartford, CT	5	5	100%	0	1	0	4
New Haven, CT	10	10	100%	2	2	3	8
Salt Lake City, UT	108	110	98%	14	16	24	35
Houston*	69	25	92%	9	12	15	16
Boston	102	115	89%	28	36	38	52
Cleveland	84	95	88%	15	16	8	20
Twin Cities, MN*	116	135	86%	10	17	11	35
Seattle*	76	90	84%	13	15	12	23
Des Moines, IA	70	85	82%	19	36	14	35
Greensboro, NC	52	65	80%	4	4	7	15
Los Angeles	183	230	80%	79	101	62	105
Philadelphia	87	115	76%	15	30	14	47
Miami	89	120	74%	39	55	52	70
Washington, D.C.	62	85	73%	27	30	21	35
Pittsburgh	74	105	70%	8	12	11	26
San Francisco	104	150	69%	24	42	19	70
Birmingham, AL	50	75	67%	1	5	7	15
Brooklyn	74	110	67%	30	36	44	65
Chicago	95	145	66%	16	32	2	50
Detroit, MI	64	100	64%	6	11	7	27
Morgantown, WV	24	40	60%	0	1	0	17
Peoria, IL	18	30	60%	0	2	2	10
New York	87	145	60%	20	40	24	70
Atlanta	58	105	55%	9	15	17	25
Edinboro, PA	3	6	50%	0	1	1	3
St. Louis	56	80	48%	5	6	4	22
Newark, NJ	67	140	48%	19	35	26	50
Albuquerque, NM	3	7	43%	0	2	0	2
Ft. Madison, IA	0	2	0%	0	1	1	2
U.S. total	1933	2605	74%	416	619	447	965
New Zealand							
Wellington*	11	10	110%	0	0	2	4
Auckland	53	75	71%	4	5	9	30
Christchurch	22	35	63%	1	1	5	8
NZ total	86	120	72%	5	6	16	42
Iceland	9	13	69%	0	1	3	4
Britain							
London	45	70	64%	1	3	5	37
Manchester	32	50	64%	0	3	2	20
Sheffield	22	40	55%	0	1	0	14
Britain total	99	160	62%	1	7	7	71
Puerto Rico*	1	2	50%	7	10	4	6
TOTAL	2406	3242	73%	486	731	596	1258
SHOULD BE	2706	3300	82%	574	700	1,025	1,250
IN THE UNIONS							
AUSTRALIA							
FPU	2	3	67%	0	1	1	2
AWU	1	3	33%	0	0	0	1
BRITAIN							
RMT	8	22	36%	0	0	0	0
TGWU	2	7	29%	0	0	0	0
AEEU	0	6	0%	0	0	0	0
NUM	0	2	0%	0	0	0	0
Britain Total	10	37	27%	0	0	0	0
CANADA							
CAW	18	12	150%	1	0	3	1
USWA	9	12	75%	0	2	0	7
ACTWU	1	2	50%	0	3	0	3
IAM	8	18	44%	2	1	1	1
CEP	2	5	40%	0	1	0	3
Canada total	27	46	59%	3	7	2	15
NEW ZEALAND							
MWU	2	4	50%	0	0	0	1
UFBGWU	2	5	40%	0	0	0	1
EU	2	6	33%	0	1	0	1
N.Z. Total	6	15	40%	0	1	0	3
SWEDEN							
Metal workers	1	2	50%	0	0	3	2
Food workers	1	3	33%	0	0	0	2
Sweden Total	1	5	20%	0	0	0	4
UNITED STATES							
UFCW	17	15	113%	18	17	4	5
UTU	85	85	100%	1	10	0	25
IAM	62	80	78%	7	3	5	14
UAW	95	135	70%	8	15	0	30
OCAW	40	65	62%	4	5	4	27
ILGWU	9	20	45%	15	20	2	15
ACTWU	10	25	40%	8	11	0	14
USWA	31	87	36%	1	3	1	19
UMWA	7						
U.S. Total	167	512	33%	62	84	16	149

*raised goal

ACTWU-Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU-Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AFMEU-Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union; CAW-Canadian Auto Workers; EU-Engineers Union; FPU-Food Preservers' Union; IAM-International Association of Machinists; ILGWU-International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NUM-National Union of Mineworkers; NUW-Union of Workers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU-Transport and General Workers Union; UAW-United Auto Workers; UFBGWU-United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; USWA-United Steelworkers of America; UTU-United Transportation Union.

Minnesota socialists get wide hearing

BY DOUG JENNESS

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Excluded by the organizers from the first televised debate in the Minnesota U.S. Senate race, supporters of Marea Himelgrin, the Socialist Workers candidate, organized a picket line outside KTCA-TV here as the program was being aired.

While six candidates have gained ballot status in the Senate race through collecting the required 2,000 signatures on nominating petitions, the organizers of all the major television and radio debates are inviting only Democratic-Farmer Labor and Independent Republican candidates to participate.

Speaking to the press outside the televised debate, Himelgrin blasted this criterion as unfair and undemocratic. "I'm a member of the Steelworkers union and we discussed this exclusion at my last union meeting," Himelgrin told the media representatives on hand. "My coworkers asked, 'Who do these people think they are, deciding which candidates we have a right to hear from and which we don't?'"

Also organizing a picket line outside the TV debate was Dean Barkley, who is the Independence Party candidate for the U.S. Senate seat and is backed by Ross Perot's United We Stand America organization in Minnesota. Barkley's campaign had obtained a copy of the questions being posed to the candidates inside and he challenged Himelgrin to debate the issues. With a volunteer acting as moderator, Himelgrin contrasted her working-class and communist views to the pro-capitalist stands of the Democratic and Republican party candidates inside, as well as Barkley's.

Exclusion becomes topic of debate

The protest outside the televised debate received widespread media coverage. The exclusion of all but Democratic and Republican candidates from debates in the gubernatorial and senatorial races has become a hotly contested issue in local editorial pages and radio talk shows.

The only debates that included all the candidates were the ones that took place via computer. The Democrats and Republicans and several of the other candidates for U.S. Senate and governor took part. The project was sponsored by the Minnesota Electronic Democracy Project. Three questions were posed to each candidate over a five-day period.

Candidates posted their prepared responses to an on-line forum, where everyone with Internet access could read the responses and follow-up rebuttals. In addition, participants were encouraged to discuss the debate as it occurred on another on-line forum. As the first election campaign debate on the Internet, the event attracted international press coverage. Articles were written on the debate in the local papers. The *New York Times* did a story and the German news service, *Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, covered the event.

'Need for worker solidarity'

The Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*, while noting that the Democratic and Republican candidates for U.S. Senate had angered many participants in the debate by the lack of substance in their statements, went on to note: "Meanwhile, Independence Party candidate Dean Barkley and Socialist Workers Party candidate Marea Himelgrin relished the fact that this was the first de-

bate in which they were on equal footing with the major-party candidates. Himelgrin posted long documents about the need for worker solidarity and an end to U.S. foreign involvements."

"The questions are of the same old tired how-are-you-going-to-cut-taxes variety," said Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Minnesota, "but a number of youth are participating in this forum and it was a new way to reach them with socialist solutions to the crisis that we face." As a result, several people called the socialist campaign headquarters for more information.

An October 15 candidates forum in Albert Lea, Minnesota, with all the senatorial candidates who were being excluded from TV and radio debates, drew more than 100 people. Himelgrin was invited to participate and did so.

In response to several references to recent nationwide polls that indicate many people would support an alternative to the Democrats and Republicans, the socialist candidate raised that what working people need isn't "another capitalist party, but a party that represents our own interests. Only the Socialist Workers campaign is offering a working-class alternative in this year's elections," she said.

Himelgrin pointed to the bipartisan backing for U.S. war moves in the Persian Gulf and explained that "We don't need another party that will send working people to die for oil company profits."

Socialists back Cuba

Hillson, who traveled to Cuba earlier this year as part of the Freedom to Travel Challenge, gave seven slide-shows on Cuba at area campuses over the course of the campaign.

'Our campaign tells truth about Cuba'

BY AL DUNCAN

BROOKLYN, New York — "Hi, I'm Eleanor Garcia, the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress." These were the words that greeted shoppers and others on Fifth Avenue, in the Sunset Park area of Brooklyn. What they saw and heard was Garcia and others soapboxing for the Socialist Workers campaign. This was the first time that the campaign had done soapboxing in this heavily working-class and immigrant community.

"Our campaign opposes making immigrant workers the scapegoats for the problems of this country," Garcia explained. "We believe that working people have to unite against our common enemy — the capitalist class, whose system is the source of the problems we face."

"We need to all be in Washington, D.C., on November 12 as a way of showing our support for the Cuban revolution," said John Naubert, another campaign soapboxer, referring to the national march in defense of Cuba. "There working people are in charge."

Passersby responded to the views expressed by the socialist candidate and supporters who took a crack at soapboxing and to the literature at a nearby campaign table.

One young worker from France agreed with the socialist campaigners' stance on the issue of immigrant workers. He liked

Damon Tinnon, a national leader of the Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers candidate for Minnesota secretary of state, spoke with Himelgrin before five classes of seniors at Harding High School in St. Paul. Tinnon presented the different campaigns the Young Socialists are organizing in solidarity with the Cuban revolution. He told the students, "The axis of my election campaign is to present the idea that we need to do what the Cubans did.

We need a revolution in this country that can replace capitalism and join in the worldwide fight for socialism."

Both Hillson and Himelgrin gave numerous press interviews, participated in radio talk shows, and each taped brief statements that were presented several times on Minnesota Public Radio. Statements by the candidates appeared in guides of the League of Women Voters the *Star-Tribune*, and the Macalester College paper.



Militant/Jim Kendrick

The Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, Ernie Mailhot, campaigns at October 15 demonstration in Miami marking return of Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Mailhot said that "Washington is out to protect the interests of the ruling rich in Haiti and those in the United States who profit from the exploitation of Haiti's workers."

the article in the *Militant* that exposed the French government's racist campaign against Middle Eastern and African women students who wear headscarves in France.

Many workers reacted positively to the campaign's stands on Cuba, the fight against police brutality, and the demand to shorten the workweek with no cut in pay as a way to provide jobs.

But not all agree

There were also a few passersby who opposed what the campaigners were saying and were quite vocal about it. "Why don't you speak English," one young person yelled out in a very hostile tone to one soapboxer campaigning in Spanish. "I can't understand you!"

Scores of L.A. students turn out to hear partisan of Cuba

BY MARK FRIEDMAN AND JOHN EVENHUIS

LOS ANGELES — Working on two-weeks notice, the Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba organized a six-day visit by Andrés Gómez, a longtime leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade. The brigade is a Miami-based organization of Cuban-Americans who are partisans of the Cuban revolution. During the course of his tour Gómez spoke to and held discussions with students at five area campuses.

At Glendale College, he spoke to Professor Carlos Ugalde's class on Central America and the Caribbean. After the class, he met with members of the Association of Latin American Students. The group had convened to map out activities in the fight against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187. At Cal State Los Angeles, Gómez spoke to a freshman Latin American history class.

Some 30 students and several faculty members at Claremont College, some of whom have been involved in organizing travel projects to Cuba and in a study group on the Cuban revolution, heard his talk. La Raza Student Association organized a meeting of 40 to hear Gómez at Cal State Long Beach.

One student at the Cal State meeting asked Gómez about Fidel Castro's long te-

As this was the last weekend before the elections supporters of the capitalist candidates were out campaigning, too. Supporters of Nydia Velazquez, a local liberal politician, accused the Socialist Workers campaigners of sounding like preachers and undercutting a "progressive" candidate by being in the area.

"I disagree with you," Garcia said in response to these charges. "We are speaking to the concerns that are on the minds of the working people in this area. It is our campaign that tells the truth about Cuba, that opposes police brutality and joins in the fight against it."

Socialist campaign supporter Marty Anderson who, after working all night, joined the campaign team, said, "This is the way to do campaign tables in New York."

nure as the central leader of the Cuban revolution. Another asked, "what about the age of the leadership?" wondering if that was a problem.

Gómez welcomed the questions and said that Castro's continuing leadership of the revolution reflected the will of the Cuban people who value his exceptional qualities. And, he emphasized, "it's not a one-man show. There is a collective leadership." He also noted that the Cuban revolution had been led by young men and women and, with its history, youth continued to lead today. As a result of a conscious policy since the 1980s, young people have come into the highest levels of leadership in the government and in the Communist Party, stated Gómez.

The Cuban-American activist pointed out that with the outcome of the last election, 83 percent of Cuba's National Assembly are first-time members many of whom are young. Thirty-eight percent of the Assembly are women.

The visit by Gómez came during the first days of the massive student walkouts in opposition to Proposition 187. He warmly applauded this development and stressed its importance as an example in resisting the attacks by the U.S. rulers.

Sandra Pucci contributed to this article.

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New York students march against education cuts

BY BROCK SATTER

NEW YORK — Three hundred students protested outside city hall here November 7 chanting "Cut your checks, not ours," "Education is a right, fight, fight," and "They say cut back, we say fight back." Students at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) are leading a fight against a proposal to slash \$7 million from the City University of New York (CUNY) system. BMCC and five other colleges have been targeted to bear the brunt of these cuts.

The measure would result in 7,000 students being turned away at the college doors by next semester, the elimination of 1,100 classes, the end of special services like English as a Second Language programs, and the cutting of full- and part-time faculty and staff. The cuts come in the midst of a series of layoffs and concession contracts forced on city employees by the administration of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

"There's something wrong when every publication, every institution, every person in the world says we need an education and they try to take it away," explained Alex Acevedo, a 25-year-old BMCC student. Acevedo was part of a student occupation at Brooklyn College against education cuts in 1990, when he was enrolled there, during a series of student takeovers of buildings at CUNY campuses involving thousands of students.

'They're playing with our future'

The protest at first was 75 people strong. The students marched back to BMCC to get even more people to join. They marched through the school halls chanting, banging on the walls, and calling the students out of their classes. Candice Camillo, student body president and a leader of the protest, spoke to students in the cafeteria. "It is time for you to wake up. They're playing with your future. They're planning to increase tuition by \$2,000," Camillo said. "Who's ready to pay \$2,000 a semester?"

Although the BMCC president urged students to return to their classes, they tripled the size of the march. The protest also included students from LaGuardia Community College, another school marked for cuts, and New York Technical

College.

On the way back to city hall, students continued chanting. Many passersby and workers in shops along the way nodded in agreement. One hospital worker, a member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District 37, said that his union had been fighting cuts against public hospital workers. He said that he supported the students. At city hall another protest was being waged by a social service agency against the budget cuts and their affect on AIDS services.

At the rally Naomi Craine, member of the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, spoke. "We came here to support your fight, just as we support the fight of students who are walking out in California against Proposition 187, which would take away the right of health and education for undocumented immigrants and their children," she said. "We need to cut through all this racism, sexism, and anti-immigrant sentiment that is used by Republicans and Democrats alike to keep working people divided. One of the things we are helping to build is a demonstration on November 12, in Washington, D.C., against the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba."

Nigesa Scales, 22, a Cuban-American liberal arts major, remarked, "Cuba has a 99 percent literacy rate. To have that rate in such a poor country makes the U.S. look really bad. America is trying to keep the Cubans down because they are trying to improve life for their people. After all these years America is trying to keep Cuba in enslavement." Scales voiced interest in the November 12 demonstration.

Disciplined protest

The students showed self-discipline and a willingness to have a peaceful demonstration, successfully deterring numerous altercations with the police. However, as



Militant/Rose Ana Berber

Hundreds of students from City University of New York campuses rallied November 7 to protest education cuts that would prevent thousands from attending school.

they marched back to the BMCC campus, a few students and police got into a shoving match. In an effort to defuse the situation from developing into a melee, many students urged their peers to keep marching. One of these students, Ivory Sampson, was caught in the middle of the scuffle. One student reported that Sampson was jabbed in the stomach by a cop with a baton and knocked down. The police arrested

her for disorderly conduct. Sampson was the only student arrested during the demonstration.

Camillo explained at the rally, "We need to come back later in the week and bring others from the entire the CUNY system student body."

Brock Satter is a member of the Young Socialists in New York.

'Anticrime' drive is attack on workers

BY MARK CURTIS

FORT MADISON, Iowa — In Iowa's gubernatorial election, like other campaigns around the country, the incumbent Republican and challenging Democrat tried to outdo each other in proposals to "fight crime," such as reinstating the death penalty, building more prisons, and making prisoners serve longer sentences.

There is no real debate — just different plans on how many new cells to build and where to build them. Only Socialist Workers candidate Mike Galati has campaigned against the death penalty and for the democratic rights of working people.

For the last few years Governor Terry Branstad has used every grisly murder and the outrage against them to promote laws to bring executions back to Iowa. In this he has been helped by President Bill Clinton's campaign for a national "crime" bill that would extend execution for more federal crimes. The last federal execution was carried out in the Iowa State Penitentiary here in 1963. The death penalty was abolished in this state in 1965.

This year two neighboring states restarted their death machinery, executing Harold "Willie" Otey in Nebraska and John Wayne Gacy in Illinois. In Wisconsin the killing of a policeman is being used by capitalist politicians to boost support for a new death penalty law.

For her part, the Democratic candidate, Attorney General Bonnie Campbell, has stated that she has reservations about the death penalty based on a "very deep, deep moral objection." How deep is "very deep?" You can measure it with your thumbnail. "I'm not willing to force those [beliefs] on everyone," Campbell adds, saying, "I'd consider it" if the legislature approved the death penalty and there were "compelling arguments" it helps deter crime.

Socialist alternative

Galati, a meatpacker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, opposes the death penalty as "a serious threat to the labor movement" that has been used as a "weapon of repression and terror" against working-class fighters who get snared in the cop-court-jail trap.

Galati condemns the racist nature of the capitalist government's execution system. "Forty percent of those awaiting execution in the United States are Black," he said. The socialist candidate sent a message to Nebraska governor Ben Nelson demanding he stop the September 2 execution of Otey.

Galati's opposition to building more jails and keeping inmates in them longer also contrasts with his two big-business opponents. Both Branstad and Campbell demand new prisons and longer sentences.

Iowa's prisons are already overcrowded with 5,274 inmates, 1,671 over capacity. A big part of this increase is caused by inmates being forced to serve more of their sentence. For example, the average time served on "Class B" felonies, which carry a 25-year sentence, went from 69 months in 1987 to 103 months in 1993.

The anticrime hysteria is a national campaign by the ruling employers to restrict

democratic rights and use the whole criminal "justice" system — from cops to parole — to intimidate working people. Many prisoners here in Fort Madison are repelled by the bipartisan nature of this drive, reflected in the election campaign.

Capitalism is a criminal system

Those who hear about socialist worker Mike Galati's campaign see a completely counterposed perspective, one that starts from the fact that workers, in and out of prison, have the capacity and interest to fight for a future free of such brutalities.

A combative mass working-class movement will reject the "lock 'em up" solutions of the rich. The future lies in fighting to get rid of the international system of exploitation, plunder, murder, and other crimes — capitalism — and replacing it with a government of workers and farmers that can open a real future for humanity.

Professors, students in Cuba protest Mark Curtis frame-up

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "There is no doubt that the case of Mark Curtis, like the cases of Sacco and Vanzetti and so many others, is a blatant cover-up by a system of police brutality," begins a letter recently received by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

The letter, from Rosa Maria de Labaye Guerra, a professor at the University of Havana, backs the fight for justice for Mark Curtis, a union and political activist imprisoned in the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa. Curtis was framed up by Des Moines police in 1988 on charges of rape and burglary.

Curtis was arrested and beaten by the cops while participating in a public campaign to defend 17 of his coworkers — workers from Mexico and El Salvador — at the Monfort meatpacking plant who had been seized in a federal immigration raid on the factory.

"Since I learned of the dirty trap that was set for this man for the sole reason that

he was a political activist and fought for his union," the Cuban professor wrote Curtis's defense committee, "I cannot stop wondering how 'right' the U.S. government is in its eternal cries about human rights."

"What do the local authorities in Iowa fear so much? What kind of adjustment does such a judicial system need?" she adds. "Mark Curtis will be 'vindicated by history' and by us, his peers. It is only fair to request and demand his freedom and right to life."

De Labaye acted on her beliefs and circulated a petition to the Iowa State Board of Parole among many of her colleagues.

"The undersigned are strongly in solidarity with the Mark Curtis case, because we consider the request for his freedom an act of justice and honor," the appeal states. It is signed by 79 professors, workers, and students at the University of Havana.

The petition concludes, "We ask that he be exonerated and that his constitutional and human rights be returned. One and a thousand times: freedom for Mark Curtis!"

Young Socialists
\$16,000 Travel Fund

The Young Socialists are embarking on an international campaign to defend the Cuban revolution, sending a representative to an African National Congress conference in South Africa, and sending YS representatives to Canada, Iceland, Sweden, Australia, and New Zealand.

To carry this out the YS has launched a \$16,000 international travel fund. Send your contributions to the Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY, 10009.

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'We are patiently preparing for a social revolution that will transform the system'

Excerpts from new edition of 'The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara'

Ernesto Che Guevara, born in Argentina, was a central leader of the Cuban revolution. In 1966-67 he went to Bolivia to forge a fighting movement of workers and peasants that could win the battle for land and national sovereignty and open the socialist revolution in South America. He was captured and murdered by the Bolivian army in a CIA-organized operation in October 1967.

Guevara kept a diary in Bolivia that tells the day-by-day story of that effort. It provides insight into the practical activity, leadership capacities, and political thinking of one of the outstanding communist leaders of the 20th century.

The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara, Pathfinder's newly translated edition of this work, long out of print, also includes a number of documents written by Guevara from Bolivia as well as accounts by other guerrilla fighters who survived. These include Inti Peredo, a Bolivian communist murdered by the country's military dictatorship in 1969, and Harry Villegas, a Cuban revolutionary known in the diary as Pombo. This material sheds additional light on Guevara's political thinking and strategic plans, and on the political functioning of the guerrilla unit.

The passages that follow are taken from several of these items, as well as from Fidel Castro's "A Necessary Introduction," written in 1968 for the first edition of the diary and published the same year. They are © 1994 by Pathfinder Press and are reprinted by permission.

From 'A Necessary Introduction' by Fidel Castro

The Cuban revolution and its relation to the guerrilla movement are repeatedly referred to in the diary. Some may interpret our decision to publish it as an act of provocation that will give the enemies of the revolution — the U.S. imperialists and their allies, the Latin American oligarchs — ammunition for redoubling their efforts to blockade, isolate, and attack Cuba.

Those who judge the facts this way should remember that U.S. imperialism has never needed a pretext to carry out its crimes anywhere in the world, and that its efforts to crush the Cuban revolution began as soon as our country passed its first revolutionary law. This course stems from the obvious and well-known fact that imperialism is the policeman of world reaction, the systematic promoter of counterrevolution, and the protector of the most backward and inhuman social structures that remain in the world.

Cuba's solidarity with the revolutionary movement may be the pretext, but it will never be the real cause of U.S. aggression. To refuse solidarity in order to avoid providing a pretext is a ridiculous, ostrich-like policy that has nothing to do with the internationalist character of the social revolutions of today. To refuse solidarity to the revolutionary movement not only does not

avoid providing a pretext; it is in effect a show of solidarity with U.S. imperialism and its policy of dominating and enslaving the world.

Cuba is a small country, economically underdeveloped as are all the countries dominated and exploited for centuries by colonialism and imperialism. It is located only ninety miles from the coast of the United States, has a U.S. naval base on its territory, and faces numerous obstacles in attaining socioeconomic development. Grave dangers have threatened our country



Oruro, Bolivia, 1964. Miners carrying dynamite protest killings of student demonstrators by police. In the years before and after the guerrilla struggle led by Guevara in 1966-67, Bolivia was the scene of mounting political battles by workers, peasants, and youth.

since the triumph of the revolution. But imperialism will never make us give in for these reasons, because the difficulties that flow from a consistently revolutionary line of action are of no importance to us...

Che and the extraordinary example he set are becoming more and more powerful in the world. His ideas, image, and name are banners of struggle against the injustices suffered by the oppressed and exploited. They evoke impassioned interest among students and intellectuals the world over.

In the United States itself, the Black movement and progressive students — both of which continue to grow in numbers — have made Che's figure their own. In the most militant demonstrations for civil rights and against the aggression in Vietnam, his image is brandished as an emblem of struggle. Few times in history — perhaps never before — has a figure, a name, an example become a universal symbol so quickly and with such impassioned force. This is because Che embodies, in its purest and most selfless form,

1. A reference to the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay in southeastern Cuba.

the internationalist spirit that characterizes the world of today, and will do so even more in the world of tomorrow....

Also among those who may be interested in keeping the diary unpublished are the pseudorevolutionaries, opportunists, and charlatans of every stripe. These people call themselves Marxists, Communists, and other such titles. They have not hesitated, however, to call Che a mistaken adventurer or, when they speak more benignly, an idealist whose death marked the swan song of revolutionary armed struggle

that a new day would dawn, and that the workers would finally become masters of their own destiny.

But the workings of world imperialism have revealed, for those with eyes to see, that when it comes to social revolution there are no halfway solutions. Either all the power is seized, or the advances won with so much sacrifice and so much blood will be lost.... We are patiently preparing the country for a deep-going social revolution that will transform the system from top to bottom....

The working masses should continuously bring their pressure to bear against the government, since this is a class struggle whose fronts are without limits. Wherever he may be, a worker has the obligation to fight with all his strength against the common enemy.

Comrade miner: the guerrillas of the ELN⁴ await you with open arms, and invite you to join the workers of the subsoil already fighting at our side. Here we will rebuild the worker-peasant alliance that was broken by the demagoguery of the antipopular forces. Here we will convert defeat into victory, and transform the lament of proletarian widows into a hymn of victory. We await you.

Message to Fidel Castro by Che Guevara, July 1967

From eastern Bolivia, where we are fighting to duplicate the nation's struggles of the past, we extend our warm and fraternal greetings. We do so inspired by the modern-day example of the Cuban revolution, standard-bearer of the oppressed peoples of the world. Our greetings will be joined with those of millions of others who consider this date as the opening of the final stage of the liberation of the Americas.

We relay to you, your comrades, and your entire people our unreserved devotion to the common cause, as well as our congratulations on completing another year of intransigent struggle against U.S. imperialism.

From 'My Campaign with Che' by Inti Peredo

With his usual frankness, Che explained that the struggle would have the following characteristics: it would be long, harsh, and cruel. Therefore, no one should set their minds on a "short-term" perspective. He then went on to explain why he had chosen Bolivia as the theater for the war.

The choice, he stated, was not an arbitrary one. Bolivia is located in the heart of the southern cone of our continent, bordering five countries, each with a political and economic situation becoming increasingly critical. Bolivia's geographic position thus makes it a strategic region for extending the revolutionary struggle to neighboring countries.

It must be kept in mind, he went on, that Bolivia cannot win its liberation alone, or at least it would be very difficult to do so. Even after the army and the state power are defeated, the triumph of the revolution is not assured. The servile governments, led by imperialism — or imperialism directly, with the collaboration of the servile governments — will try to destroy us. Nevertheless, if in the course of the struggle we are faced with the opportunity of taking power, we will not hesitate in assuming that historic responsibility....

The war in Vietnam, he stated, is one part — although the most important — of the worldwide struggle against imperialism. The war in Vietnam is our own war. Imperialism has converted that heroic country into a laboratory experiment, so that the techniques of military destruction developed there can later be used against the peoples of our continent.

Continued on next page

'To the Miners of Bolivia,' written by Guevara in June 1967

Proletarian blood has once more been shed in our mines.² Over many centuries, the blood of enslaved miners has alternately been sucked dry, and then shed whenever built-up injustice has led to explosions of protest. This repetitive cycle has continued without variation for hundreds of years.

In recent times, the pattern was broken temporarily, and the insurrectionary workers were the decisive factor in the victory of April 9.³ This event gave rise to hopes

2. A reference to the army's massacre at Siglo XX mines on June 24, which left 20 dead and scores wounded.

3. April 9, 1952, was the date of an insurrection that toppled the Bolivian military government and installed a new regime led by the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR). The Bolivian trade unions, led by the miners, played a central role in the uprising.

4. The guerrilla organization led by Guevara in Bolivia was named the National Liberation Army (ELN) of Bolivia.

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Ambitious plans to promote Che book

BY MAGGIE PUCCI

Pathfinder Press has shipped out more than 2,000 copies of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* since the book was published in late October. Distributors of Pathfinder around the world have ambitious plans for promotion and sales of the new book, beginning with a special offer for participants in the national march on Washington, D.C., to demand an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba (see advertisement on opposite page).

The effort to distribute this book broadly follows up on the successful campaign to sell 600 copies of *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End*. Many people who purchased this title will be interested in the *Bolivian Diary*.

Students promote book on campus

The Pathfinder bookstore in Detroit features a large color blow-up of the book's cover in its storefront window. Pathfinder Readers Club members at Wayne State University there reserved a display window on campus for one week featuring the *Bolivian Diary* and publicity for the demonstration.

Volunteers from the San Francisco Pathfinder bookstore featured the book in their booth at the annual San Francisco Book Festival, where they sold 10 of the 37 copies they have sold so far. Four people bought the book at a special event for the Pathfinder Fund featuring Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor.

Waters also spoke at a Pathfinder Fund rally in Seattle, where seven participants bought the book and five joined the Pathfinder Readers Club.

The *Bolivian Diary* was also among the dozens of titles sold at the Gothenburg book fair in Sweden at the end of October, attended by 95,000 people "Pathfinder

titles on Cuba were the ones that interested visitors most," reports Birgitta Isacson. Three copies of the *Bolivian Diary* were purchased at the fair.

Book fairs

This title will also be featured in Pathfinder booths at upcoming events such as the California Library Association, the Miami International Book Fair, and the Guadalajara International Book Fair, which takes place in that Mexican city in early December.

Pathfinder has sent out copies of the book to review journals and mailed 350 press releases, with another 100 going out electronically through the Internet.

Promotion of the *Bolivian Diary* got a further boost with the production of a full-color poster featuring the book cover and a brochure promoting this title as well as a range of other titles.

Marcella FitzGerald from Pathfinder Distribution, Ltd., in London writes, "The poster will be a real asset in promoting the book. As well as bookshops, we have found that libraries like to do displays in the foyer... We also want to ask student unions to display the poster." Pathfinder Distribution in London has already received an order for 35 copies from a major British wholesaler.

Pathfinder will be mailing the brochure to more than 5,000 bookstores, libraries, and university faculty members.

Pathfinder has already received a request for an examination copy of the book from a professor at the University of Pittsburgh. "During the spring semester of the present academic year I will be teaching a section of 'Literature and Ideas' that is to focus on postcolonial literature of Latin America and the Caribbean. I am considering using Che Guevara's *Bolivian Diary*," the professor wrote.

Excerpts of Che's 'Bolivian Diary'

Continued from previous page

In Vietnam one can see clearly how imperialism not only violates a country's borders, but erases them entirely, claiming its "right" to chase after the patriots of the armed forces of the peoples of Indochina through Cambodia or Laos, bombing villages in these countries, and extending its brutal genocide with impunity.

The same thing will happen in Latin America, Che explained. Borders are artificial concepts imposed by imperialism to keep the peoples divided. Any people that recognizes these borders is condemned to isolation, and their liberation will be slow and painful.

On the guerrillas' battle for culture, by Cuban combatant Harry Villegas (Pombo)

From the time of our arrival in Bolivia, one of the first tasks that Che laid out was aimed at preventing a repetition of what he considered to be a weakness of the Cuban revolution. This was that the members of the Rebel Army, its leading cadres, had not acquired a sufficient educational grounding and political level to be able to hold the type of leadership responsibilities required. He said that the cadres had to have a cultural and intellectual level that would allow them to carry out their tasks without committing barbarities.

He later explained, "That must not happen to us. We have to forge in this army what will become the backbone of our future government. Because it is from here, this nucleus, that the cadres will arise who will lead the National Liberation Army of this continent."

For this reason he established compulsory study of a whole series of subjects, including political economy, history (specially that of Bolivia), higher mathematics, and languages. He felt it was indispensable for us to be able to speak the same language as the inhabitants there, and for that reason we studied Quechua or Aymara, in addition to French for those who wanted it. He drove us to systematic study

because he felt it was a necessity.

Moreover, he himself continuously studied the classics. He greatly admired Marx, in particular. In Bolivia the notes from his studies of Marx and mathematics must have filled up 15 or 20 notebooks. Che systematically studied higher mathematics and enjoyed teaching it to everyone. He explained that it was the basis for mastering any science.

With regard to classes, he established a system whereby he taught some subjects and utilized instructors for others. He taught history, French, and mathematics, with Suárez Gayol and San Luis as instructors. Aniceto and Pedro (both Bolivians) taught Quechua.

He also instituted discussions on what we read, rotating books among all the comrades. In this way we read a very interesting novel with historic and social themes, dealing with an uprising of women in Cochabamba during the colonial period.

There also existed among us a great movement with regard to reading. Che was the leader in this, reading *The Young Hegel* and *Capital*. He always carried one or two volumes of *Capital* in his knapsack.

We came to have a good library in Bolivia, composed of 300-400 books. A system was established whereby each comrade carried one or two books in his knapsack, read them, and then passed them on to others.

The objective Che was pursuing was to raise our cultural level. At the same time, he always made us see clearly that even though war presented difficult circumstances, in which one had to live under constant tension, nevertheless we could not let ourselves take an easy-going and conformist attitude that would have us put off study until later. We had to study right there in the guerrilla camp, he said, with an enthusiasm and determination equal to the way we confronted the vicissitudes and difficulties we faced. And one of the biggest such difficulties to overcome was precisely the one he sought to instill: the habit of study.

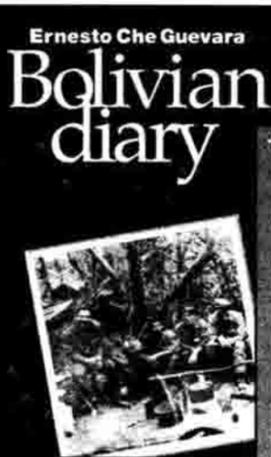
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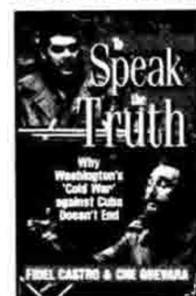
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'Road Warriors' take Staley battle to labor nationwide

BY BETSY FARLEY
AND DAVID MARSHALL

DECATUR, Illinois — When Janey McKinney's husband was locked out by A.E. Staley, a major producer of corn sweeteners, in June 1993, she said she had two choices: "Either lie down and get walked on or stand up and fight. And I've never been someone to lie down."

McKinney and her husband Bob joined 150 other locked-out workers and family members to become "Road Warriors," traveling across the country to tell their story, reach out for support, and extend solidarity to other unions fighting their own battles.

Today with 1,800 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) on strike against Caterpillar, another 1,250 members of the United Rubber Workers (URW) on strike against Bridgestone/Firestone, and 762 members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) locked out at A.E. Staley, more than 10 percent of the industrial working class of Decatur is on the picket lines. Workers from all three locals, along with unionists from other locals and supporters, get together in weekly meetings to plan solidarity activities.

"When 19 members of the Teamsters union were forced out on strike by Overland Express in Springfield, [Illinois], we got more than 150 people from all three unions to go down there and help them picket," explained Frankie Travis, who worked at the Staley plant before the lock-out.

The idea for the Road Warriors came from Ray Rogers, of Corporate Campaign Inc., said Gary Lamb, an executive board member of UPIU Local 7837. "This was new for our members," Lamb said. "We said, 'We want you, and we want to run the wheels off your car, and we'll pay for the gas.'"

"We started making calls to other unions and sending out mailings. Soon we outgrew our office in the union hall and set up the Campaign for Justice office across the street." The campaign office was the organizing center for the October 15 march in Decatur that attracted thousands of union members and supporters from across the United States, and some from Canada.

"Some of our members are available for long trips. Others might lose a job and say, 'I've got two days — fit me in.' Others help out with a bucket drop in St. Louis or Chicago on a weekend," Lamb added.

Wayne Carlyle was a process support worker before the lockout and a member of the safety committee. "We're not only going out asking for help," he explained. "We're trying to make people understand that what's going on here is going on there, only at a different stage. The unions we visit all have their own problems. Whether it's downsizing or the 'team' concept, it's all about the same thing."

"When I go out to speak, it's not just union talk, but labor talk," explained Lorell Patterson, a process support worker in the plant since 1990. "A lot of people aren't in unions. This is a struggle not just for union workers but for all workers."

"You hear people talk about the 'American Dream,'" Patterson continued. "But what's so American about it? Most of us come from farm work or other low-wage jobs. Sure, you'd like to think you can have a home and a secure retirement. But that's just it, a dream."

"It's been only 30 years since they let Black people vote in the South," Patterson said. "Some people think they can't take those rights away, but look at this blatant racism by Governor [Pete] Wilson in California against the immigrants, or this new book about Black people having less intelligence than whites. The corporations will take our rights away if we don't protect them."

Solidarity with Cook's Ham workers

A contingent of Cook's Ham strikers made the trip to Decatur for the October 15 rally, where they made contacts and won new support for their struggle. Workers at Cook's Ham, a pork processor in Grayson, Kentucky, owned by ConAgra, have been involved in a bitter strike battle for more than a year. "I ran into them when I spoke at the trades and labor council in Louisville," explained Mike Griffin, one of the Road Warriors' organizers.

"We're planning a caravan on November 6 to take winter clothing donated by members of the UPIU, UAW, and URW



Militant/David Marshall

Staley "Road Warriors" and supporters at work in their office in Decatur, Illinois.

down to Grayson," Griffin continued.

"It was a big plus for us when Caterpillar and Firestone went out. This was the ultimate ignorance of management, because when you've got a town out on strike, you've got an army. You could see that at the October 15 rally. The will of the workers can overcome the companies and police belligerence."

Griffin reports that Road Warriors have been to every union mine in Illinois. "Miners in Illinois and Indiana have really embraced our struggle," he said. Road Warrior trips are sometimes organized together with strikers from Caterpillar and Firestone. A group from all three unions is currently touring Utah at the invitation of several unions there.

"When we go out we get information and share it with other people," Patterson said. "In the 1980s plants went out and no-

body did anything. What happened to PATCO in 1981 was tragic, but I can't go back and change that, just like I can't go back and change slavery. What's important is what we can do now to support each other."

Griffin added, "We've gone out coast to coast, speaking to auto workers, steelworkers, miners, garment workers, government workers, students, civil rights organizations, and more. We have over 20 support groups in cities across the country. Without a rank-and-file grassroots movement, the labor movement will die in this country. But what we've seen is testimony that labor is alive and well. It just needs leadership."

For information on how you can contribute to this fight, write: Staley Workers Campaign for Justice, 3080 B Kandy Lane, Decatur, IL 62526; or call (217) 872-2205.

Strikers fight Caterpillar legal moves

BY ANGEL LARISCY

PEORIA, Illinois — Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union on strike against Caterpillar continue to organize activities and protests as the company and city officials here step up attempts to curtail strike support actions.

More than 500 striking workers, their families, and other trade unionists and supporters marched on Caterpillar's general offices November 7. The rally was organized in conjunction with a visit to Peoria by folk singer Charlie King, who came to show his support for the strike. In addition to strikers from Peoria, a busload of UAW strikers from the Pontiac, Illinois, plant, and a few carloads from Aurora, Illinois, who had just held a Family Day rally of 250, participated in the action.

The mood of strikers and supporters was upbeat. Master Rodgers, a member of UAW Local 2096 from Pontiac, said of the strike, "If we lose this battle it will affect all working people in this country. I've got confidence we're going to win."

The company is now moving to get an injunction against rallies held outside its headquarters. Caterpillar claims that weekly rallies and pickets at their offices, along with 29 other activities that union members have participated in, violate a 1992 injunction limiting picket lines to no more than five people and preventing union members from blocking plant gates.

Caterpillar attorney Lee Smith said the company has a "pressing need" for the 1992 injunction to be enforced. UAW lawyer Stanley Eisenstein has asked the judge to throw out the antiunion injunction entirely. A November 11 hearing will determine whether or not the union should be found guilty of criminal contempt charges and fined.

"Cat does not deserve this injunction," said UAW Local 974 member Jim Fisher. "Considering the stakes involved, the strike has been very peaceful, very orderly, very disciplined. Maybe we should get an injunction against Caterpillar. And against Vance." Fisher was referring to Vance Security guards hired by the company to harass and intimidate strikers.

Caterpillar tries to pin racism on union

Caterpillar has also attempted to sow divisions among working people in the city and limit support for the strike by feeding rumors of racist slurs being yelled at scabs by pickets.

In a public relations ploy, Caterpillar's vice president of human services, Wayne Zimmerman, wrote in a letter, "Those few employees who engage in such activities are hereby put on notice that such behavior will result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge."

"We hope these accusations will be recognized for what they are — another of Cat's many attempts to divide UAW members and a diversionary tactic to get us to forget who our real enemy is as leaflet they are handing out."

The union flyer points to the history of Caterpillar and notes, "Isn't this the same company that had to be pressured by the government and Civil Rights Organizations to hire and promote and waste our energies fighting amongst ourselves?" union members responded in omen and minorities in the '60's and '70's?"

Strikers and supporters in Peoria continue to discuss ways to reach out and win new support for the strike. A program sponsored by the Womens Studies Department at Bradley University here entitled "Women in Protest" drew 50 people and heard women involved in the strike speak about its importance.

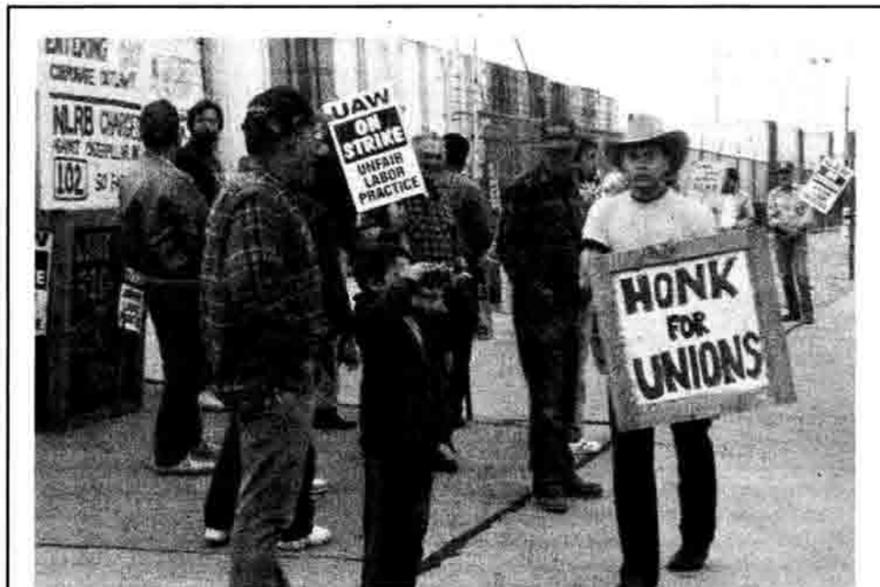
Lynn Tolson, a founding member of Families in Solidarity, spoke on the panel about the experiences in her life that convinced her to stand up and fight. She described the impact, as a teenager, of meeting students from Bradley University who were part of protests against the Vietnam War. "They told me what was really going on in Vietnam. These were the people that taught me my values," she said. Tolson became involved in the antiwar movement and drew the lesson that, "because of protest and getting involved, you can force leaders to do something about injustice."

Decatur unionists fight victimization

In Decatur, Illinois, workers on strike at Caterpillar and Bridgestone/Firestone, and locked out by A.E. Staley Co., are fighting against attempts to victimize union leaders and deal blows to the unions.

Staley has asked a judge to impose fines and jail sentences on United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 7837 president David Watts and Ray Rogers, a consultant working for the union. The company claims union leaders have violated a court order that prohibits UPIU pickets from blocking Staley gates or streets outside the plant. The charge stems from the participation of UPIU members in an October 15 solidarity rally of more than 5,000 strikers, unionists, and supporters, who marched through Decatur to show their support for the labor battles taking place in that city.

The company also used an ordinance against signs in Decatur to have a \$4,000 fine levied against the UPIU and to force Local 7837 to tear down its picket shacks, just as winter is approaching. "The company feels they have to make it as hard on workers as they can, hoping we'll give up," said Mike Griffin, a UPIU member. "But the mood here is that we're not giving up. We have to demand what is ours and fight for it."



Militant/Horace Kerr

Dozens of Caterpillar strikers and other unionists rallied November 1 in front of the company's Denver distribution plant, where 130 are on strike. "No one has abandoned the picket line in the last month, while two workers have come out of the plant to join us," said UAW Local 1415 president Joe Vasquez.

Kmart workers fight for union contract

BY ROBERT DEES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — Responding to lousy working conditions and low pay more than 5,000 new members have been brought into the southern region of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) through more than a dozen successful organizing drives in the past year and a half.

One of the new ACTWU locals is at the Kmart distribution center here, which opened in March 1992. Management originally provided no bathroom or cafeteria facilities for the workers, who had to go to a nearby Hardees fast food restaurant. The workers quickly dubbed the facility, located on Penry Road, the "Penry Penitentiary."

"They started taking dominion over us," said union leader Arthur Frazer at a community support rally this spring. Anyone who missed more than eight hours, for virtually any reason, was fired. "You're tardy if you're one minute late," said Robin Estes, "eight tardies, and you lost your job." These conditions caused such high turnover that the company had to hire some 1,400 workers the first two years the center was open to keep 450 jobs filled.

Bosses use sexual harassment, racism

When the plant had been in operation one year, workers from three departments shut down production to call management's attention to the problems on the job.

One worker was fired for reporting sexual harassment by her supervisor. The union still has several cases of sexual har-



Workers celebrate organizing victory at Tultex plant in Martinsville, Virginia, in August. Some 5,000 garment and textile workers, such as those at Kmart in North Carolina, have organized themselves into ACTWU in several southeastern states in the last year and a half.

assment pending against Kmart. Management has also promoted racism to try to divide the workers. One white worker reported that his white supervisor said, "If you join the union, the niggers'll be telling you what to do."

Several workers went to the local ACTWU offices and began organizing for the union in May 1993. "We started because they treated us less than human," Frazer explained.

When the plant manager first got wind of the union organizing drive, he threatened the workers with shutting down the

facility. Despite ongoing intimidation, including the firing of several union supporters, the union was voted in 249 to 132 in September 1993.

The company has been dragging out contract negotiations for a year now. At least eight more workers have been fired since the vote for supporting the union. The union recently succeeded in winning back the jobs of five of these workers. In addition, Kmart had to pay out some \$65,000 in back pay to illegally fired workers.

After five months of fruitless negotia-

tions, union members organized a series of activities to publicize their fight. In February, they leafleted and demonstrated at dozens of Kmart stores throughout the Southeast. In April, more than 150 Kmart workers and ACTWU officials walked into a fancy dinner at a Jaycees membership meeting to present their case directly to company officials there.

Union members arrested

A number of Kmart workers and their supporters were also arrested during a sit-in at the Kmart Greater Greensboro Open golf tournament. A local group of Black ministers sponsored a series of public rallies where these workers told their story and won support.

Four union rallies were held in the warehouse parking lot during the summer. At one of these protests, while several dozen unionists picketed on the driveway, two or three other contingents of around 20 workers marched out of the facility chanting "No justice, no peace!"

Many workers wear union buttons and tee-shirts on the job. Before beginning production work, each department does stretching exercises. In at least one department, while doing the exercises, many workers shout "ACTWU! ACTWU is in the house!" and "We want a contract!"

The fight at Kmart is the most important labor battle taking place in this area. But it is not the only one. In March, ACTWU locals waged a three-day strike against Healthtex plants in this region; successfully repulsing an attempt by Hiland Yarn officials to decertify the union. A union activist's firing at the Fieldcrest Cannon plant last year sparked a two-day strike, which won her job back. Another dozen firings are still being contested at the plant.

Big ACTWU victory at Tultex

Workers at Tultex in Martinsville, Virginia, a manufacturer of athletic clothing, continue to face a stiff fight to win their first union contract. The more than 2,000 workers at the plant voted in ACTWU by a nearly two to one margin in August, but three months later management is stonewalling negotiations.

An in-plant organizing drive began when the company announced wage and benefit cuts in January. Workers overcame union officials' skepticism of the possibility of success by gathering authorization cards from about 60 percent of the workforce.

The union drive marked an important turnaround, as the union had lost two previous attempts to organize the plant since 1989. It is ACTWU's biggest organizing victory in the South since the J.P. Stevens fight in 1974.

"It feels great," Willis Ferguson, who works in the housekeeping department, said at the time of the union vote. "We'll never get run over again."

Robert Dees is a member of ACTWU at a textile mill in North Carolina.

CP-Soo rail workers express anger over Clinton board's take-away plan

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL — Rail unionists are angry and disappointed at recommendations by a presidential board on a new contract for workers on the Soo Line railroad that back the employer's demands to slash road and yard crews to "conductor only." The workers, members of the United Transportation Union (UTU), struck three months ago for 46 days against this demand by the company, which is owned by Canadian Pacific (CP). "The crew consist is terrible," said Rich Vitek, a UTU local vice-chairperson for road crews working out of the St. Paul terminal. This is a hub for the CP-Soo's 11 Midwestern states operation. "We lost a lot on that. Once a precedent is set, there's no way to get that worker back. [The PEB] is just not concerned about safety."

Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) 225 was convened by President Bill Clinton after UTU officials complied with government intervention to formally end the CP-Soo strike last August. Union officials suggested possibly expanding the strike to other railroads to gain Clinton's expected back-to-work order under provisions of the antiunion Railway Labor Act.

Union officials claimed that the president's appointees would produce a better settlement than the crushing concessions demanded by the CP, the world's 25th largest transportation company, with nearly \$13 billion in assets.

PEB contract recommendations are supposed to establish "guidelines" for a new round of negotiations, set here for November 8 and 9.

Workers stunned at sweep of proposal

The Clinton appointees urged "that upon the signing of an agreement, conductor-only operations may be instituted, at the Carrier's option, in all classes of service and at all locations without train length or car count restrictions. In through freight service there shall be no limitations upon crews performing work events en route."

Workers here were stunned at the sweep of the recommendation, particularly since the three board members visited the terminal and were told by switchmen, conductors, and supervisors that conductor-only crews were unworkable, inefficient, and unsafe.

The board recommended against the CP-Soo's wage-cutting formula and sup-

ported acceptance of a 1991 presidential board's wage package that was imposed on other carriers after UTU officials ordered strikers back to work. This settlement expires Jan. 1, 1995. As part of the new board's proposal, some CP-Soo workers would get a maximum lump sum of \$6,747 for working seven years without a pay raise.

Explaining this supposedly generous offer, the board states, "With reduced crews, there are more switches to be thrown by individual employees and more cars to be climbed, more brakes to be tied, more pins to be pulled, and more ballast and snow to be traversed. Simply put, there is more wear and tear on employees."

"I didn't go on strike for 46 days for something below parity," noted Pat Masloski, a veteran railroad switchperson here.

The government urges a two-tier signing bonus of \$5,000 for workers with higher seniority than those who came on during a huge hiring wave that began in July 1993, and \$1,000 for nearly 200 workers employed since then.

Opposition by newer workers

The PEB offers selective, short-term contractual "protection" to some of these hires. This discriminatory treatment is being opposed by some of the newer union members.

"I wondered all along how much the new guys counted. We weren't brought up in the press, the media, the news. We haven't got a contract proposal yet, so we'll see," said Tom Schwartz, a new hire leading this opposition.

The PEB recommendations allow bosses to implement jobs "outside existing rules" to retain special customers; the introduction of a "utility" worker to respond to the heightened workload of reduced crew jobs, who "may work with more than one yard or road crew" at a time; and elimination of four of nine "arbitraries," extra wages paid for additional work to senior employees.

The November issue of the union paper, *UTU News*, reported favorably on the presidential board's recommendations.

The Clinton appointees made clear to UTU members their recommendations are not to be taken lightly. The contract dispute is "to be laid to rest."

"It would be most unfortunate and dam-

aging to both the employees and the Carrier," the Clinton administration board threatens, for its proposals not to be accepted. A strike is "untenable," and would "possibly require further intervention by the federal government."

Congressional legislation prohibiting the UTU from resuming its strike until March 1, 1995, was signed into law by Clinton in October.

"This just shows what government intervention is," explained union member Vitek. "If the carrier wants people to be cut, downsized, and slashed, the government, whether Democrat or Republican, sides with the company. It doesn't matter who's in office. It just boils down to one thing — they're not for the working people. Something drastic has to be done to tell the government it doesn't matter what you recommend. We're going to have to stick together and get our power back."

Jon Hillson is a switchperson in St. Paul on the CP-Soo Line and is a member of UTU Local 1882.

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Youth, workers in L.A. protest Proposition 187

Continued from front page
tality in Santa Fe yards!" and "No justice, no trains!" referring to the ongoing fight of the truckers to organize a union at Santa Fe railroad.

The garment workers and truckers joined protesting high school students at city hall. Hundreds of students from Belmont High School and nearby schools had begun a boisterous rally on the steps of the building.

Meanwhile 100 students from Pico Rivera left their school and marched 10 miles to city hall. Their march went from one school to another gathering more students. Police attempted to block them from going to one school, but students said they got around them. One student got clubbed by the cops.

On November 2, more than 10,000 high school students walked out of school, marching and holding rallies. This was the largest mobilization yet of student opposition to the initiative.

Nearly one thousand students from Belmont High and Downtown Business High School walked out and marched to city hall. Among them was Monica De León, a student at Downtown Business Magnet High School, who spoke at a meeting of the city council. "They said we had 10 minutes, but the president kept cutting us off," she said. In her short speech De León stated, "Even if 187 passes, [immigrants] will have the same things they have now — nothing but a cheap job with no health coverage. Proposition 187 is racism becoming legal."

Roger Calero, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, spoke to a class at Belmont High School that same day. Calero and members of the Young Socialists joined the protest.

Five hundred students from around the San Fernando Valley rallied at Van Nuys Civic Center. At a sit-in and speakout of 100 students at Franklin High School in Highland Park, students asserted that the protest was "a student-run, student-organized" event and refused to allow Art Torres, a well-known politician, to speak.

"If we don't speak out for our rights, the more they will throw at us and the more they will get away with," said Aaron Dizarza, a student at San Fernando High School who spoke to a group of youth at Pacoima Junior High School.

The massive student protests occurred in the face of repeated threats and attempts to prevent students from walking out of class by school authorities, police, and city officials. County supervisor Gloria Molina went on television the day of the protests to criticize the walkouts and to urge students to remain "calm."

Other politicians who oppose 187 also condemned the student demonstrations. Some complained about youth carrying Mexican and Salvadoran flags, arguing that they would provoke a "backlash."

Similarly, Barbara Coe, chair of the California Coalition for Immigration Reform, which backs 187, declared that the mobilization of thousands of Mexican youth would backfire on opponents of the measure. "If they've been like some in the past, if you're a loyal American and you love your country, they will hurt them real bad," she said.

Pro-187 forces have noted that significant numbers of Blacks, Asians, Chicanos, and naturalized Mexican immigrants supported the proposition. Polls show that more than half of Asian voters, 28 percent of Latinos, and 21 percent of Blacks voted for Wilson, who vigorously campaigned for Proposition 187, arguing that undocumented workers take resources away from "taxpaying" residents.

The day after the approval of the anti-immigrant initiative, 150 youth protested in front of the Ronald Reagan State Building. The crowd, made up of Latino, Black, white, and some Asian youth, chanted, "The people united, no on 187."

Sanghee Kim, 22, said, "The measure is unfair, it's racist, and it scapegoats immigrants for our economic problems."

Enrique Sánchez, a young worker from a McDonald Douglas aerospace plant, said, "We have got to make them know that we are here and we're not going away."

-MILITANT LABOR FORUMS-

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles
Stop U.S. Attacks Against Cuba. Speakers: Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Association of Machinists Local 2785; Laura Anderson, Young Socialists. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 2546-C W. Pico Blvd. (2 blocks west of Vermont). Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9640.

FLORIDA

Miami
Defend Immigrant Rights: Speak Out against Proposition 187. Panel of speakers. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54 St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston
What's Behind the Anti-Immigration Drive and California Proposition 187? Panel discussion with Les Slater, civil rights activist, and others. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont Street (corner of Massachusetts Avenue). Donation \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul
Defend Immigrant Rights! Struggle Against

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

"What the 1994 U.S. Elections Revealed"

Saturday, November 19
7:30 p.m.

Socialist workers who are meat-packers, auto workers and oil workers will meet November 19 and 20 to discuss the defense of the Cuban revolution and how to win solidarity in their unions for strikers at Caterpillar and other companies.

Participants in these meetings invite you to join with them at Militant Labor Forums to discuss "What the 1994 Elections Revealed." The meetings will be preceded by dinners at 6 p.m.

NEW YORK BROOKLYN

Speaker: Paul Mailhot, Militant staff writer.
59 4th Ave. (corner of Bergen). (718) 399-7257.

TEXAS

HOUSTON

Speaker: Joel Britton, SWP national trade union director.
6969 Gulf Freeway, Suite 250. (713) 644-9066

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Speaker: Naomi Craine, recent Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from New York.
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MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Proposition 187 in California. A fighter's eyewitness account. Speaker: Gloria del Cid, Young Socialists member from Los Angeles. 2490 University Avenue. Donation \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

BRITAIN

Manchester

Crisis in Russia and Eastern Europe. Speakers: Frank Hirschmann, student from eastern Germany studying in Manchester; Chris Morris, Communist League member, Amalgamated and Electrical Union. Sat., Nov. 26, 6 p.m. 1st Floor, 60 Shudehill. Donation £2. Tel: 061 839 1766.

Sheffield

Celebrate the Publication of the New English-language Edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. Sat., Nov. 19, 6 p.m. 1 Gower Street, Burngreave. Donation: £2. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Vancouver

Reportback from November 12 March on Washington. Speakers: Seattle supporter of the International Cuba Youth Brigade; Ned Dmytryshyn, Communist League, member International Association of Machinists, participant in November 12 march. Sun., Nov. 20, 3 p.m. 3967 Main Street (between 23 and 24 avenues). Donation \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Rightists attack Cuba activists

Continued from front page

attempted burglary, and possession of burglary tools. In addition, Aquit faces charges of carrying a concealed weapon. The police informed some of the Cuba solidarity activists that those arrested were members of the November 30 Movement and the Movement of Revolutionary Recovery. Both are ultrarightist Cuban-American groups.

While in recent years there have been fewer attacks on those who oppose the U.S. embargo of Cuba and those who support the Cuban revolution, the attempted firebombing of the ATC comes only weeks after two molotov cocktails were thrown at the Little Havana offices of *Replica*, a magazine that calls for lifting the embargo and supports dialogue with Cuba.

In a press statement Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and editor of *Areíto* magazine, said: "The membership of the ATC and of the other organizations involved in these humanitarian campaigns (Miami Coalition To End the Embargo of Cuba, the Antonio Maceo Brigade, Profesionales y Empresarios Cubanoamericanos-PECA, Asociación Cubanoamericana y Rescate Cultural-RECUACU) strongly condemn this terrorist action and blame not only the three ter-

Antiabortion thug convicted

Continued from front page

Abortion rights advocates in Miami have recently stepped up their efforts to defend a woman's right to choose. Several groups sponsored a clinic escort and defense training session November 7. More than 25 men and women participated in the event, which featured speakers, videos, and non-violent physical training. Most of those participating were students at the University of Miami (UM) who had not faced anti-abortion protesters before.

Athalia Christie, vice president of UM NOW, one of the groups sponsoring the event, explained that while clinics in the Miami area have not faced much harassment, "it is important to have a trained core of volunteers who can respond when needed and stand up wherever we need to."

She also described an attempt on campus to censor leaflets promoting the training session. One dorm counselor refused to post flyers saying they were "abrasive" for using the word abortion and that it wasn't an issue that affected students. Abortion rights activists on campus are planning future activities to protest the censorship.

Maggie McCraw is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 368 in Miami.

rorists actually involved in this crime but all the other right-wing Cuban-American organizations that through their intolerance and in order to maintain the political control of our communities have condoned and supported the use of violence in our city."

Francisco Picado, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Florida and an activist in the Miami Coalition to End the Embargo of Cuba, denounced this latest attack as being aimed at all opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba.

"While the government felt it best to stop this particular assault on the ATC we know that it is the U.S. government that for more than 30 years has trained and financially backed terrorist attacks on Cuba and against those who defend Cuba in this country," said Picado.

"This attempt to frighten us will backfire as will be seen by the many Miami Cuban-Americans and others who will be traveling to Washington, D.C., on November 12 to protest Washington's ongoing embargo and attacks on Cuba."

Ernie Mailhot is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 368 and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida.

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

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

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

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Reykjavik: Klapparstig 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.

He was on piecwork? — "He was a craftsman, like a carpenter, if you like. He took pride in his job, but he wasn't a callous man. Nobody suffered; he was very quick." — The widow of Syd



Harry Ring

Dernley. He was Britain's last surviving hangman.

Just room and board, no wages — "DATA ENTRY position, meticulous, pleasant disposi-

tion (no bad attitude), tremendous room for advancement, overtime required, must be able to work under extreme pressure." — Montreal help-wanted ad.

Nonpartisan hatemonger — "I have no intention of being the object of 'conquest,' peaceful or otherwise, by Latinos, Asians, Blacks, Arabs or any other group of individuals who have claimed my country." — Ruth Coffey, head of Stop Immigration Now and campaigner for California's immigrant-bashing Prop. 187.

Unfair — The meat industry is suing to stop the Agriculture Dept. program for spot-testing meat for E. coli contamination. The bacteria is said to be responsible for some

500 deaths and 20,000 illnesses a year. The suit claims that the testing violates a long-standing policy that the disease-bearing E. coli is not an adulterant and therefore not subject to regulation.

Don't strain yourself — From the other side of their mouth, the meatpackers argue, cogently, that the federal sampling for E. coli is too small to be effective. The program calls for 5,000 samples to be taken from packinghouses and retail outlets each year. That's almost 15 samples a day, nationwide.

'Great White Father' is alive and well — "All contacts with the Waorani should be avoided. However, if you have an unforeseen en-

counter with a Wao, keep calm.... Tell Wao that you are his friend and, looking at his face, repeat these words: 'Waponi, amigo Waorani, boto Maxus.' ('Greetings, Waorani friend, I am Maxus.')

Always read the fine print — About that northern California county offering three hours of free psychotherapy to each person turning in a gun — no takers the opening day. Now we learn that it's three hours max, no matter how many guns you hand over.

Haute shaft — Mayfield, one of L.A.'s better clothing stores

— \$5,500 leather jackets, \$135 T-shirts — is marketing bottled water featuring its logo. At better hotels and restaurants, \$1.50 a glass. Fashion designer Donna Karan, best known for outfitting the likes of Barbara Streisand in \$1,400 dresses will be unveiling her private-label water. But don't fret. Karan's supplier bottles the same water under the Sierra Gold label. Available at discount stores, 99 cents a quart.

Thought for the week — "The fashion world is more rabid and self-involved than any other because, in the end, none of it matters." — Writer Anthony Lane, in a contribution to the *New Yorker's* 248-page issue on fashion.

Film depicts plight of Cubans held in U.S. jails

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

Five thousand Cubans are being held in U.S. jails with no charges against them, no right to parole, not knowing whether they will be deported, and deprived of their civil rights. *The Excludables*, a new film by independent filmmaker Estela Bravo, documents the plight of these prisoners and sharply illustrates the U.S. justice system's criminal treatment of working people, especially immigrants.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has declared these Cubans — among 125,000 who came to the United States in the 1980 Mariel boatlift — "excludable" from the three-decade-old policy of granting automatic asylum to Cuban immigrants.

This policy was changed earlier this year after tens of thousands of Cubans tried to

the Atlanta federal penitentiary. Bravo interviews many who say they were beaten, used as human guinea pigs in drug experiments, and otherwise brutally handled.

"They give Thorazine, a sedative," said one man who had been jailed in Atlanta "I know guys they gave it to. I knew them in Cuba and they weren't unbalanced. With Thorazine, they went crazy."

"After a beating they took me to a hospital, tied me to a bed for 72 hours, and gave me Thorazine," said another inmate. "They abused us every day. All our human rights were taken away." A third said he had been held in handcuffs for 18 straight days.

The prison doctor, Bolivar Martineau, is interviewed in the film. The majority of Cuban inmates were not "normal," he says. "You had a highly volatile group — Black, low-educated young males...with little work ethics. We called them DDIs — disruptive, disturbed individuals. The whole prison was a...social laboratory. It was just fabulous." He assures the interviewer, however, that he has not conducted any experiments.

A human rights 'dilemma'

The conditions at the Atlanta prison prompted a Congressional committee to publish a report in 1986 calling the indefinite detention of the Cubans a "fundamental human rights dilemma for the United States." A government decision to resume deportations after a two-year suspension led the Cubans and other inmates to riot and take over the prison for 12 days in November 1987. Following the riots, individual hearings were held for many of the prisoners and 60 percent of them were released.

However, many stayed in jail and the INS continues to detain others. The Cubans from the Mariel boatlift are now scattered in 34 federal and state prisons around the country, including the federal prison in Talladega, Alabama, which inmates took and held for nine days in 1991.

The Cuban immigrants are supposed to be granted annual hearings by an INS panel to determine whether they will be released from prison and given permission to stay in the United States. Wayne Smith, head of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba at the time of the Mariel boatlift, said many hearings never take place, while "others by and large have been kangaroo courts." The authorities routinely deny the release of Cuban prisoners. INS spokesman Duke Austin says on the film that he would like to deport all of the "excludables."

In 1984, at Washington's insistence, the Cuban government agreed to accept the return to Cuba of 2,746 Mariel immigrants. The U.S. government claims that many were ex-convicts or patients at psychiatric hospitals who had been released to go to the United States. Some 900 have been deported so far. After several weeks in Cuban jails, their cases were reviewed and most have been released.

Bravo's film played on Cuban television in September. An article in the Cuban newspaper *Granma* blasts Amnesty Inter-



Military cop grabs Cuban refugee detained at Eglin Air Force Base in Pensacola, Florida, in May 1980. Some 5,000 Cubans who arrived that year remain in U.S. prisons.

national, Americas Watch, and all their "cousins" who keep an "ominous silence" when it comes to the plight of the "excludables" "Estela Bravo's documentary is also a bitter reminder for the tens of thousands of Cubans now in the concentra-

tion camps in the occupied territory of Guantánamo and Panama," the review says.

Rose Ana Berbeo is a member of the Young Socialists.

IN REVIEW

get into the United States by raft. In response, the U.S. government sent out Coast Guard and navy ships, detained more than 30,000 of the rafters, and is now holding them in concentration camp conditions at the U.S. military base in Guantánamo, Cuba, and bases in Panama.

Bravo's film tells the story of a number of Cubans who came to the United States during the 1980 boatlift, were convicted of petty crimes, served their time, and then were subsequently held for years with no charges until the INS finally decided to deport them. One man, for example, explains how he was held for 10 years after being sentenced to six months for driving drunk without a license. Another was imprisoned for 10 years for stealing \$43.

The U.S.-born wife of a Cuban immigrant tells how a criminal charge against her husband was dropped. But as soon as he applied for a work permit, INS agents surrounded their house and arrested him. "I still don't know why they did this," she said. "All they would say was it was from 12 years ago."

Initially, the *Marielitos*, as they became known, were all held in one cell block at

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO



NEW YORK, Nov. 11 — A meeting to build support for the Puerto Rican Pro-Independence Movement (MPI), which has recently been the target of a series of attacks, drew over 250 people here today. In the latest attack on Nov. 7, MPI headquarters in Puerto Rico was virtually destroyed and members subjected to vicious physical attack by police.

The meeting at St. Marks Church on New York's East Side consisted almost entirely of Puerto Rican youth with a handful of black and white supporters as well as some people from other Latin countries. Many were members of MPI; others were from the Young Lords, Lucha, PRISA and Unica as well as various campus groups.

On Nov. 7, MPI headquarters in San Juan was savagely attacked by a mob of as yet unreported origin protesting the University's decision to phase out ROTC. This decision had been a major victory for FUPI (Federation of Pro-Independence Students), which led the struggle for the elimination of ROTC. The mob had previously been prevented from entering the campus by a crows of 5,000 students led by FUPI.

Independence sentiment among young people generally, and especially young organized workers, has been growing, and FUPI has been winning increasingly

widespread support among students. An alliance between FUPI, the university student council, and the Puerto Rican Workers Organization was recently signed. Members of the union now striking General Electric in Puerto Rico have asked FUPI for support, according to [MPI representative Benjamin] Ortiz. Half the circulation of Claridad, MPI's newspaper, is to workers and 90 percent to people under 30. FUPI has been successful in encouraging men not to serve in the U.S. military.



Britain's class-conscious coal miners, fighting vanguard of the working class, have taken a great step forward in the decision, announced in London on November 3, to amalgamate all the mining trade unions of England, Scotland and Wales into "one big union" to be known as the National Union of Mineworkers.

The new union, which will have a membership of 700,000, thus becoming one of the five largest unions in the British Isles, is placing in the forefront of its program a demand for the expropriation of the mine-owners and the establishment of "public ownership and control" of all mines.

The coal miners represent the most advanced and militant section of British labor. They were in the vanguard of the great General Strike of 1926 and have been to the fore in the wave of renewed working-class struggle which commenced early this year.

New International no.7

Opening Guns of World War III

Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes

The U.S. government's murderous blockade, bombardment, and invasion of Iraq heralded sharpening conflicts among imperialist powers, more wars, and growing instability of international capitalism. \$12

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write *Pathfinder*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.

Why Clinton hates Cuba

The November 12 march and rally is a good example of the kind of political activity that is needed to effectively protest Washington's policy of aggression against Cuba.

For more than 35 years — nine administrations, Democratic and Republican alike — the U.S. government has followed a single policy: to try to overthrow the Cuban revolution. For this purpose, Washington has maintained a ruthless economic and trade embargo against Cuba. But the U.S. rulers face a giant obstacle to that goal: Cuba's working people and their leadership, who year after year have stood up to imperialist attack as they defend their socialist course. The U.S. rulers hate the Cuban workers and peasants exactly because their internationalist example and socialist consciousness is a beacon for fighting workers and youth around the world.

Cuba's representatives tell the simple, unadorned truth: capitalism is not a road forward for the peoples of the world; it can only offer a future of exploitation, brutality, and war. Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina followed in the finest traditions of the revolution when he used the platform of the United Nations in October to condemn the U.S. invasion and occupation of Haiti. From U.S. intervention in Vietnam to Iraq and Haiti, the Cuban revolution has an unbroken record in defense of fighters against imperialist aggression around the world.

Despite bourgeois commentators' ceaseless predictions that the revolution is about to crumble, the working class in Cuba remains strong and determined to defend their sovereignty, independence, and the socialist course they have chosen. In the face of huge economic challenges, they are proving again and again they have the

energy, intelligence, creativity, and will to fight and survive.

Washington has been willing to negotiate relations and deals with the governments of China, Vietnam, Eastern Europe, and most other governments. But the U.S. rulers know — because they have tried! — that the revolutionary government of Cuba, led by Fidel Castro, can't be pressured, bought, or corrupted to turn away from its socialist course.

The greatest pressures bearing down on the Cuban revolution today stem from its relative isolation in the world because of the lack of revolutionary struggles elsewhere; the demise of the Nicaraguan revolution in the late 1980s was the biggest blow. World capitalism, however, is weaker than ever, as the old imperialist order continues to crumble. This makes every struggle by working people — and every effort by defenders of the Cuban revolution around the world — important in giving Cuban fighters more breathing space.

Following the November 12 march, opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba can continue to win more people to this effort by building and organizing a range of activities: local and regional conferences, teach-ins, speaking tours on Cuba, and other public events.

Just as important is the systematic reading and study of books such as *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* and *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*. Through this political activity and education, more workers and young people can learn from the example of Cuba's revolution and be persuaded that joining the worldwide fight for socialism is the most worthwhile way to devote your life's activity.

The answer to Proposition 187

The only large-scale voice speaking in the interests of the working class that emerged out of the November 8 U.S. elections was heard in the streets of California. Tens of thousands of people — above all youth, alongside workers — took action to protest the anti-working class Proposition 187, which would deny basic rights to education, health care, and other social services to an entire section of the population.

Proposition 187 passed by a significant 3-2 margin. But its approval settles nothing.

The forces in the Republican and Democratic parties that campaigned for 187 did not resort primarily to blatant racism. Instead, they appealed to the middle class and working class — including Latinos and Blacks — to identify as *Americans* against undocumented immigrant workers, who were portrayed as a threat to their interests. "Americans," they claimed, must unite in the face of a threat to "our" jobs and resources.

Democrats who tried to distance themselves from 187 as the heat grew argued in the same terms. They vociferously opposed street protests by thousands of Chicano, Mexican, and Central American youth and particularly denounced protesters who carried the flag of Mexico.

But there is no common group of "Americans." The working class and small farmers have counterposed interests to those of the class that exploits our labor and

drags us into wars against fellow working people for their profits.

Our interests lie in taking united action with other workers, from Japan to Mexico, to protect and extend the wages and livelihoods of the entire working class, beginning with those who are most exploited.

The threat to Social Security, employment, and education doesn't come from workers born in other countries. It comes from the bipartisan government and employer offensive, which is shifting the burden of the economic crisis onto the working class and preparing further inroads on entitlements while cutting costs and driving down the value of labor power.

The California protests show that the working class in the United States has become more international than ever, a development that potentially strengthens our class. Immigration will continue. So will the assault on the growing Spanish-speaking section of the population — and so will the resistance by immigrants and, increasingly, other workers to it.

In the course of this battle, more and more youth and working people, repelled by the inhumanity, backwardness, and brutality of capitalism, will look for an alternative. They will find it in the fight for a socialist future — including a world without borders — and the communist movement that is engaged in that fight today.

Government aids rail bosses

Workers on the Canadian Pacific-owned Soo Line face a new challenge handed down by the Clinton administration's Presidential Emergency Board (PEB). The board's recommendations on a new contract are an endorsement of the bosses' concession demands.

The board gave its seal of approval to CP-Soo's attempt to cut the size of crews operating freight trains, thereby setting workers up for increased death and injury on the job, and threatening the safety of those who live, work, or travel near railroad yards and lines. The PEB also calls for other concessions. A one-time lump sum is supposed to sweeten the deal.

Clinton's surrogates threatened more federal intervention if union members don't kneel to their demands. Congress has already passed legislation prohibiting workers from exercising their right to strike until March 1995.

Many rail workers, angered over this course of events, are drawing an important conclusion. Workers are better off relying on their own power than facing government intervention. When Washington enters into a "labor dispute," it's always to help the employers.

The 46-day strike by members of the United Transportation Union pointed the way forward for rail workers. This is why the employers don't want the experience

repeated. Workers from different unions hung together, including engineers who defied the treacherous orders of their union officials to cross picket lines. The unionists showed that workers' only strength lies in our numbers and capacity to fight.

Caterpillar strikers and miners at Yellowknife in Canada are finding out that capitalist governments, with their cops and courts, serve the interests of the bosses. A worldwide depression is driving a cost-cutting frenzy, and rougher methods are being used to force workers to accept the consequences on their living standards and conditions on the job.

The allies of workers on the CP-Soo in their fight for a decent contract are Caterpillar strikers, garment workers in Los Angeles fighting in defense of immigrant rights, working farmers organizing to defend their land, and others like them around the world.

The rail workers' fight is not over. Ultimately it will be decided by how the unionists are able to organize their union strength, not by the PEB. There are better opportunities for workers today to fight together than in many years.

That's the kind of working-class solidarity that can help the rail workers in the next stage of their fight with the owners at CP-Soo.

What 1994 U.S. elections revealed

Continued from Page 4

North's statements "despicable" and "unpatriotic." Gore said North was "demeaning the U.S. military at a time when all Americans with the exception of Ollie North are coming together in support of our commander in chief." Major figures in the Republican Party came out against North, including Senator John Warner, the other Republican senator from Virginia, who backed another Republican running for the office.

The "cultural war" also failed once again to make opposition to abortion rights a rallying cry to galvanize growing influence. Prominent Republican Party politicians such as New Jersey governor Christine Todd Whitman continues to insist on her support for abortion rights, as do other prominent Republicans. And Gingrich, a fierce opponent of a women's right to choose, said he did not "think the votes are there" to do anything about it.

The ultraright will take the initiative in bourgeois politics in the years ahead, but only as working-class struggle begins to challenge the capitalists' policies, political parties, and government. The incipient Bonapartist and fascist elements will carve out space in the capitalist parties as the crisis deepens, but they will also get slapped down when they leap too far ahead.

For now, the steady march of bourgeois politics to the right marks something worse for the working class, which is being battered without a fight. The capitalist owners of industry are downsizing factories and making workers labor harder and longer for less pay. The government continues to chip away at social gains such as money for schools, Medicare and Medicaid programs, pensions, jobless benefits, and the minimum wage. Without any pressure from the labor movement to force the capitalists to ease off, the noose gets tighter and tighter.

The AFL-CIO labor officialdom said nothing during the recent elections — or before or after — to challenge this framework of capitalist politics or mobilize working people to fight these attacks. Similarly, the middle-class figures who purport to speak in the interests of Blacks in the United States continue their lockstep with the top union officials in trailing after the rightward course of the employers' parties.

Working class acting in own interests

Aside from the election campaigns run by Socialist Workers candidates in several states across the country, the only voice of the working class in this year's elections were the thousands of workers and youth who marched in the streets of Los Angeles and other parts of California against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 on the California ballot. In those actions, which involved thousands of immigrant workers, students, and other workers and youth, the future could be seen of the working class acting in its own interests.

These demonstrations were the only answer to the efforts by both big-business parties to scapegoat a section of the working class for the unemployment and deteriorating schools and health care created by the crisis of the capitalist system. The demonstrations showed how a vanguard layer among working people can fight to unify the class in the face of attacks by the employers.

The capitalist politicians who managed the successful ballot effort did not rely primarily on overtly racist appeals. Instead, they played on middle-class panic and prejudice, and they organized to get the support of Blacks, Asians, and Latinos for the measure. When Gov. Pete Wilson, a major proponent of 187, gave his victory speech November 9, he was surrounded by supporters who were Black, Asian, and Latino. As he explained that passage of 187 meant "your children" will not have to give up their future because of illegal immigration, huge applause rose from the crowd.

A number of liberal politicians took their distance from 187 or spoke against it, convinced that attempts to enforce it would cause the rulers more problems than it would solve right now. These same forces, however, largely looked with horror on the demonstrators, many of whom proudly waved flags from Mexico. This "un-American" display of unity with workers from across the border was not the image the liberals wanted to project.

A few prominent conservative bourgeois politicians such as Jack Kemp and William Bennett, as well as the editors of the *Wall Street Journal*, also opposed 187. However, the most significant development was the shift of other right-wing forces such as the editors of the *National Review* from their prior "free trader" stance in support of unrestricted immigration. In California and elsewhere, they argued, it is now more important than ever for "America" to maintain its "cultural homogeneity" in face of a world increasingly in crisis.

Working people can only expect continuing attacks on our rights and livelihoods as the new statesmen take office in Washington, D.C. But the possibilities to put up resistance is shown by the mass actions against Proposition 187; the workers battling Caterpillar, Firestone-Bridgestone, and A.E. Staley; workers and youth in Cuba defending their revolution, and those in the United States and elsewhere who are speaking and acting in support of the Cuban revolution; and young people who mobilize to defend abortion clinics against rightist attacks and who protest police brutality, racist assaults, and other evils of the capitalist system. Tremendous political space exists in the working class to break down divisions, struggle for our common class interests, and discuss the ideas working people will need to fight effectively and win.

Truck assemblers in Washington reject contract

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

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

tions.

Kenworth announced plans to add a second shift at its Renton plant.

San Francisco dailies hit by union walkouts

Some 2,600 press operators, paper handlers, drivers, reporters, and editors at San Francisco's two major daily newspapers walked off the job November 1 and set up

Chemical workers defend union in Minnesota

Twenty-two members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 6-62 are on strike against CF Industries in Rosemont, Minnesota. CFI, a fertilizer producer, demanded removal of the union shop clause from the contract, prompting the strike, which began April 20. Of 1,500 CFI workers nationwide, only the two dozen workers at this plant are unionized.

On October 27, a dozen workers from other unions including the United Auto Workers, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and International Union of Electronic Workers joined the OCAW members on the picket line in a show of support. Police responded with two cars from the Rosemont city police, two from the sheriff's department, and two state trooper cars. The unionists decided to return again the following week.

UMWA miners defeat decertification vote

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1972 in Sheridan, Wyoming, won an election at Decker Coal Co. by a 137-115 vote. A group of nonunion employees seeking decertification at the company's mine in Decker, Montana, forced the vote. The 258 workers there are covered by a contract between the UMWA and the company that expires Jan. 2, 1995. The union has won four such votes of confidence over the past 10 years.

Coal haulers in Kentucky join Mine Workers

After United Mine Workers of America Local 5890 members at Cyprus Mountain Coal ratified their first contract in May, miners in eastern Kentucky began organizing truckers who haul coal for two independent companies. Many unorganized truckers began attending UMWA Local 5890 meetings and became active in other



Cops beat strikers from San Francisco's two daily newspapers, the Examiner and the Chronicle, November 2.

ON THE PICKET LINE

other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

For the first time in nine years, workers at Kenworth's truck assembly plants in Seattle and Renton, Washington, rejected the company's contract proposal October 29. They were forced to accept the agreement, however, when a separate strike vote failed to get a two-thirds majority, as required by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) constitution. The joint negotiating committee, made up of representatives of the five union locals in the plants, had recommended a "yes" vote.

The contract provides the 1,400 unionists an 85 cent raise the first year and 40 cents for each of the next two years. The agreement includes an additional holiday, one more unpaid personal day off, reduction in the probationary period from 140 calendar days to 112, an improved dental plan, and the ability to transfer to a different department. The company won some work rule changes and reduction in pay grade status for certain jobs.

Workers were angered by the fact that they are the lowest paid truck assemblers in the United States. Kenworth's parent company posted its highest sales quarter ever this year and has a higher profit margin than its competitors. Workers are also concerned about speedup and brutal working condi-

picket lines. "The racks are empty and the doorsteps are bare, and we think we can keep it that way," said Doug Cuthbertson of the Conference of Newspaper Unions, one of eight unions negotiating for a contract.

Employees of the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* have been working without an agreement for a year. Adele DeCampi-Cirkelis, an official of Teamsters Local 921, said management wants to replace union members with "part-timers who get sub-standard wages and no benefits." Workers are also fighting for improved wages. The newspaper workers and their supporters rallied outside the editorial offices the night before the strike. They have begun putting out their own paper called *The San Francisco Free Press* and circulating it by E-mail.

Angry strikers shouted at supervisors going into work, "Get a real job!"

Strikers halt publication in British Columbia

Striking press operators at the *Vancouver Sun* and the *Province*, daily newspapers in Vancouver, British Columbia, stopped publication November 2. The company responded by locking out the remaining 1,200 union employees. The press operators went on strike at midnight November 1 after working almost a year without a contract.

union activities after receiving literature and house calls from the miners.

The truckers, who haul coal mined by Cyprus Mountain Coal Co., averaged workdays of 14-16 hours. If there was lack of production or breakdown at the mine they didn't get paid. They only received wages when they hauled the coal. The workers at Perry Transport Trucking and Chaney Trucking voted by a margin of 44 to 11 to join the UMWA.

Strike settled at New York's Harvard Club

The 118 striking restaurant workers at the Harvard Club in New York City took down their picket line in mid-October after winning a contract. The workers, members of Hotel, Restaurant and Club Employees Union Local 6, walked out in April after rejecting the company's demand to make copayments on health insurance and other concessions. The hard-fought strike put the ritzy club in an embarrassing public spotlight and forced the owners to back

down on their demands, including keeping most workers on the payroll. Management must pay between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to the 20 workers who agreed to resign. Workers who stay on will get a wage increase.

MarkAir flight attendants vote to join union

Some 300 flight attendants at MarkAir Inc. recently voted to join the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) in mail balloting conducted by the National Mediation Board.

The airline workers are based in Anchorage, Alaska; Denver; and Seattle. "We're eager for change," MarkAir attendant Elizabeth Hooper said. She reported that attendants there have been working long hours at "poverty-level" wages.

Scott Breen, member of IAM Local 289 at Kenworth in Seattle, and Joe Callahan, member of United Auto Workers Local 879, in St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this week's column.

LETTERS

No to Proposition 187

A vigil against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 was held in San Diego on October 25. The action was called by the San Diego Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights. Over 300 enthusiastic people, young and old, marched to the state building carrying signs, and at times chanting against 187.

Many people, including two city bus drivers, honked and waved in support of the marchers. A variety of speakers addressed the rally.

In another protest, on October 28 hundreds of Hispanic San Diego-area high school and junior high students left their classes to voice their opposition to Proposition 187.

Sylvia Hansen
Santee, California

Collapse of Soviet Union

I have just finished studying "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" and wish to congratulate the writers for an excellent analysis of the present world situation. Besides other factors, the system in the Soviet Union broke down as a result of discontent and the pressure of masses against a corrupt and oppressive police regime, which was wrongly identified with the teachings of Lenin and Trotsky.

After the collapse of the "Evil Empire," Lenin's writing desk was sold at a garage sale for one ruble!

In the present day crisis in Russia and the rest of the world, the population of the ex-Soviet Union is beginning to realize that capitalism western-style, such as in Western Europe and North America, is not the solution.

Maybe capitalism with a "human face?" Forget it!

Russia today is an open society: there is freedom of speech, crime, Mafia, prostitution, and other social evils are rampant. It is therefore most likely in the not-too-distant future that the people of the ex-Soviet Union will join the rest of the world on the journey to international socialism, as this is the only way to get out of this mess.

S.A.
Montreal, Quebec

Greek floods hurt workers

A large storm front hit Greece October 21-22. Thirteen people drowned as a result of torrential rains.

Roads were turned to rivers; electrical power was shut down; phone lines were cut off; schools, hospitals, and homes were flooded in a matter of hours; and hundreds of people were made homeless.



Government officials were quick to declare it an act of God. They promised \$425 flood relief per victim. This paltry sum was seen as an insult by most affected.

This was not an act of God or a natural disaster. This was a disaster created by the capitalists' insatiable greed for money. Rainstorms of this type are a natural part of the fall and winter season in this part of the Mediterranean. As recently as 25 years ago, this was no problem.

were built in the 1950s, during the Marshall Plan.

Both ruling-class parties bear responsibility for this crisis. Neither the New Democracy Party nor the social democratic PASOK has attempted to halt the mad unplanned construction bonanza. Neither party has tried to put in place the infrastructure that could handle a city of this size despite their pledges after each catastrophe.

This would cut into the profit

margins of developers.

With the Greek economy hit hard by the world capitalist economic depression, prospects are zero for massive investment by the capitalist class and their government in a public works project to put in place the infrastructure necessary to prevent likely disasters the next time a heavy rain hits.

Yet it is precisely what's needed. Such a massive public works project would also provide work for thousands of unemployed working people. Such a course will only be won by the labor movement waging a battle to force investment in the infrastructure of the city. The working farmers devastated by the floods need immediate massive financial aid that is interest free to rebuild their homes, replace their equipment and to hold them over until next season. The thousands of workers and small store owners in Athens and other areas also need aid commensurate to the damage caused. A political struggle by working people is necessary to save us from future floods.

Georges Mehrabian
Athens, Greece

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.

Canadian government announces new anti-immigrant restrictions

Students, teachers build November 16 march against budget cuts

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

MONTREAL — In the latest in a series of attacks against working people by the Canadian government in less than a month, Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi announced November 1 that Ottawa would introduce new restrictions on immigration.

The government official said the quota of immigrants allowed to come into Canada would be reduced by 20 percent, from 250,000 this year to approximately 200,000. He presented the proposal as a way to reduce government costs. Ottawa will primarily restrict legal immigration by working people who do not speak French or English, arguing that this will reduce costs such as language training.

The new policies will give greater preference to immigrants who are wealthy. They will give less weight to family reunification, a criterion used by many workers to obtain visas for relatives. The government is also considering the imposition of bonds on sponsoring families to ensure that "the newcomers won't end up on social assistance," according to the *Toronto Globe and Mail*.

Immigration will also be restricted by claiming to go after "criminals" and "abusers of the immigration system," as Marchi put it. After adopting proposals in June limiting the right to appeal deportation orders, Ottawa opened a well-publicized escalation of police searches for so-called criminal immigrants.

Rightist Reform Party

The right-wing Reform Party has become emboldened by these reactionary policies pushed by the major capitalist parties. On November 2, the Reform Party's immigration critic, Art Hanger, vocally complained about the "cost to be incurred by admitting tens of thousands of illiterate immigrants....Do you notice in Toronto there has been increased crime from certain groups like Jamaicans?" Hanger said.

Reform Party leader Preston Manning defended Hanger's statements, saying that, as a cop, Hanger had to deal with "immigrant criminals."

Five days after Marchi's press conference the Reform Party declared it had figures from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police showing extremely high crime rates among refugees. The figures were later shown to be false.

At its national convention in mid-October, the Reform Party called for limiting the number of immigrants in Canada, as well as restricting their access to social services and eligibility for Canadian citizenship. The party also adopted a "three strikes and you're out" resolution for giving life sentences to all individuals convicted three times for serious crimes.

Broader offensive against workers

Ottawa's new immigration restrictions are part of its broader offensive against working people.

On October 6 Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy introduced plans for drastic cuts in social services. Ottawa proposed to reduce unemployment benefits for so-called frequent users who have been unemployed three times in the last five years. The number of these workers has doubled over the last decade to 40 percent of those receiving unemployment benefits.

Axworthy also intends to cut the budget for post-secondary education, which may double university tuition fees. He proposed to replace student grants with loans, seriously restricting access for youth from working-class families.

In addition the federal government is discussing further massive cuts in health,



Youth march in June 1993 against racist attacks on immigrants. Ottawa's attacks on immigrants are part of a broader assault on all working people.

welfare, and old-age pensions.

These moves represent the response of the Canadian rulers to the deepest crisis of their economy since the early 1930s. All capitalist parties in Canada are taking more reactionary positions. The Liberal Party government is implementing the program the Canadian bosses have been pushing for many years. The failure to implement such an agenda led the ruling class to dump the Tory government during last year's federal election campaign.

Canada is in the grip of the worldwide depression, despite a temporary upturn in the business cycle. Canadian capitalists

face declining profit rates. They have lost ground to their imperialist rivals, in particular U.S. capitalists, in terms of productivity. While currently at its lowest level in four years, the official unemployment rate in Canada is still above 10 percent.

It is this reality that forces the Liberal government to initiate this series of attacks against working people. The cutbacks in social services are aimed at lowering the social wage of working people. The attacks on immigrants provide scapegoats for the capitalist crisis and pretexts for further cuts in social services and curbs on democratic rights. They are designed to deepen divi-

Gov't prosecutors fail to show guilt in frame-up trial of Canada gold miner

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The frame-up trial of unionist Roger Warren on nine counts of murder began in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada, October 24. A couple of weeks into the proceedings, government prosecutors have presented nothing concrete that proves Warren's guilt. The government says there are tapes of Warren confessing to the crime, but Warren's defense attorney, Glen Orris, explained in court that any confession claimed by the prosecutor is "false and untrue." Warren has pleaded not guilty.

Warren is a member of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 2304, formerly the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers Local 4, which fought a successful 18-month strike against Royal Oak Mines that ended last December. The gold miners beat back the company's attempt to slash safety inspections, discipline injured workers, roll back seniority rights, and bust their union. As a result of the strikers' determination, federal mediators imposed an agreement that left the union intact with a contract at the mine.

During the strike Royal Oak hired replacement workers and used cops, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and Pinkerton goons against the strike. The heart of the union-busting drive by Royal Oak owner Peggy Witte was the use of criminal charges to undermine support for

the strike and break the union. An intense campaign was waged to blame the strikers for an explosion that took place at the mine during the walkout on Sept. 18, 1992. Many miners in Yellowknife believe that it was the company's criminal negligence around mine safety regulations that led to the fatal blast.

'Tapes prove nothing'

"The tapes they've played so far in the courtroom prove nothing," said Kathy MacPhee, a union supporter who has been attending the trial. "It came out in court that the top part of the ladder of the Akaitcho shaft is broken, which is where the crown (government) claims that Warren entered the mine to plant the bomb. This makes it impossible for Warren, who is in ill health, to have climbed down at that point. Two cops aiding each other had to almost perform gymnastic stunts to get into the mine this way. How could Roger have done it himself, then proceed to climb straight down 750 feet. I'd say it's impossible."

MacPhee explained that the trial revealed there were two supervisors in the mine for at least one hour after the night shift left at 3:00 a.m., September 18. The blast occurred later that morning at 8:45 a.m., killing nine strikebreakers working at the time.

CAW member Tim Bettger, another framed-up miner who is facing charges on

sions among working people by arguing falsely that immigrants are responsible for unemployment in Canada.

Resistance to these attacks has begun. About 200 students demonstrated October 13 against Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Another 250 people marched in Toronto November 5 in opposition to Ottawa's attacks on immigrant rights.

A projected November 16 demonstration in Ottawa, called by the main student organizations in eastern Canada, represents a chance for working people and youth across Canada to unite in action against Ottawa's latest measures. The mobilization has been endorsed by all the main teachers unions in Quebec, who will pay for the transportation to the march. It will be the first common action of students from Quebec and English Canada in several years.

"Working people and students have a common interest in opposing Ottawa's attacks on students, immigrants, and other working people, whether employed or not," said Zina Edwards, a student at McGill University and a member of the Young Socialists in Montreal.

"We must build the November 16 protest in Ottawa as broadly as possible, among all the intended victims of these attacks," said Edwards. "We must take advantage of this mobilization to build solidarity with those who are resisting the attacks on immigrants from Los Angeles to Toronto; with those who defend their unions, from the Caterpillar workers in Illinois to the Ogilvie workers in Montreal; with those who fight cop frame-ups, from Yellowknife miner Roger Warren to Mark Curtis in Iowa."

"The Young Socialists invite everybody to discuss these questions at an open house that will take place at the site of the November 16 demonstration in Ottawa."

incidents unrelated to the September 18 mine blast, explained to the *Militant* that "we may be into another stage of battle against Royal Oak's union busting." Bettger is out on bail along with CAW member Al Shearing, who is also facing trumped-up charges on incidents unrelated to the explosion. Their bail conditions are extremely restrictive and include a 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. curfew, a ban on talking to each other, and a ban on visiting the union hall or having anything to do with union business.

Defense Fund organized

Bettger and Shearing have contributed \$4,000 left over from their defense to a fund for Warren's defense. Warren's trial is expected to cost him and his family more than \$250,000. A Warren Defense Fund is organizing support in Yellowknife.

The union movement in Canada has a considerable stake in defending Warren. According to Bettger and Shearing, Warren's case is putting the entire union movement on trial, which is why it is important for unionists across Canada to support him and contribute to the fund. Contributions can be sent to Warren fund c/o CAW local 2304, PO Box 1628, Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2P2 Canada. Tel. 403-873-4528.

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 692.