

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
**Pathfinder Fund surpasses**  
**\$125,000 goal!**

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 58/NO.42 NOVEMBER 28, 1994

## Vancouver pro-choice doctor shot

BY BONITA MURDOCK

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — On November 8, Dr. Garson Romalis was shot by a sniper while sitting in the kitchen of his home here. The shot from a military assault rifle shattered his thigh, severing a main artery and leaving him in critical condition for 48 hours.

Romalis offers abortion services as part of a large practice in obstetrics and gynecology. He performs abortions at the Elizabeth Bagshaw women's clinic, one of three free-standing abortion clinics in this province. Like several other Vancouver doctors, Romalis did not work exclusively at a clinic. Dr. K. Nickerson, Romalis's partner for more than 25 years, said Romalis also works at perfecting abortion procedures and has developed improved safety measures for late-term abortions.

Police have not produced a suspect in the shooting. Rightist opponents of a woman's right to choose abortion have stepped up their activities here in recent

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## USAir gives up safety for profits

BY JESSIE LUDLOW

PHILADELPHIA — Since a USAir Boeing 737 crashed outside Pittsburgh September 8 killing 132 people, concern has been raised by airline workers, and increasingly by the big-business press, that the financially troubled company is cutting corners on safety to save money. The crash, the worst aviation disaster in the United States since 1987, was the fifth for USAir since 1989, the worst record for any major airline in more than 20 years.

"When it comes to safety, we are well within the mean range, and better than some," said Seth Schofield, USAir's chairman, in a recent interview. But a *New York Times* article published November 13, the result of a two-month investigation of the company's safety procedures, reported a "less reassuring portrait" of the nation's sixth largest airline.

The article, based on interviews with dozens of airline employees and safety officials and thousands of pages of court files, details numerous safety problems and evidence of company pressure on employees to cover up violations.

### Planes take off with low fuel

Records showed nine USAir flights have left the gate without the federally required amount of fuel since the company cut the number of safety checks 16 months ago.

A USAir flight last February reached cruising altitude of 33,000 feet before the pilot discovered his DC-9 carrying 62 passengers didn't have enough fuel to make the trip from Washington, D.C., to Boston. Radioing for an emergency landing at New York's LaGuardia Airport, the pilot claimed the plane had engine trouble. Only after the ground crew noticed the real problem did the pilot admit the cause of the near disaster.

A team of Federal Aviation Administra-

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# National march says: lift embargo on Cuba

BY GREG McCARTAN AND PAT SMITH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The U.S. has no right to intervene to determine what Cubans should do with their country, especially since they are trying to do good things in their country." This is how Jamil Salaam summed up why he and other students from the University of Minnesota came from Minneapolis to join a national demonstration here of 3,000 people demanding the U.S. government end its 32-year embargo against Cuba.

"I not only support the abolition of the embargo, but came here to learn about Cuba and U.S. policy," he said. Similar groups of high school and college students from up and down the East Coast swelled the ranks of the November 12 demonstration.

Rich Cunningham, one of several dozen students from Rutgers university in New Jersey, said he and a group of friends decided to get on a bus to the march because "we have to show unity. We're not going to stand for the fact that the U.S. government is poking its nose all over the place. Only through participation in actions like this will things change."

Mike Olenar, also from Rutgers, agreed, saying, "Apathy equals death. If you don't stand up against what you despise, you become what you despise." The two said they learned of the march through a local coalition that organizes solidarity activities with Cuba.

Such coalitions were the backbone of the mobilization. Sponsored by some 130 local and national organizations, it was the broadest joint effort in years for a demonstration protesting U.S. policy toward Cuba. The action registered progress in organizing broad actions in defense of the Cuban revolution.

Hundreds of onlookers stood along the march route and many cheered demonstrators as they wound their way from Malcolm X Park through a neighboring Latino community and busy shopping areas before arriving at Lafayette Park across from the White House. Contingents from Miami, Atlanta, Montreal, Cleveland, Detroit, New York, Baltimore, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and other cities carried banners, chanting in English and Spanish, "Cuba yes, blockade no!" Other popular chants included "U.S.A., CIA out of Cuba and Haiti!"; "What do we want? Lift the embargo!"; and "President Clinton, you should know, get out of Guantánamo!" referring to the illegally occupied U.S. naval base in Cuba.

The protest provided an opportunity for participants to exchange views on the Cuban revolution and U.S. policy toward the country. Some, such as Georgetown University student Monica Carls, opposed the embargo because "it is not the way to get rid of socialism in Cuba. If you lift the embargo," she said, "a lot



Militant/Greg Rosenberg  
 Students from Pittsburgh's Carlow College at November 12 march of 3,000 in Washington, D.C., against U.S. policy toward Cuba.

of money would be going into Cuba which would help those who want to change the country." Her classmate, Teresa Lara, who is active in the campus MEChA group, said she "favor[ed] the social revolution in Cuba and its accomplishments," adding that she attended the march because "Cuba cannot stand alone."

"For 35 years Cuba has been an example to the impoverished of the world," Alevita Scott, a high school student from Gainesville, Florida, said. Pointing to the U.S. government's ban on travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens, she said, "They're afraid to let us see that socialism works." Scott found out about the Jan-

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## Testimony of Canadian cop at trial of framed miner discredits 'confession'

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN AND SUSAN BERMAN

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories — The trial of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) member Roger Warren on nine counts of murder is being exposed as a frame-up, even as the government presses forward with its case. One of the prosecution's main witnesses, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Sgt. Gregg McMartin, admitted in court that he lied several times while interrogating Warren.

Warren is a member of CAW Local 2304, formerly Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4. He and his coworkers waged an 18-month strike against Royal Oak Mines in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. The labor battle ended with a union victory in December 1993. The charges against Warren stem from a mine explosion that killed strikebreakers employed by the company during the strike.

After 12 interrogation sessions over a one-year period, each lasting several hours and the last one six hours, the cops claim they secured a confession from Warren. However, according to the November 9 *Toronto Globe and Mail*, "McMartin conceded that he lied several times during the six hour interview in an effort to make the miner believe it was in his best interest to confess.... A ruse was created to impress upon a person that they are part of an investigation."

Warren was taken into a room that contained many boxes labeled with his name and the names of two other miners. This falsely made it seem that the police had compiled an extensive case against these men.

Warren's attorney, Glen Orris, explained in court that the so-called confession is "false and untrue." Warren has pleaded not guilty.

McMartin's testimony has been so bla-

tant in presenting his opinions as fact that the trial judge, Chief Justice Mark DeVeerd, took the unusual step of instructing the jury that a suspect's silence in face of questioning cannot be taken as an indication of guilt. "Opinions of witnesses are simply opinions," he said. "One way to put it is to say these opinions are irrelevant."

Many miners in Yellowknife believe that it was the company's criminal negligence around mine safety that led to the deaths and that the trial of Roger Warren is a continuation of the company/RCMP attempts to bust the union.

The Royal Oak miners' strike beat back the company's drive to slash safety inspections, discipline injured workers, undermine seniority rights, and cripple their union. During the bitter labor battle Royal Oak owner Peggy Witte hired replacement workers and used cops, the RCMP, and Pinkerton goons against the strike. Hun-

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**Sierra Leone teachers strike**

Some 16,000 teachers in the Sierra Leone Teachers' Union went on strike October 26 for a 20 percent pay increase, eight months' back wages, and reforms in the country's educational system.

The government, which called the strike illegal, claims it can't afford the teachers' demands because of the cost of a three-year-long war against rebel groups. The war has forced the closure of many primary and secondary schools in this West African country. The Sierra Leone Labor Congress, the national union federation, has given public support to the teachers.

**Workers in Israel protest layoffs**

About 4,000 workers in Israel's military industry burned tires and scuffled with cops on November 10 to protest layoffs. The state-owned Israel Military Industries, which lost \$320 million in 1993, plans to eliminate 1,500 workers, almost a third of its remaining workforce. The Israeli armaments industry has been battered by declining orders worldwide and competition with rivals abroad.

**Tokyo seeks to avoid restitution to former 'comfort women'**

The government of Japan is seeking to circumvent paying compensation to an estimated 70,000 to 200,000 women from Korea, China, and other countries who were forced to work in brothels run by the Japanese army during World War II. A government panel is working out a plan for reparations to come from a private fund in order to avoid setting a legal precedent for other victims of Tokyo's war with rival imperialist powers.

On August 1, the government announced a 10-year, \$1 billion "friendship" fund, supposedly to address its wartime crimes. The plan avoids direct compensation to those forced to work as laborers in the Japanese prison camps.

**Ottawa, Beijing sign nuke deal**

The Canadian government signed an agreement to build two nuclear reactors worth \$3.5 billion in China. An entourage of 350 businessmen plus 9 of 10 Canadian provincial premiers toured China. Other deals include a \$150 million contract to build an ethanol plant, highway construc-



Protests broke out in Guatemala City when bus company owners tried to almost triple fares. After 10 days of protests, in which the government ordered troops into the street, the owners rolled back the fare increase November 11.

tion, and a \$500 million hydroelectric dam. Up to \$2 billion of the \$3.5 billion cost of the reactor will be financed through Canadian tax revenues.

**UN council keeps Iraq sanctions**

Despite the Iraqi government's recognition of Kuwait's borders a few days earlier, the United Nations Security Council voted November 14 to maintain its economic embargo on Iraq, which was imposed in 1990. U.S. ambassador Madeleine Albright said recognition of Kuwait, a condition set by the UN council for lifting the sanctions, was insufficient.

While acknowledging that "living standards for most Iraqis have fallen" due to the embargo, Albright justified the decision by arguing that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein had built opulent new palaces.

Representatives from China and Russia praised Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait but voted for the U.S. proposal. Paris and Moscow in particular, interested in trading with Iraq, have pressed for an early end to the embargo.

**U.S. ends Bosnia arms embargo**

Breaking with other imperialist regimes in Europe, the Clinton administration ordered the U.S. military to halt enforcement of the arms embargo against the Bosnian government starting November 12. The task of maintaining the embargo will shift to London, Paris, and other NATO members who insist that allowing more weapons to reach Bosnian forces will escalate the war and expose their troops to military attacks.

French foreign minister Alain Juppé complained about "this unilateral decision" and said Paris would reexamine the safety of its 3,600 troops in Bosnia. Officials in Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany also expressed objections.

**Tehran bombs Iraqi Kurds**

Iranian jet fighters bombed Kurds in northern Iraq November 9, killing one person and wounding three. The previous weekend Iranian forces fired four missiles into a camp run by the Mujahedeen, an Iranian opposition group with bases in Iraq.

The attack took place in the "no-flight zone" imposed by Washington and other imperialist governments following the Persian Gulf war. Washington issued no comment on the raid. The Iraqi government, which has been waging its own war against the Kurdish people, has not retaliated against these Iranian military strikes.

**Moscow claims veto on oil deal**

The Russian government claimed November 8 it had veto rights over all energy projects involving the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. The Azerbaijan government is in the process of ratifying an agreement with a group of foreign oil companies to exploit Caspian Sea oil reserves worth up

to \$8 billion. Lukoil, the Russian oil company, has a 10 percent share in the pact, in spite of objections from some Russian government officials.

**Dublin halts IRA release plan**

The shooting of a postal worker by alleged Irish Republican Army (IRA) members on November 10 prompted the Irish government to suspend plans for the early release of IRA prisoners. This was the first killing in Northern Ireland since the IRA initiated a cease-fire on September 1.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the major organization fighting to end British military occupation of Northern Ireland, said false allegations implying IRA involvement in the killing were spread by police. The Irish government had announced November 8 that it would free some of the IRA prisoners held in a high-security prison 40 miles southwest of Dublin.

**Protest of 1 million in Italy**

A rally of more than 1 million people, organized by trade unions and opposition parties, gathered in Rome November 12 to protest the Italian government's plans to cut spending on pensions and health care.

The Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, is pressing ahead to raise the retirement age, slash social programs, and reduce coverage in the country's national health-care system in response to the economic crisis gripping the nation. Rallies and marches organized in several cities on October 14 drew 2 million people according to union officials.

**Hunger strike ends in Guatemala**

Jennifer Harbury, a U.S. attorney married to Guatemalan guerrilla leader Efraín Bámaca, ended a month-long hunger strike she began as a protest to force the Guatemalan government to reveal her husband's whereabouts. Amnesty International and other human rights groups have given support to the case, which has also drawn attention to human rights abuses by the Guatemalan armed forces.

Harbury released a statement in Guatemala City pledging to fight for criminal charges against the officers involved in the disappearance of her husband.

**U.S. farms decline to lowest level**

The U.S. Census Bureau released a report stating there are 1.9 million farms in the United States, the lowest number since 1850. The bureau also reported that while crop acreage dropped from 296 million acres in 1987 to 282 million acres in 1992, crop sales rose 28 percent in the same five-year period.

The report indicated that fewer people are becoming farmers, with the average age climbing from 52 years in 1987 to 53.3 years in 1992. A Department of Agriculture official said the trend was the result of declining birth rates among farm families and the farm crisis of the 1980s.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

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CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

**The Militant**

Vol. 58/No. 42  
Closing news date: November 17, 1994  
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Editorial Staff: Naomi Craine, Hilda Cuzco, Martin Koppel, Sara Lobman, Paul Mailhot, Greg Rosenberg, Pat Smith, Maurice Williams. Published weekly except for one week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311.2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant. Internet email: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org  
Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class

(airmail), send \$80. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 4581 St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2L4. Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East: £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. France: Send FF300 for one-year subscription to Militant, 8 allée Berlioz, 94800 Villejuif cheque postale: 25-465-01-S, Paris. Belgium: BF 1,900 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of Imei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 5,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 500 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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# S. Africa land fight sparks growing debate

BY GREG ROSENBERG

South Africa's national assembly passed legislation November 8 that entitles Blacks who were robbed of their land under apartheid the opportunity to claim it back. Some 87 percent of the land in South Africa remains in the hands of whites, who account for 12 percent of the population.

The Restitution of Land Rights Bill, the government's first substantive step toward land reform, was introduced by the African National Congress (ANC). The Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the Freedom Front, led by former general Constand Viljoen, opposed the bill, which passed by a large majority and was sent to the Senate.

The restitution bill stems from demands

by millions of working people to wipe out apartheid's legacy, and open the land to all who want to farm, a right denied to Blacks for decades. The bill gives those driven from their land three years to make claims, and establishes a commission to help document claims and mediate disputes. A land claims court could award compensation in cases where land wasn't returned.

## Occupations stir public debate

Meanwhile, abandoned housing takeovers and land occupations are becoming an increasing concern of big-business interests and provoking a widespread public debate. In response to the takeover of vacant apartments by 42 families in central Johannesburg October 29, the Johannes-

burg *Star* urged the ANC-led government to "by whatever means...assert their commitment to upholding the rights to private land and property." At the same time the paper's editorial writers acknowledged that it is "easy to talk of government showing backbone; less easy to find the right means, short of the old jackboot tactics."

Protests, land occupations, and rent strikes involving tens of thousands of working people have continued over the past several months. At present, only about 30 percent of township residents are making their rent payments.

Government officials speaking at a national forum on housing in Botshabelo October 27, said housing targets would not be met unless rent and service boycotts, which

started as a way of opposing apartheid in the 1980s, were ended. ANC housing minister Joe Slovo, who is also chairman of the South African Communist Party (SACP), denounced those involved in rent protests. "Those of you who continue to think positively of the boycotts are stabbing in the back, not what you can call the enemy, but your brothers and sisters," he said.

South African deputy president Thabo Mbeki of the ANC, in a speech to Parliament October 29, announced the government was considering plans to privatize some state-owned companies in order to raise cash to implement the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Program. "Privatization could also facilitate empowerment of disadvantaged sectors," he said. The announcement brought protests from officials of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, who called it "a garage sale," and the SACP. State-owned enterprises that might be sold include South African Airways, electrical and telephone utilities, railroads, and an oil exploration company.

Mbeki also announced a proposal to shrink the ranks of the civil service through attrition and reassignment, and a salary cut for high-level government officials.

South African president Nelson Mandela said in a recent interview that a high salary for government officials, "de-stroys your capacity to speak in a forthright manner and tell people to tighten their belts."

Mbeki's speech was the first time an ANC leader in the government had raised the idea of privatization. Mandela had earlier opposed such measures publicly. In June, Mandela pointed out that the ANC's 1955 Freedom Charter had called for limited nationalization of mines and monopolies. He said, however, that the ANC had been "so hammered" on this by potential investors that "it became clear that although we were correct in this strategy, we had to do something if we wanted investment in the country."

In a November 8 address to a Johannesburg meeting of the Chamber of Mines, Mandela told the mine owners group that "under whatever form of ownership," he hoped the industry would "seek to uplift the most disadvantaged of our society." He called for a dialogue between the mine owners, unions, and government to help shape new policies.

Jurie Geldenhuys, outgoing chamber president, welcomed talk of cooperation, but blasted planned reforms to labor law, such as more public holidays, tighter environmental controls, and a 40-hour workweek, charging that they are "an anachronism" that would cut mine owners' profits.

## Timorese youth protest Indonesia occupation

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Some 1,000 Timorese youth demonstrated in Dili, the capital of East Timor, November 13, to protest the Indonesian military's brutal occupation of their country. The protesters took advantage of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Jakarta November 14-15 to spotlight the Indonesian government's repression of the East Timorese. The demonstration took place just hours before U.S. president Bill Clinton arrived for the gathering.

A sit-in by 30 East Timorese students at the U.S. embassy in Jakarta that began November 12 also drew attention to human rights abuses in Indonesia. The students demanded the release of jailed guerrilla leader Xanana Gusmao, head of the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), the umbrella organization of East Timor opposition groups. Gusmao was captured and put in prison in 1992. He is serving a 20-year sentence.

These protests marked the third anniversary of a massacre in which Indonesian soldiers shot down 271 young Timorese participating in a peaceful memorial demonstration in Dili, Nov. 12, 1991.

## Indonesia government massacre

East Timor, a former colony of Portugal, gained independence in 1975. Soon after, Indonesian president Suharto ordered the military to invade the country. The December 7 military assault took place only 12 hours after President Gerald Ford visited Suharto in Jakarta. It is widely believed that Ford gave the go-ahead. The Indonesian military then proceeded to massacre opponents in East Timor. During 19 years of occupation some 200,000 people have been killed.

Amnesty International describes the annexation of East Timor as "two decades of terror." The UN General Assembly and the Security Council have never recognized Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, and have passed numerous resolutions calling for its withdrawal.

The Indonesian government has pursued a policy of transmigration — displacing Timorese families from their homes and moving 100,000 Indonesians into East Timor in an attempt to weaken the Timorese struggle for self-determination.

"Many of the Indonesian occupiers are relatives of the military and have taken the most fertile land from peasants in East Timor," said Constancio Pinto, the North American representative of the CNRM, at a press conference at the United Nations to discuss Clinton's visit to Indonesia.

"Today people continue to be arrested and tortured. Arbitrary executions occur," explained Pinto. "The U.S. has the responsibility to look into the situation since the weapons used against Timorese are from the U.S."

In 1992 the U.S. Congress passed legislation eliminating military training aid to Indonesia. However, it was revealed in December 1993 that the U.S. Defense Department continues to provide military training to Indonesian officers.

## Washington's hypocrisy in Indonesia

U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor, on hand in Jakarta to help pave the way for capitalist investments in Indonesia, tipped his hat to the issue of human rights November 11. Kantor announced an accord was reached with the regime to make the government-run All Independent



Cop harasses Timorese youth demonstrating outside U.S. embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Thirty students scaled the embassy fence and are staging a sit-in.

Worker Union more independent. However, Kantor did not discuss the repressive role of the military against the union movement. Early last year, Kantor suspended a formal review of Indonesia's trade status, even though he acknowledged the government's poor human rights record.

On November 7, the head of Indonesia's largest independent trade union, Muchtar Pakpahan, was sentenced to three years in prison for leading workers in strike action earlier this year. Pakpahan, head of the In-

donesian Prosperity Trade Union (SBSI), helped to lead a walkout of 50,000 workers in Medan April 14 for an increase in the minimum wage, the right to freedom of association, and the right to organize the SBSI.

Suharto's repressive regime also faced a massive strike by drivers of microbuses, which paralyzed Jakarta for three days in early September. The drivers were protesting against whopping fines imposed on them for violating traffic regulations.

## Facing crisis, Saudi rulers rebuff U.S. demands

BY LUIS MADRID

The Saudi Arabian government turned down Washington's demands to finance major U.S. projects twice in recent weeks, illuminating the growing difficulties of the U.S. rulers in that part of the world four years after the Persian Gulf War.

Complaining that Washington had taken advantage of the Saudi kingdom during the war, defense minister Prince Sultan refused U.S. defense secretary William Perry's request in October for a substantial payment on the \$500 million bill for the most recent deployment of U.S. troops in the Gulf. The prince also declined to store an armored brigade's worth of equipment.

Then, at a conference of government officials from throughout the Middle East held in Morocco November 1, the Saudi rulers — this time along with other Middle East oil-exporting regimes — rebuffed Washington's suggestion to put up billions of dollars for a regional development bank that would finance huge capital projects.

## Saudis take out line of credit

"In 1990, we were hit with a Gulf War bill of \$55 billion," said Adel Al-Jubeir, spokesperson for the Saudi embassy in Washington. According to the *Washington Post*, the Saudi government needed a \$4.5 billion line of credit from J.P. Morgan and Co. to pay its share for Operation Desert Storm. The total cost amounted to "half our annual gross domestic product," Al-Jubeir said.

Huge bank deposits accumulated by Saudi and other Mideast rulers during the

1970s oil boom began to be depleted with their financing of Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s, and then Washington's war against Iraq. Middle East economies have also been hit hard by the precipitous drop in oil prices in the past decade.

The monarchy's problems do not seem to have a solution in sight, either. In fact, oil prices in the near future are not likely to rise much more than "a couple of dimes a barrel," James Placke, a director at Cambridge Energy Research Associates, told the *Post*. "I don't think the outlook for oil, even in the longer term, is their salvation."

Despite huge oil reserves, the weakening of the Saudi economy is of major concern for Washington. During a recent trip, U.S. treasury secretary Lloyd Bentsen chastised King Fahd, complaining that the 19 percent cut in the kingdom's 1994 domestic budget and a similar one projected for 1995 were inadequate.

Washington perceives slowing the Saudis' string of budget deficits, which over the last decade averaged \$10 billion a year, as closely tied to the regime's ability to help shore up the sagging U.S. aerospace and war industries.

Nine months after the Clinton administration coerced the Saudi rulers into awarding Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. a \$6 billion contract, no agreement has been reached as to how production is going to be financed. President Clinton's mid-February announcement of the deal to replace the entire Saudi airline fleet represented a direct blow to Airbus Industrie, the French-, German-, British-, Spanish-

owned consortium, which for months had sought at least 50 percent of the contract.

The stage for the deal had also been set through direct brokering by Washington to insure rescheduling payments of Riyadh's nearly \$10 billion debt to five of the largest U.S. military contractors over a period of five years instead of two. Riyadh is the largest supplier of oil to the United States, and the largest foreign buyer of U.S. military equipment. It currently orders more M-1A2 tanks than the Pentagon itself.

## Saudi rulers face problems at home

There is growing resentment in Saudi Arabia toward the ostentatious way of life enjoyed by the nearly 6,000 princes that make up the ruling al-Saud clan. For example, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the ambassador to the United States, recently spent more than \$4.7 million to rent his neighbor's mansion in Washington, D.C., while remodeling his own \$8.6 million house.

Saudi Arabia has a population of close to 17 million people, which includes 4.5 million immigrant workers born in India, the Philippines, Pakistan, and other countries. These workers now make up a substantial proportion of the workforce.

Dissent is often expressed under the guise of Islamic fundamentalism, and it comes from workers, as well as clerics and upper-middle-class layers. The London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), for instance, was founded in 1993 to enforce what its founders saw as "declining Islamic standards" in the wake of the Gulf War.

# Fund for revolutionary books goes over the top

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Supporters of Pathfinder Press can celebrate an important victory. We've gone well over our \$125,000 fund goal! Although contributions are still coming in, \$139,585 was collected by the November 15 deadline — 112 percent of the international goal. Almost \$45,000 was sent in during the last week of the drive.

Pathfinder relies on generous contributions from its supporters to keep in print the writings of revolutionary and communist leaders. The more than 300 titles published by Pathfinder, which include such authors as Ernesto Che Guevara, Rosa Luxemburg, Leon Trotsky, Fidel Castro, Eugene Debs, James Cannon, Malcolm X, Farrell Dobbs, Nelson Mandela, and many others, provide invaluable lessons from the history of working-class struggle for today's fighters. The success of the recent fund campaign will help Pathfinder continue printing the works of these outstanding revolutionary figures.

A string of successful Pathfinder Fund rallies in cities around the world helped to boost the collection and make it possible to go over the goal.

"What I like about Pathfinder Press and the historical and contemporary voices that speak from its pages is the inner fire and thirst for economic, political, and spiritual justice," said Larry Ginter, a farmer and secretary of the American Agricultural Movement in Iowa, at a November 6 fundraising event. Expressing his enthusiasm for Pathfinder's efforts and the value of the books it produces, Ginter told those gathered for the meeting, "Many citizens have not learned there is an alternative to the ruling class and wishy-washy liberal philosophy."

## 'Tools in a socialist's education'

More than 70 people attended a rally for the Pathfinder Fund that same weekend in San Francisco. The event, which featured Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*, helped supporters there bring in another \$4,000 in donations and pledges to go over their \$10,000 goal.

"Pathfinder books are instrumental tools in a socialist's education and a student's

education," Miguel Angel, a Chicano Studies professor at Laney College in Oakland, California, told the crowd. He was joined on the platform by Peter Reynolds, a member of United Auto Workers Local 2244 in Fremont, California. Reynolds took an interest in Pathfinder after reading the pamphlet *Too Many Babies*, which was given to him by a coworker. "Before reading *Too Many Babies* I believed that overpopulation was the cause of unemployment and hunger. As I read through the information I realized that the problem is capitalism and that the theory of overpopulation was adapted by the ruling class to confuse the working class," Reynolds remarked.

## Pledges still coming in

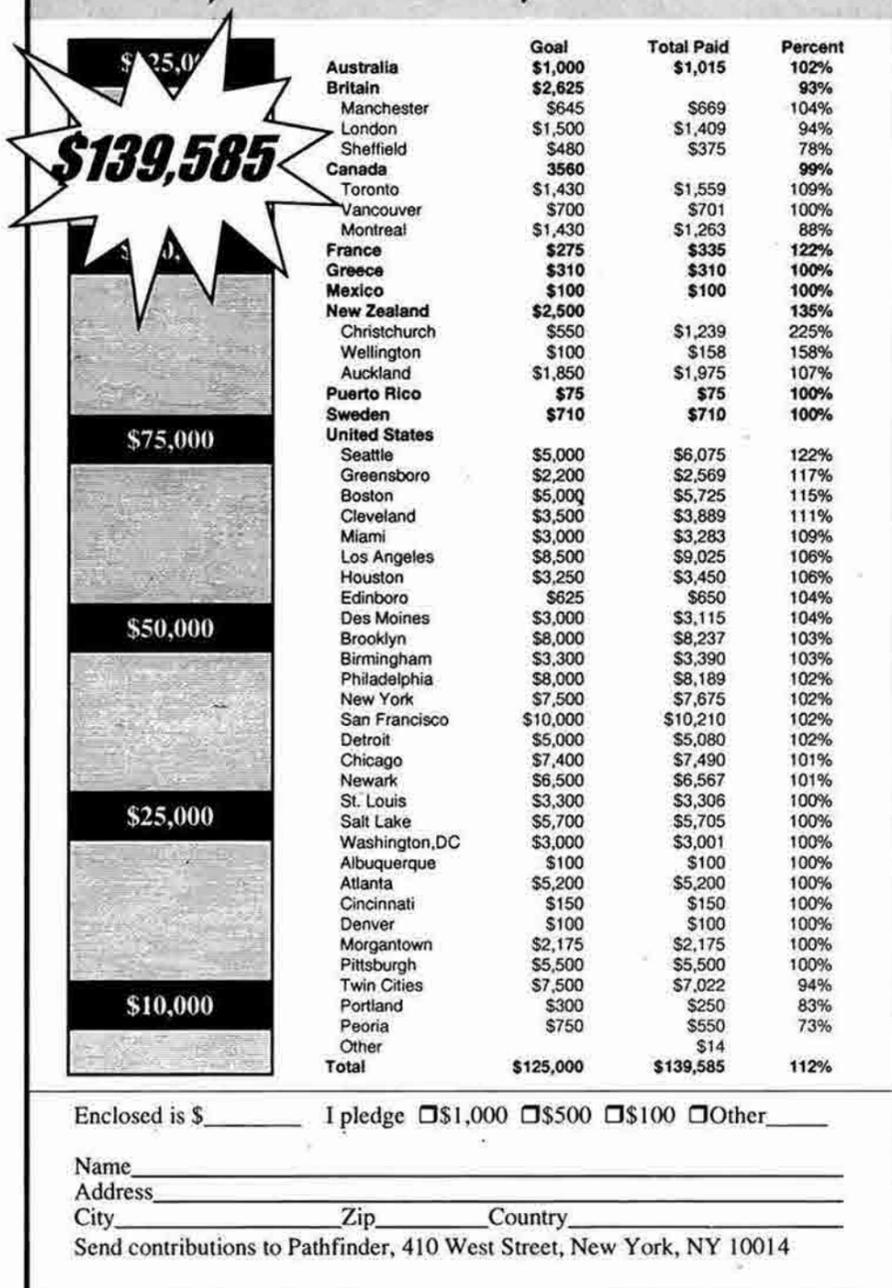
Supporters of Pathfinder in London and Sheffield also held successful events toward the end of the drive to get close to their goals by the deadline. Over \$1,200 was collected in London during the last week and supporters there are confident that money will continue to come in and put them over the top soon. A Pathfinder Fund event on November 14 in Boston helped supporters there collect nearly \$5,000 and vault over their goal by \$725.

Other Pathfinder fund-raising events during the final weeks of the drive in New York; Newark; Houston; Los Angeles, Greensboro, North Carolina; Salt Lake City, Utah; and other cities around the world gave supporters of Pathfinder an opportunity to celebrate the recent publication of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* and organize the final push needed to successfully complete the drive.

Perhaps the most dramatic fundraising success was scored by supporters in New Zealand. Public events were held in several cities during the first weeks of the campaign. Detailed attention was then paid to making sure that all pledges were paid regularly and progress reports were sent in every week. The results: supporters in New Zealand hit 135 percent of their goal.

Many areas report that there are still outstanding pledges to be collected for the Pathfinder Fund. These contributions are needed and can continue to be sent in to New York.

## \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund



If there are supporters of Pathfinder who have been reading the *Militant* and meaning to give a contribution but haven't done so yet, now is your chance. Fill out the

coupon on this final scoreboard and send it in soon. A final tally of contributions to the Pathfinder Fund will be reported in a future issue of the *Militant*.

# New light on how Kennedy toppled Guyana gov't

BY PAT SMITH

A routine appointment by President Bill Clinton has unintentionally put a spotlight on the Kennedy administration's campaign to overthrow the elected government of Guyana in the early 1960s.

In June the Clinton administration announced the appointment of William Doherty, executive director of the American Institute for Free Labor Development, as U.S. ambassador to Guyana. The government of President Cheddi Jagan immediately objected because Doherty had been a key figure in a CIA-orchestrated campaign between 1961 and 1963 to destabilize the Guyanese government, then led by Jagan, because of its anti-imperialist stance.

Jagan, head of the People's Progressive Party, was elected in 1953 as the first

native-born prime minister of the colony of British Guiana. Four months later, British prime minister Winston Churchill suspended the colony's constitution and threw Jagan and his wife in jail. London released the couple after restoring the constitutional government, and the immensely popular Jagan was re-elected in 1957 and 1961.

On Oct. 25, 1961, the Guyanese leader met with then-U.S. president John Kennedy at the White House to discuss financial aid and seek help in winning independence from Britain. Kennedy "was very charming and jovial," Jagan recounted in a recent interview with the *New York Times*. "The United States feared that I would give Guyana to the Russians. I said if this is your fear, fear not. We will not be a Soviet base. I raised the question of aid. They did

not give a positive response," he said.

Arthur Schlesinger Jr. recorded the encounter in his memoirs of the Kennedy White House, entitled *A Thousand Days*. "Jagan was unquestionably some sort of Marxist," Schlesinger argues in his book. "His party lived by the clichés of an impassioned, quasi-Marxist, anti-colonialist socialism."

According to Schlesinger, Kennedy told Jagan, "We don't care whether you are socialist, capitalist, pragmatist or whatever. We regard ourselves as pragmatists."

Six months earlier, Kennedy had launched the Bay of Pigs invasion on Cuba's southern coast, in an effort to crush the socialist revolution there. Still-classified documents depict in unusual detail the results of a direct order from Kennedy to unseat Jagan, according to the *Times*. Shortly after the meeting between the two leaders, previously unheard-of radio stations went on the air in Georgetown, Guyana's capital. Newspapers printed false stories about approaching Cuban warships.

In February 1962, a general strike called by local capitalists and conservative union officials, with Washington's active backing, shook the capital. Doherty's American Institute for Free Labor Development, which is run by the AFL-CIO and has worked closely with the CIA, helped fund and direct the strike by public employees. The center of Georgetown was virtually destroyed in a fire during the walkout.

Washington "imposed a full blockade on shipping and airlines," Jagan said. "We were helpless. We had no power." Many bosses paid workers two weeks' wages in advance to strike against the government's budget, which included some austerity measures affecting both workers and capitalists. Jagan hastily called in British

troops to quell the rioting.

Local and international capitalists "wanted to prevent independence and to smash Jagan's Peoples Progressive party," the *Militant* wrote at the time. "But they were able to bring about the general strike only because Jagan's government, anxious to avoid charges of 'extremism' in Washington and London as well as at home, tried to follow a middle-of-the-road policy.... The prime lesson is that the road to socialism in Latin America is the road of Fidel Castro, not the middle-way of Cheddi Jagan."

Kennedy convinced the British government to delay the scheduled independence of British Guiana and Jagan was defeated in the 1963 elections. Pro-imperialist politician Forbes Burnham ruled the country for the next 20 years, holding power through force and fraud until his death in 1985. Under his reign, Guyana's foreign debt rose to \$2 billion, more than five times the nation's gross domestic product. Interest on that debt now consumes 80 percent of Guyana's revenues and more than half of its foreign earnings.

Clinton indicated he was unaware of Doherty's history in Guyana when he announced the appointment. "I was flabbergasted," said Jagan, elected president in 1992. "We let it be known that we were not happy.... Everybody in Guyana knows what happened." The controversy derailed Doherty's appointment.

U.S. law stipulates that certain classified government documents be unsealed after 30 years, but administration officials are squabbling over whether to open the Kennedy papers, which, in addition to papers on the Jagan affair, include documents on Kennedy's training of military thugs in Latin America, assassinations of political leaders, coups, and other crimes.



John Kennedy at 1961 White House meeting with Cheddi Jagan, prime minister of British Guiana. Soon after, Kennedy ordered CIA operation to overthrow Jagan.

# Nov. 12 sales boost final stretch

BY GREG ROSENBERG

As he watched 3,000 marchers streaming down Columbia Road in Washington, D.C., a young man from Mexico told *Militant* salesperson Francisco Picado, "Yeah, that's right. Cuba is the only place where the U.S. can't do what it wants." Moments later, he purchased an introductory subscription to the socialist newspaper. He wasn't alone.

Forty-two people picked up subscriptions to the *Militant* and 22 subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial* during the November 12 march against Washington's decades-long campaign to crush the Cuban revolution. Another 205 snapped up single issues of the *Militant*, while 20 purchased copies of the Spanish-language monthly. Nine marchers bought copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*. In addition, books published by Pathfinder Press containing the writings and speeches of leaders of the Cuban revolution sold like hotcakes.

The sales at the November 12 action gave a boost to the effort to reach the goals of the international drive to win new readers to the socialist press. As the *Militant* goes to press, distributors are using the momentum gained through building and participating in the march to go all the way. With a few days to go in this final stretch, we need to sell 602 *Militant* subscriptions, 120 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, and 558 copies of *New International*. The response at the Cuba solidarity demonstration, especially among young people, shows that these goals are within our grasp.

### 'Do you have speeches by Che?'

Mary Nell Bockman of New York City set up a display of newspapers and Pathfinder books at Lafayette Park before marchers converged there. She sold five *Militant* subscriptions, four of these with special offers on books about



Militant sales went briskly at November 12 march in Washington

the Cuban revolution. "Do you have any speeches by Che?" asked a student active in a Muslim campus organization at the University of Maryland. He bought a subscription along with a copy of *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*.

### 'Militant' coverage on Cuba

Norton Sandler of Des Moines, Iowa, had great success talking to interested passersby along the march route. "When people got into a political discussion, they were interested," said Sandler. "They had some basic questions: 'What's the march about? What's the embargo and how does it affect Cuba? Why are people demonstrating?' The *Militant* answers these questions in a way that no other publication can." Sandler sold three subscriptions, eight copies of the *Militant*, and 2 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

"It was the incomparable coverage of Cuba, especially showing people copies of articles on the

80,000 workplace meetings earlier this year in Cuba where workers made proposals on how to deal with the economic crisis," that helped Wendy Lyons from Philadelphia sell three subscriptions. In the days before the action, Lyons also sold two subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* to fellow workers at the garment factory where she works.

At least 40 people snapped up copies of *The Bolivian Diary* during the day's events. "Wow!" exclaimed a teacher from Hunter College riding one of the buses from New York for the action. "It's out!" He bought the book and wants to adopt it for a class. A wide array of Pathfinder titles were sold, among them four copies of *The Communist Manifesto*.

Next week's issue of the *Militant* will contain the final scoreboard for the drive. Distributors need to have their final subscriptions and information into the business office no later than Tuesday November 22, at 12:00 noon E.S.T.

## WHERE WE STAND end of week ten

SOLD 82%

SHOULD BE 91%

	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
Puerto Rico*	2	2 100%	7	10	4	6
Sweden*	40	45 89%	17	20	19	20
Canada						
Vancouver	69	75 92%	13	10	16	20
Toronto	80	90 89%	9	17	38	40
Montreal	64	80 80%	17	25	33	45
Canada total	213	245 87%	39	52	73	105
Iceland	11	13 85%	0	1	4	4
United States						
Portland, OR	4	2 200%	0	1	0	2
Cincinnati, OH*	20	13 154%	2	2	0	4
Albany, NY	15	10 150%	1	1	1	3
New Haven, CT	11	10 110%	2	2	3	8
Salt Lake City, UT*	121	120 101%	20	16	34	35
Denver, CO	5	5 100%	1	3	0	2
Hartford, CT	5	5 100%	0	1	0	4
Houston*	74	75 99%	9	12	17	16
Cleveland	93	95 98%	17	16	8	20
Boston	110	115 96%	32	36	38	52
San Francisco	141	150 94%	28	42	25	70
Twin Cities, MN*	127	135 94%	10	17	11	35
Los Angeles	212	230 92%	109	101	65	105
Seattle*	82	90 91%	14	15	13	23
Greensboro, NC	57	65 88%	4	4	7	15
Philadelphia	101	115 88%	19	30	40	47
Washington, D.C.	73	85 86%	29	30	21	35
Birmingham, AL	63	75 84%	3	5	7	15
Des Moines, IA	70	85 82%	19	36	17	35
Detroit, MI	82	100 82%	8	11	12	27
Miami	98	120 82%	47	55	63	70
Pittsburgh	86	105 82%	8	12	11	26
Brooklyn	87	110 79%	35	36	51	65
New York	103	145 71%	24	40	26	70
Atlanta	71	105 68%	17	15	17	25
Chicago	97	145 67%	16	32	2	50
Morgantown, WV	24	40 60%	0	1	0	17
Peoria, IL	18	30 60%	0	2	2	10
Newark, NJ	81	140 58%	25	35	26	50
Albuquerque, NM	4	7 57%	0	2	0	2
Edinboro, PA	3	6 50%	0	1	1	3
St. Louis	61	80 48%	6	6	4	22
Ft. Madison, IA	0	2 0%	0	1	1	2
U.S. total	2199	2615 84%	505	619	523	965
Greece	9	11 82%	0	1	3	6
Australia	27	35 77%	4	8	12	18
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
Britain						
London	50	70 71%	1	3	5	37
Manchester	32	50 64%	0	3	23	20
Sheffield	23	40 58%	0	1	0	14
Britain total	105	160 66%	1	7	28	71
TOTAL	2698	3252 82%	580	731	694	1258
SHOULD BE	3003	3300 91%	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						
TGWU	4	7 57%	0	0	0	0
RMT	9	22 41%	0	0	0	0
NUM	0	2 0%	0	0	0	0
AEEU	0	6 0%	0	0	0	0
Britain Total	13	37 35%	0	0	0	0
CANADA						
CAW	18	12 150%	1	0	3	1
USWA	9	12 75%	0	2	0	3
IAM	10	18 56%	2	1	1	1
ACTWU	1	2 50%	0	3	0	7
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	19	15 127%	19	17	4	5
LITU	85	85 100%	2	10	0	25
IAM	64	80 80%	7	3	5	14
ACTWU	19	25 76%	9	11	0	14
UAW	100	135 74%	9	15	0	30
OCAW	48	65 74%	4	5	6	27
ILGWU	9	20 45%	17	20	2	15
USWA	34	87 39%	2	3	1	19
UMWA	9					
U.S. Total	167	512 33%	69	84	18	149
*raised goal						

## Cuba book campaign over the top!

City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	23
Birmingham	15	13
Boston*	30	27
Brooklyn*	50	54
Chicago	30	11
Cleveland	20	21
Des Moines	20	22
Detroit	18	14
Greensboro	10	14
Houston*	20	23
Los Angeles*	50	55
Miami*	30	23
Morgantown	10	10
New York*	50	55
Newark	30	29
Peoria	10	1
Philadelphia*	22	27
Pittsburgh	20	9
Salt Lake City	20	11
San Francisco*	42	41
Seattle*	30	25
St. Louis	12	11
Twin Cities	25	21
Washington D.C.	20	26
France	2	1
Sweden	12	10
Auckland*	14	13
Christchurch	5	3
Iceland		2
Sydney	10	6
Toronto	20	16
Montreal	10	11
Vancouver*	18	18
Total	695	641
Unions		
ACTWU	8	2
IAM	40	13
ILGWU	10	3
OCAW	29	20
UAW	35	16
UFCW	6	4
USWA	20	13
UTU	35	29
*raised goal		

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The campaign to sell 600 copies of *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End* concludes with great success. Some 641 people, many of them youth hungry for the truth about the Cuban revolution, bought the book during the course of the effort.

Published by Pathfinder Press, the book features speeches by Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara, central leaders of the Cuban revolution.

Carol Rodriguez James, a teacher in Cleveland and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, was invited by La Unión, a Latino organization at Oberlin college, to give a presentation on the Cuban revolution and her election campaign.

"About 15 students came to the meeting with lots of questions," James reported. "One student asked, 'Is Fidel Castro a dictator?' Another person asked, 'What happens to the revolution when Castro dies — and doesn't Cuba eventually have to go capitalist?' It was great," said James.

James encouraged students to attend the November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C. Three Oberlin students who attended the meeting made the trip. Four of the

students said they wanted to participate in the upcoming international youth brigade to Cuba January 6-20. One bought a copy of *To Speak the Truth* along with a subscription to the *Militant*.

Sandra Nelson, an operator-mechanic and a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union in Chicago, reports she sold a copy of *To Speak the Truth* to a coworker who also renewed his subscription to the *Militant*.

### 'I'll buy that book'

Nelson commented, "He has heard nothing but propaganda against Cuba and was reluctant to buy the book. So he took it home, read it, and came back the next day and said, 'I'll buy that book.'"

The successful campaign to promote *To Speak the Truth* shows the potential that exists to introduce the basic facts of the achievements of the Cuban revolution to thousands of people, and to win support for Cuba's socialist course among working people and youth.

While the sales campaign is over, the book will be a valuable tool for all those who want to extend their knowledge about the first socialist revolution in the Americas and build a movement demanding that Washington end its aggression against Cuba.

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.

# L.A. workers debate Proposition 187

BY CAROLE LESNICK

LOS ANGELES — In factories and other workplaces throughout this state, there has been a whirlwind of discussion, debate, and sometimes heated exchanges among workers over the controversial Proposition 187, which was ratified at the polls November 8 by a solid 3-2 margin. If implemented, the measure will deny undocumented immigrants the right to public education, health care, and social services.

Democratic and Republican politicians alike have pushed arguments blaming immigrants for capitalism's social problems. Anti-187 Democrats propose cracking down on immigrants at the border. Advocates of 187 have solicited the support of workers and the middle class by appealing to them as "Americans" allegedly threatened by undocumented immigrants siphoning their jobs and resources.

At the McDonnell Douglas plant where I work, which is organized by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 147, discussions heated up in the weeks leading up to the elections. Wearing a "Vote no on Prop. 187" T-shirt provoked a lot of discussion. Dozens of workers at this plant of 10,000 approached me the first time I wore the shirt, including people I had never met before who wanted to debate the issue. Opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of 187.

Some workers argued that immigrants are responsible for unemployment. McDonnell Douglas bosses have laid off more than half the workforce in the past three years, and more layoffs are expected before Christmas.

A young sheetmetal mechanic, Enrique Sánchez, initially wore a "Vote no on 187" button to work. After getting a lot of flak from some coworkers who were for the measure, he took off the button in hopes of easing the debate.

Then a demonstration of 70,000 against Proposition 187 — largely Chicano and

Mexican workers — marched through this city October 16. A union steward helped organize a small contingent to take part in the demonstration. While the union local did not take an official position on the measure, the contingent was publicized in the plant on union stationery. Fifteen or so workers in the plant marched, including Sánchez and myself.

As several thousand high school students in the region began to stage walkouts against the measure, more people began to speak out against 187 on the job. Word also got out about the UAW Local 147 members who had taken part in the march.

## Impact of immigrant rights march

After the October 16 march, Sánchez began confidently wearing his buttons again and displayed a big "No on 187" sign on his tool box. The response to my T-shirt and the exchanges of opinions became calmer.

Sánchez, who is originally from Ecuador, said, "From the beginning I felt 187 was wrong. That was enough for me. But when I saw the attacks on immigrants, I realized that it's only by luck that I'm here legally. This whole thing is aimed at Latinos as scapegoats. If anyone is going to attack the rights of Mexicans, Ecuadorians or any Latino, legal or not, it hurts us all."

Another worker, Nelson, who is Puerto Rican, disagreed. "I'm for 187," he said. "These Mexicans need IDs and they don't want to get them. The best thing for them is to straighten out their paperwork. If they don't want to be harassed, they should come here the proper way and no one will harass them."

Smitty, a coworker who is Black and has been working at the plant for more than 20 years, put it this way, "The immigration problem has been going on for 30 years. Why are they addressing it now? It's a racial issue."



Militant/Harry Ring  
"Workers have no borders" reads sign at October 16 immigrant rights march in Los Angeles. Anti-immigrant Proposition 187 has sparked a whirlwind of debate.

Opinions among Black workers in the plant are divided, but half or more favor the initiative. One mechanic, for example, insistently argued that undocumented workers don't pay taxes or rent and use welfare and social services that should be reserved for citizens.

Another worker, Greg, an inspector, stated, "I voted 'no' on 187. But why can't they send the immigrants to a state that has jobs?"

"I voted against it and am strongly opposed to it, first because of the possibility of the spread of disease," said Frank, a mechanic in his 40s. "Education is essential to be productive citizens. Laborers who are required should be brought here legally with a visa for a set period of time. Proposition 187 is totally inexcusable, inhumane, and immoral. But a country should control its borders."

Armando, originally from Guatemala, added, "I'm against it. They should leave the kids alone."

In one exchange between coworkers, Robert Landery said, "I voted yes. I don't feel it's right for these guys to come here. They don't pay taxes and live off the system." Randy Costello replied, "I'm not for it because there's a statue in New York. And that statue says 'Give me your tired and your poor.' That's what this country is made on, but we're trying to keep people out."

I express my view that Proposition 187 is an attempt to scapegoat immigrants for the social crisis and that the problem is capitalism. I point to the students and workers who have marched and walked out in defense of immigrant rights as the only voice that has spoken in the interests of the working class — not the Democratic or Republican politicians, who defend the interests of the rich.

And the debate continues.

Carole Lesnick is a member of UAW Local 147 in Los Angeles.

## —YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

# Students oppose N. Carolina school search policy

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

BY TONY NDEGE

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — In Guilford County, North Carolina, the school board has been pushing a new, repressive policy of searching students, indicative of the resurgence of reactionary actions and dogma that has been increasingly imposed upon the working class over the past few years.

The proposed policy would allow school administrators to implement the use of metal detectors and police dogs to search students' cars, lockers, and desks without warning or consent. If they have "reasonable suspicion," they can pat down individual students and search their backpacks, coats, and other belongings. Most disturbingly the policy would allow for police attack dogs to be used in certain situations.

But, unlike similar motions, this particular proposal has been met with staunch political opposition. The disciplinary ax almost always falls hardest on minorities, in particular working-class minorities. It is disgustingly obvious how these types of regulations are enforced with overwhelming economic and racial disparities.

The controversy surrounding the policy has been generated by the very incident that allowed the school board to push its proposition. At a High Point elementary school this spring, a teacher was accused of ordering the strip search — to their underwear — of four Black male first-graders, after a white classmate reported that she was missing two dollars. School officials then promised to "clarify" their procedures.

In September, after several days of picketing at the site of the strip-search incident,

the school board called for a public meeting in Greensboro. Among the speakers at this meeting were representatives of both the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists.

On October 4, the school board met once more and decided to "revamp" the policy. Now, instead of arbitrarily searching students physically, authorities will be required to consider a few vague criteria before making a "well-informed" decision. Also, if patting down a student gives inconclusive results, school authorities would be required to contact the student's parents before utilizing more evasive procedures. The board has ratified this proposal with minor modifications.

## Scapegoating young people

What could possibly be the motivation behind such a draconian policy? This is part of the attacks on the democratic rights of young people and the scapegoating of youth as criminals by the capitalist class. They have tried everything to divert the public's attention away from the core of the problems, the crisis of capitalism itself.

We have been force-fed the perception that young people have become too lazy and disrespectful of the rules, that we have been awarded too many social freedoms. They are promoting the idea that Black people are wild and stupid and telling young people that once we step onto school property, we lose our rights.

The fact that school officials did not seek the advice and consultation of students, parents, or even teachers, but of lawyers really displays the utter contempt that they have for us and our opinions. I am imploring young people everywhere to join the Greensboro Young Socialists in the fight to protect our basic human rights.

## Great interest in Young Socialists at Cuba march

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 60 Young Socialists from throughout the

United States and Canada participated in the November 12 march on Washington, D.C., condemning the U.S. embargo of Cuba. YS members came from as far as Los Angeles to be part of the demonstration and help staff a YS table there.

The Young Socialists table was buzzing with youth all day. More than 125 YS buttons stating "US hands off Cuba!" and 50 YS pamphlets of Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina's speech at the United Nations condemning the U.S. occupation of Haiti were sold at the demonstration.

## Young Socialists hold first national meeting in Britain

BY IAN GREENWOOD AND DEBRA JACOBS

MANCHESTER, England — November 5 saw the first national meeting of the Young Socialists in Britain. This historic event took place in this city. Four people joined the YS that day.

We voted to send Susan Smythe to the International Solidarity Conference in Havana and will be taking an active role in helping to build the international youth brigade to Cuba in January. We are organizing classes to learn more about the Cuban revolution, including a class titled "Cuba and the Communist Manifesto."

On November 9, the YS took part in a demonstration of 15,000 students and youth organized by the National Union of Students to protest cuts in education grants by 10 percent and the lowering of the living wages of students to less than 2,000 British pounds.

## Regional socialist conferences

As YS members make holiday plans, everyone should clear their calendars for New Year's. Although the YS convention has been moved to the spring in order to focus attention on our major campaigns in defense of the Cuban revolution, regional socialist conferences will be organized in many areas. Conferences will be advertised in the *Militant* in upcoming weeks.

## 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.

AREA	GOALS	COLLECTED
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
Alton/		
Bloomington, IL	\$100	
Atlanta	\$100	
Birmingham, AL	\$500	
Boston	\$400	
Cleveland	\$400	
Chicago	\$550	
Detroit	\$200	
Evansville, IN	\$50	
Edinboro, PA	\$50	
Greensboro, NC	\$75	
Los Angeles	\$1,200	
Maryland	\$50	
Miami	\$200	
Morgantown, WV	\$150	
Newark, NJ	\$400	
New York	\$1,200	50
Philadelphia	\$800	
Pittsburgh	\$500	
Salt Lake City, UT	\$600	
San Francisco	\$1,000	
Seattle	\$700	
Tampa Bay, FL	\$50	
Twin Cities, MN	\$1,000	
Washington, D.C.	\$500	
Yellow Springs, OH	\$100	
<b>CANADA</b>		
Montreal	\$250	
Toronto	\$600	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>		
Sydney		\$350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,725</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>	

# Pittsburgh students protest censorship

BY SELVA NEBBIA

PITTSBURGH — Four hundred students chanted "Hey, hey, ho, ho, censorship has got to go" at an outside rally at the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) campus here November 9. The action was called to protest a recent administration decision to ban students from gaining access to certain Internet news groups that contain material school officials deem pornographic.

Internet is a worldwide computer network that allows people to use their computers to link up with others to access and exchange information using "bboards" to display text or graphics. CMU officials maintain that their decision was necessary to comply with a Pennsylvania law dealing with obscenity. "Our official policy is to obey the law," said Bill Arms, vice president for Computing Services. "There are bboards out there that are used to display sexually explicit material."

"We are not here merely because we are angry, but also because we are grieving over the death of academic freedom at CMU," Mike Godwin told the crowd. A lawyer for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Godwin said his organization "stands

for the proposition that freedom of speech must be protected, not only in the traditional media of speech, print, and broadcasting, but also in the vital new medium of computer communications."

## 'Censorship is not the answer'

Donna Riley, a graduate student, told those present, "We can't deny that some of the material I've encountered on these bboards reflects and perpetuates violence against women. But censorship of information is not the answer. In fact, CMU is doing its women a great disservice. We've seen this stuff before. It permeates our culture. But the Internet is one of the few places where we can fight back on a more even footing, using the most powerful tools we have — our imaginations, our wits, and our keyboards."

"We need the space and autonomy to fight in our own ways and on our own ground the attitudes that hurt us," she added. "CMU women don't need the protection of condescending administrators, lawyers, and statesmen in this matter. The works and images on the bboards CMU censored are only one of many conduits for sexism in our culture." Riley concluded. "We will

never expand women's opportunities if we censor the material of this debate before we have begun."

A letter on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) addressed to CMU president Robert Mehrabian explains that the "University's plan is inconsistent with the principles of academic freedom and free speech...and is based on serious misreading of relevant laws." Comparing the Internet to campus libraries, which are exempt from the state's obscenity laws, the ACLU letter notes, "A library free from government control is an essential component of a vibrant university."

An editorial titled "Censorship violates academic freedom" appeared in the November 7 edition of the student newspaper, *The Titan*. It stated that the ban "sets a dangerous precedent for the rest of the University" and that this decision, if universally applied, could mean "English classes would not study books which contained explicit sexual material, such as *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood; the Psychology department would have to remove Sigmund Freud's works from its curriculum; and the Women's Center would no longer be open to all students be-

cause it has books and videos containing explicit sex."

The editorial concluded, "The University's censorship is wrong and should not be tolerated. Every group and every person on this campus who believes in the principles of academic freedom should speak out against the University. Those who don't may regret it later when the University decides that something they are doing or saying is obscene."

Two days after the student protest, the CMU Faculty Senate passed a resolution condemning the administration's decision to ban access to the bboards. Shortly after students began protesting, the administration backed down from its ban on written information and limited it to graphics, promising to set up a committee of students, staff, and faculty to review the policy.

Students are waiting to see how this committee will be set up and what conclusions it arrives at. Riley said, "I think that students are not going to let this issue die."

Selva Nebbia is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1141 in Washington, Pennsylvania.

## Framed-up unionist wins support at Cuba march

BY JOHN STUDER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hundreds of demonstrators at the November 12 action to protest the U.S. embargo of Cuba, many of them young and new to political activity, were attracted to the literature table set up by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Curtis is a union and political activist who was framed up and beaten by the Des Moines, Iowa, cops in March 1988. At the time, he was involved in a public campaign to defend 17 of his coworkers at the Monfort meatpacking plant — 16 from Mexico and one from El Salvador — who had been seized by immigration police in a raid on the plant.

On the testimony of a cop who had been suspended from the force previously for lying, Curtis was convicted and has served more than six years in Iowa prison. Recently, he was further victimized by prison authorities in the Iowa State Penitentiary and is serving one year in disciplinary lockup. He has appealed both his conviction and the recent victimization.

At the November 12 demonstration, some participants were drawn to the table by a large color photo of Curtis's face, taken by supporters after he was beaten by the cops. Others came by because they were examining all the literature tables at the demonstration, and became interested in Curtis's fight for justice. A number said that when they read about Curtis, they could see themselves being victimized for their political activities.

### Students from many campuses

Sixty people signed up to become involved in the defense campaign. A number were from Washington, D.C., and New

York City, and many were from campus towns such as Collegeville, Pennsylvania; Storrs, Connecticut; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Carbondale, Illinois; Edinboro, Pennsylvania; and St. Petersburg, Florida.

One student told volunteers staffing the table that he had run into some supporters of Curtis when he was going to school in Florida and decided to get involved. He ordered a copy of a documentary video distributed by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and organized a public meeting on his campus. He was glad to run into the table at the demonstration, he said, because he had transferred to a new school in Connecticut and wanted to organize a public meeting there.

A young woman from Pennsylvania said that a few months ago she would not have believed a frame-up like the attack on Curtis could happen in the United States. However, she said, her experiences since she became active in defense of the Cuban revolution had opened her eyes to the reality of attacks on political rights. She bought a pamphlet on the defense effort and made a donation.

Some of the activists indicated that they belonged to various organizations, such as



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Demonstrator at November 12 March on Washington finds out about Mark Curtis's fight for justice. Dozens of marchers signed up to join the campaign for his freedom.

the Amnesty International chapter of the Maryland Institute of Art; a group called El Imperio Gringo in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; Veterans for Peace; Students for Peace; the Democratic Socialists of America; and the Transport Workers Union.

In addition, three opponents of the U.S. embargo on Cuba who had heard of the

case before, but hadn't had the opportunity to find out more about how to fight for Curtis's release, decided to become endorsers of the defense committee at the table.

Those interested in the campaign to win freedom for Curtis can contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311; Tel: (515) 246-1695.

## Meeting in Stockholm discusses Curtis fight

BY DECHOR HIEN

STOCKHOLM — The fight to win justice for Mark Curtis won new supporters at a meeting held here in late October.

The speakers at the meeting, sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, were Per Larsson, a primary school teacher and

member of the national teachers union; Anita Östling, a member of the Transport Workers Union, and Håkan Blomquist, editor of the left-wing newspaper *Internationalen*.

"Mark Curtis is a political prisoner," said Larsson, who described how Curtis, a union fighter and a socialist, was railroaded to jail on false charges of rape and burglary. Larsson highlighted the political character of the case. Despite his good prison record, promises of jobs, and other qualifications, the prison authorities have continually denied him parole. They have used numerous pretexts to keep Curtis imprisoned.

For example, Larsson noted that the authorities have denied Curtis parole because he has refused to admit to crimes he did not commit. They have demanded that he submit to the prison system's so-called sexual offenders treatment program. In a Catch-22 situation, prison authorities have recommended that Curtis undergo psychiatric treatment, but authorities for the psychiatric program won't admit him because he has no such problems. Yet they have failed to break Curtis's political will to keep fighting.

"It has become more and more difficult for them to keep Curtis in prison because there is no justification, so in August they came up with a new frame-up that Curtis had allegedly assaulted a fellow inmate,"

Larsson reported. After a summary prison hearing, Curtis was sentenced to one month in the "hole" and one year in isolation. "We demand that all charges be dropped and that Curtis be granted parole," Larsson concluded.

Anita Östling, an airplane maintenance worker, said that capitalism, in its current epoch of decline, is bringing more frame-ups, cop brutality, assaults on workers' picket lines, and ultrarightist attacks. She pointed to ruling-class figures in Sweden like Peter Wallenberg, who in a television interview referred to Blacks as *svatingar* (a racist term), as well as U.S. politician Oliver North, as examples of the increasingly reactionary direction of capitalism.

"But the other side is us, the workers like Mark Curtis, who will stand up and fight to defend our interests and working class unity," she stated. "Curtis is not isolated," Östling said, pointing to working-class struggles like the strike against Caterpillar in the United States.

Håkan Blomquist said, "This fight is important, because it won't get better if we don't fight back."

The meeting heard three letters by unionists who have followed Curtis's case and support his fight for justice.

One member of the audience signed up as an endorser of the Mark Curtis defense campaign at the meeting. Some 400 kronor was raised to support the defense effort.

## SUPPORT MARK CURTIS!

Mark Curtis is a framed-up union and political activist imprisoned in the Iowa State Penitentiary. He is currently in lockup in the prison's segregation unit for one year, victimized while organizing a campaign to fight for his release on parole. Join the international campaign to win justice for Mark Curtis!

- Please add my name as an endorser of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.
- Send me more information on the case.
- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Union/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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BOX 1048, DES MOINES, IA 50311; TEL: (515) 246-1695; FAX: (515) 243-9869.

# National march says: lift embargo of Cuba

Continued from front page

January 6-20 Youth Brigade to Cuba at the march and hopes to join other youth on the trip to see firsthand the accomplishments of the revolution, how young people are responding to confront the economic difficulties in the country, and the impact of the embargo on Cuba.

A group of 60 students enrolled in a sociology class at Carlow College in Pennsylvania carried a large Cuban flag and listened intently to the rally speakers. Their professor assigned them to attend the rally as part of learning about social protest movements and U.S.-Cuba relations. For most, this was their first demonstration and many said they hoped to gain a better understanding of the Cuban revolution as a result.

A busload of people traveled from Montreal, including three members of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) at McGill University. "We have strong relations with the SCM in Cuba," explained Darren Gowlett, "and they have said our responsibility as North Americans is to stop the blockade. The blockade is a major stumbling block for their country to develop. For me, the revolution is an example that is important for Canadians." Alain St.-Amant from the St.-Laurent pre-university school agreed. "I am a big fan of Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution," he said. "Cuba is the most beautiful example for the world of what socialism can do."

Many youth at the march, such as Jamie Lockman from Yale University's Radical Student Front, are attracted to Cuba "because it is a country and a people who stand up to the U.S. government's wishes. Cuba does not agree with U.S. policy in the world and it will not bend. That is why the U.S. does everything it can to destroy that country." Lockman plans to attend the November 21-25 World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba, to be held in Havana. Some 300 people are expected to participate from the United States alone.

## Youth brigade to Cuba

Marchers sought opportunities for future activities in defense of Cuba. Supporters of the January youth brigade to Cuba handed out hundreds of flyers explaining the purpose and goals of the brigade. Some 50 marchers signed up for more information. Members of the Minneapolis Faculty-Student Lectures Tour Committee found an enthusiastic response to a spring speaking tour in the United States of a young leader of the Cuban revolution.

When asked what activities he would be a part of to continue to defend the Cuban revolution, Tom Alter of Bloomington, Indiana, answered, "I want to build a Young Socialists chapter on my campus. A lot of students couldn't make it here, but they are interested," he said. "So I want to organize a report back and explain why there is an embargo on Cuba and not on China. It's because socialism is working in Cuba."

A spirited contingent from Miami included a young Cuban who arrived August 20 on Miami's shore aboard a raft with three other youth from Cuba. After two months in the United States, Orlando said, he and two others want to return to their

country.

"I left Cuba because a friend told me, 'Let's go see how it is across the Florida Straits.' I used to listen to [the U.S. government's] Radio Martí and thought life might be easier in Miami. But I can't find a job, I have to pay \$400 to fix my teeth, and it costs \$40 to call Cuba for three minutes!"

"It's a true abuse of human beings what the U.S. is doing" by interning Cubans at Guantánamo, he said. "Now hundreds want to leave the base and return to Cuba but the U.S. won't let them." Orlando contacted the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community, a group of Cuban-Americans opposed to the embargo.

Speakers addressed the rally's demands of "End the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba," "Normalize relations now," "Stop using hunger as a weapon," "End the travel ban," and "U.S. out of Haiti and Guantánamo."

"It's interesting to think back to Clinton's speech two months ago when he said there are only two countries in this hemisphere without democracy, Haiti and Cuba. What kind of democracy is in the United States?" Haitian activist Marx Aristide asked the crowd gathered at Lafayette Park. "Clinton sent in the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and the World Bank and is trying to tell us that the struggle for democracy in Haiti is over. But we don't want the IMF in Haiti to kill people."

Lucius Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization and a leader of Pastors for Peace, said, "The message we send today is the message the reactionaries who got elected need to hear." Other speakers also presented the view that the recent elections were a big victory for rightist forces in the United States.

Some 200 caravan drivers from the United States and Canada converged in Washington, D.C., to launch the campaign to deliver material aid to Cuba, as part of the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment, Walker reported. Caravan members and their supporters will meet with representatives of Congress and the administration and organize a Vigil for Reconciliation and Peace in the capital November 14. Three days later, the caravan will cross the Canadian

## Youth at march sign up for brigade to Cuba

BY KEN RILEY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Young people from Boston, New York, Los Angeles, this city, and other areas who are organizing a youth brigade to Cuba found a lot of people at the November 12 March on Washington here who wanted to join the brigade. The march opposed U.S. policy toward Cuba. A number of youth came up to a table set up at the beginning and end of the march.

Fifty people signed up to go and many took extra information to get more youth involved in the brigade in their areas. Among these were three students from Oberlin College, in Oberlin, Ohio; one student from Cornell University, in Ithaca,



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Protesters at march demanded Washington lift its embargo on Cuba, normalize relations with Havana, and get its troops out of Haiti and Guantánamo.

border at Buffalo, New York, to join up with opponents of the U.S. embargo there "and then all the way to Cuba," Walker said.

Rally cochair Teresa Gutiérrez of the November 12 Cuba Coalition told participants, "We didn't let [Jesse] Helms or [President Bill] Clinton or [Proposition] 187 or any of the reactionary stuff that went down Tuesday [election day] stop us, because we have the strength of the Cuban people on our side."

Earlier in the day, while the crowd gathered in Malcolm X Park, Frankie Travis, a member of United Paperworkers International Union Local 7837, told participants why he came to the protest. "I've been locked out by Staley for 17 months," he said. "I'm here because I'm a 'Road Warrior.' One of the things I do as a Road Warrior is travel around with my T-shirts and tapes and ask for your help. Please support us."

"Another reason I'm here is that in Chicago I met a Cuban named Pável Díaz. He wanted to find out more about our fight. So he came to Decatur, [Illinois], and spoke to our union meeting and received a standing ovation. When he learned about the money — the corporate greed — that the executives get, he was disgusted."

"What I'm learning today is that solidarity is not only in Decatur, not only in the United States, but it's across the world. We are succeeding with solidarity, reaching all over the world. An injury to one is an injury to all," he concluded.

Later, Travis, who set up an information table at the rally, reported that dozens of students from several states had expressed interest in inviting unionists from the Staley struggle and the Caterpillar and Bridgestone/Firestone strikes to speak at their campuses. He sold \$500 worth of T-shirts and videos.

Former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark, ex-CIA agent Phillip Agee, Chris Townsend of the United Electrical Workers, and others addressed the rally at Lafayette Park.

"It doesn't make any difference whether a Democrat or Republican is in the White House or Congress, Cuba has had to suffer," Andrés Gómez, director of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and editor of *Areíto* magazine, told the crowd. "A Democratic administration put the blockade in, a Republican administration with a Democratic House implemented the Torricelli bill, and a Democratic administration tightened the restrictions." Gómez encouraged opponents of the embargo to attend the November World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba in Havana.

"Our solidarity with Cuba is firm and unconditional," Rosina Rodríguez of the Dominican Friends of Cuba said in her message.

Cochairs read messages from Jose Serano and Congressman Charles Rangel. "Lifting the embargo would end the suffering of the Cuban people, while contributing to the promotion of democratic change," Rangel wrote.

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New York; and participants on the fourth Friendshipment caravan, which stopped here on its way to deliver material aid to Cuba. Promoters of the brigade approached many political and student groups at the march, encouraging them to join this effort.

A South African student who is studying in this city helped staff the table and sell tickets to a raffle being held December 15. At the demonstration, more than 200 raffle tickets were sold to help raise money for the brigade.

At a November 11-12 Midwest regional conference on Chicano studies held in Minneapolis, Iraida Jiménez promoted the Cuba brigade at a panel discussion she spoke at.

A student at the University of Minnesota, Jiménez explained that the youth brigade will enable participants "to see Cuba with our own eyes, and find out what the majority of the Cuban people want. We'll get a wide range of opinion, and we'll get beyond the stereotypes imposed by the U.S. media."

"The Minnesota chapter of the youth brigade," she added, "has begun work to get credentials from student and community media," following the strict U.S. government guidelines for travel to Cuba.

In Britain, six more youths signed up for the brigade at a November 9 demonstration



Militant/Barbara Graham

Fifty people at demonstration signed up to join international youth brigade to Cuba in January.

where students protested education cuts.

The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London has made space available for meetings of those interested in building the brigade. The North West Britain Cuba Solidarity Campaign is helping to raise money to send a youth on the brigade.

For more information write: Cuba Youth Brigade, P.O. Box 1801, New York, NY 10009, or call (212) 677-4356.

# Cuban youth leader to tour U.S. campuses

BY DAMON TINNON

MINNEAPOLIS — The Faculty-Student Cuban Youth Lectures Committee has announced it will coordinate a speaking tour on campuses nationwide for Cuban youth leader Rogelio Polanco. The tour is scheduled for March 1 to April 15, 1995.

Polanco, 28, is an associate researcher at the Center of Studies for Youth in Havana. He will be joined by another Cuban youth leader on the tour. From 1982 to 1984, Polanco served as president of the Federation of High School Students in Holguín province. He was later elected as a national officer of the Federation of University Students (FEU) and studied international relations at the University of Havana.

Polanco represented the FEU in the executive of the International Union of Students in Prague from 1992-93. He has participated in numerous international forums in the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America. Polanco is also a member of the Union of Young Communists.

The Faculty-Student Committee coordinated a successful series of lectures for Cuban youth leader Pável Díaz earlier this year. Díaz visited 40 cities and 53 universities.

A letter from the organizing committee states, "As someone who helped make Pável Díaz's visit a rich experience to thousands of youth across the country, we are inviting you to participate in the effort to help these two youth to obtain visas to come to the United States and to work with others to set up speaking engagements for them."

"As you know from Díaz's trip, the opportunity for Cuban youth to meet and exchange opinions and experiences with young people in the United States was very valuable. It offered a representative of Cuba's revolutionary youth a chance to



Students from around the country came by table at November 12 demonstration in Washington and signed up to work on tour of Cuban youth leader Rogelio Polanco.

talk to faculty, students, and other youth in the United States and learn more about what they do and think. We believe that the interest in Cuba among young people shown during Díaz's visit is even greater today and promises to make another trip a success."

The committee is urging all those who want to make the tour possible to organize

rapidly to get letters of invitation from a broad range of academic figures — university officials, professors, and recognized student organizations and publications.

The committee is asking for invitations before Christmas. Last January the State Department first delayed the issuing of visas, then denied a visa to Arleen Ro-

## Meeting in Utah hears Cuban official

BY DAN FEIN

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Almost 100 people came out to hear Cuban diplomat Bernardo Toscano at an October 21 meeting here at the University of Utah. The U.S.-Cuba Friendship and Freedom to Travel Campaign sponsored the visit by the third secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.

"The U.S. economic, financial, and trade blockade, which was tightened in 1992 is the primary factor" causing Cuba's economic crisis, Toscano stated.

The second factor, he said, was the loss in trade aid from the former Soviet bloc

countries.

The audience had many questions for the Cuban representative. One young woman asked why, if Cuba had such a good social system, so many people had left the country.

Toscano answered that firstly, immigration is a worldwide phenomenon in which millions of people leave Third World countries to go to industrialized countries such as the United States. "We don't hide the big economic crisis in Cuba today," he added, stating that many of those in the recent wave of emigration had left for economic reasons.

### 'Building new society is voluntary'

He said the Cuban government's position has been that "the building of a new society in Cuba is voluntary. All who want to leave are free to do so."

Secondly, he said, "The U.S. has politicized the issue by welcoming those Cubans who, for example, hijack planes to the United States, while refusing to grant visas to Cubans who request them."

Some 30,000 people took to the sea in small rafts this summer, seeking to reach

U.S. shores, but were detained at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, where most remain today.

Toscano pointed out that the Cuban and U.S. governments negotiated an immigration accord in September, in which Washington agreed to grant 20,000 residence visas to Cubans wishing to immigrate to the United States. Havana agreed to stop people leaving the island by raft without U.S. visas.

"We fulfilled our end of the agreement within three days," he pointed out. "We are still waiting for the U.S. to fulfill its part."

Another questioner suggested that if Cuban president Fidel Castro stepped down, the U.S. government might begin trading with Cuba. Toscano replied, to applause by many, that the government of Cuba will be determined only by the people who live there. The Cuban government is ready to talk with Washington, he added, but "on the basis of mutual respect, sovereignty, and equality."

Asked about the U.S. military invasion of Haiti, Toscano replied, "Cuba opposes the U.S. occupation of Haiti and all U.S. military interventions."

dríguez Derivet, who was to accompany Díaz. The Cuban youths must have the invitations to file with the U.S. Interests Section in Havana well in advance to allow time for mounting a broad public campaign to grant the visas if they are delayed.

### Good response at anti-embargo march

Publicity and building for the tour has already met with an enthusiastic response. At the November 12 March on Washington, D.C., opposing the U.S. embargo against Cuba, more than 50 people signed up to help work on the tour. Demonstrators from North Carolina, California, and Canada said they would like to invite the Cuban youth. At the march, young tour activists carried signs reading, "Invite a Cuban youth to your school." One of the tour promoters, Lisa Kragness, said, "The interest in this project and the march as a whole was incredible. I'm really glad I came and was able to be a part of this."

At a November 11-12 Midwest Regional Conference of the National Association for Chicano Studies here, tour organizers appealed for support to the 200 participants.

"These are the main projects we are working on to defend Cuba: organizing a national youth brigade to Cuba to learn about the country and work alongside young Cubans, and get a visa [from the U.S. State Department] to allow Cuban youth leader Rogelio Polanco to speak on campuses across the country," said Irida Jiménez, a member of La Raza Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota.

Jiménez and another panelist, August Nimitz, both appealed for support for the tour as part of a workshop entitled "Breaking the Cuban Blockade." Nimitz said the tour would "help lift the information embargo against Cuba, which restricts the exchange of information between Cuban students and faculty, their U.S. colleagues, and the larger community."

To get involved, contact the Faculty-Student Cuban Youth Lectures Committee, c/o Latin American Studies, 214 Social Sciences Tower, 267 19th Ave. S., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. You can reach the committee by telephone at (612) 624-8543 or fax at (612) 626-2242.



Bernardo Toscano in Salt Lake City

## Opponents of U.S. embargo march in San Juan

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Opponents of the U.S. embargo on Cuba marched through the streets of Old San Juan here November 13. The march was organized by the Cuba Solidarity Coordinator, an umbrella organization of various organizations that work in defense of the Cuban revolution.

The 80 demonstrators wound through the streets of the old city and ended up in front of the federal courthouse. Throughout the route, marchers distributed leaflets to onlookers on the streets.

One aspect of the march was to publicize the World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba that will be held November 21-25 in Havana. The chapter of the Federation of Pro-Independence University Students (FUPI) at the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao was selling raffle tickets to raise money to send a delegate to the conference.

Ron Richards is a member of the American Federation of Government Employees in San Juan.

## U.S. delegation to attend Havana gathering

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The cause of Cuba is not just for Cubans, but for the people of the entire world." That's how Oscar Ochotorena, a janitor in Miami who is Cuban-American, explained his decision to attend the World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba, which will open in Havana November 21. Ochotorena gave an interview while marching down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House, along with 3,000 others, during a November 12 national demonstration here in defense of Cuba.

About two dozen people from Miami, mostly Cuban-Americans, will be joining dozens of others from the United States at this international event. "I'm going to deal another blow to the U.S. blockade against Cuba," said Rita Rodríguez, another Cuban-American from Miami who is active with the Alliance of Workers of the

Cuban Community (ATC), during the November 12 march.

A range of Cuban mass organizations issued the call for the World Conference and have invited all those who oppose the U.S. embargo to attend. Organizers expect more than 2,000 people from around the globe to participate. The conference will end November 25.

### Broad sponsorship

The Communist Party of Cuba, Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, Central Organization of Cuban Workers, National Association of Private Farmers, Union of Young Communists, and Federation of University Students are among the sponsors of the gathering.

Members of the National Network on Cuba, a nationwide umbrella group of organizations that do work in defense of Cuba, have set up a task force to organize

participation from the United States. "About 75 people are going with the Network group through Montreal or Cancún [Mexico], or traveling on their own," said Leslie Cagan of the Network's Solidarity Task Force during the march in Washington. Also planning to attend the conference are participants in the U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan, which is now making its way to the U.S.-Canada border. The caravan is bringing material aid to Cuba. In addition, a delegation traveling with the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange is planning to attend the Havana event.

Those from the United States unable to go as journalists or licensed researchers will be challenging the unconstitutional character of the new travel restrictions announced in August by the Clinton administration. Other international delegations will go from as far as Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

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# York strikers answer Caterpillar smears

BY KATHY MICKELLS

YORK, Pennsylvania — "The cops and courts are in bed with the company," stated Terry Orndorff, bargaining chairperson of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 786 on strike against Caterpillar Inc., here. In an effort to intimidate strikers, the police have charged Orndorff, along with Duane Burlingame and Clyde Harris, with harassment and ethnic intimidation.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred August 30 when a large number of strikers and their supporters swelled the picket line at the 10:00 p.m. shift change after attending a weekly informational union meeting. The company has used scabs to try to break the strike.

"Over 100 of us — strikers, wives, children — were all on the side of the road yelling 'scab' as the cars came out of the plant," said Ken Hite Jr., one of 25 fired strikers here. "I was directing traffic and was standing on the corner, when this car comes out of the plant. He pulled up to the corner and stopped even though the light was green. A girl was beside him and two kids in the back seat. They were arguing.

"We were all yelling 'scab,'" Hite continued. "Terry [Orndorff] and his wife were on the driver side. I started going over to that side, because I thought Terry might need help. The car door opened and [the driver] came out waving a gun. Terry and his wife started running to behind the car. The woman and kids in the car were yelling and screaming. Everyone started running when they saw the gun. He got into the car and drove off."

The strikers immediately reported the incident to the police. But nothing was done until Orndorff went to the cops a couple of days later. When Orndorff arrived at the police station with a report on the incident and a list of witnesses, he was taken into a back room and charged with harassment and ethnic intimidation. Shortly thereafter, Burlingame and Harris, visiting strikers from Illinois, were charged. Darryl Doleman, the man waving the gun at the strikers, was charged with simple assault.

At an October 28 preliminary hearing, Orndorff, Harris, and Burlingame were bound over for arraignment. According to Hite, District Justice Roy Lam dismissed the charges against Doleman on the basis "that the police had found the videotape made by Cat security 'inconclusive.'"

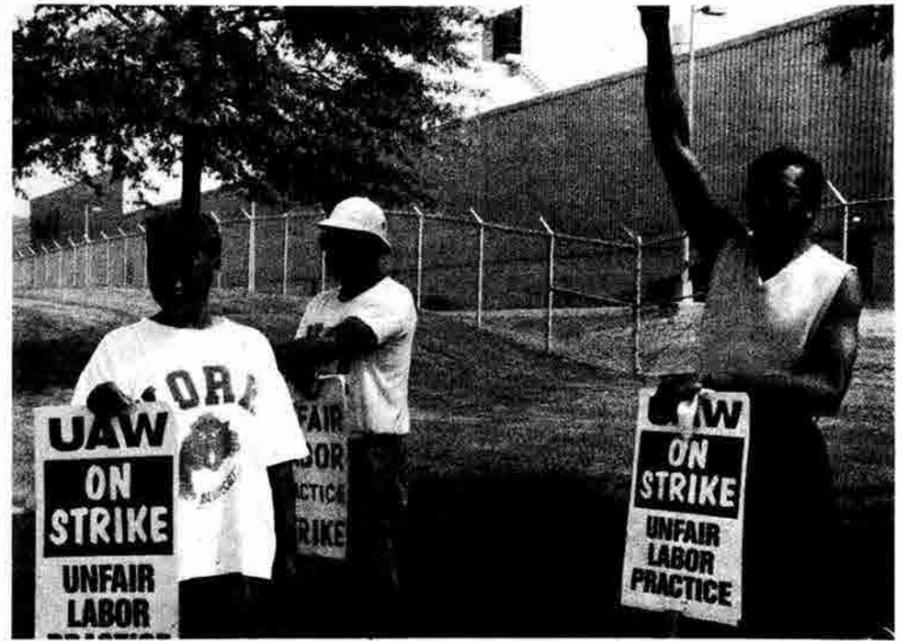
Doleman claims the three strikers yelled racial epithets at him. "It didn't happen that way," said Orndorff. The company, he stated, "wanted to make a racial incident of this. Cat has done this in Peoria, trying to get groups against each other, to motivate dissension in our ranks and break the real support we have from people."

"It never happened," says Hite. "We have Black guys out there picketing all the time. They were out there that night, right next to us."

Hite received a summons charging him with harassment in the same incident. The summons was dated September 6, just days after he spoke at a union press conference denouncing the charges.

In an attempt to portray the strikers as violent, the police led them from the courtroom and took them to the county jail in handcuffs. The strikers had brought \$5,000 with them for bail, but Lam set bail at \$5,000 apiece. Others rushed to get the money while the accused strikers were paraded in front of the media and escorted to jail. Their trial is set for December 2.

The cops and courts aren't alone in aiding Caterpillar's campaign against the strikers. The major media in York has joined the chorus. The York *Daily Record* falsely implied in its coverage that the union lawyer admitted the strikers had ut-



Militant/Kathy Mickells

Caterpillar strikers picket York, Pennsylvania, plant in July. Company and the cops are attempting to pin charge of "ethnic intimidation" on strikers.

tered racial slurs. "They totally took what the lawyer said out of context. They're trying to make this a racial incident," Orndorff stated.

The attempt to sow demoralization and divisions hasn't gained ground and support for the strike continues, Orndorff stated. He pointed to a Labor Day march where "we got a lot of thumbs up from everyone, Black and white."

Union members are available to speak at union meetings and other events. They can be reached at: UAW Local 786, 1650 White Ford Road, York, PA 17402; tel. (717) 757-2915 or (717) 755-9997; fax (717) 752-0616.

Kathy Mickells is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-901 in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

## Staley 'Road Warriors' tour Boston

BY KAREN RAY AND VALERIE JOHNSON

BOSTON, Massachusetts — "Wherever we go we find people who are in the same boat as we are and suffering the same attacks on their union," said Royal Planken-

horn, an A.E. Staley "Road Warrior" from United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 7837. Plankenhorn was addressing a public meeting of Service Employees International Union Local 285 here. Locked out by A.E. Staley in De-

cat, Illinois, for more than 17 months, the union members have organized to tour the country and tell the truth about their fight.

Two Staley workers, Plankenhorn and Dick Schable, wrapped up a successful 10-day tour of the Boston area November 2. They spoke at 36 events: in front of union meetings, on campuses, at central labor council meetings, labor rallies, and at meetings with workers at various worksites in the area, and raised \$10,000.

The Staley workers joined picketing teachers in Salem who walked off the job October 31. The 500 teachers have been without a contract since August and are being threatened with termination if they do not return to work.

Later that day, Schable met with workers at the Conrail freight yard in Framingham and said the teachers' strike was an important fight to support. The Road Warriors met with train crews coming in and out of work, and showed their video on the Staley lockout called *Struggle in the Heartland*.

Rail workers were shocked at how cops sprayed union members and their families with pepper gas at a June 25 labor rally in Decatur, Illinois.

The following day Plankenhorn and Schable spoke with 25 members of Teamsters Local 25 at Red Star Trucking, who had been part of the national truckers strike earlier this year. Several had heard about the Staley fight and pledged to explain it at their next union meeting.

Later the Staley workers addressed a meeting of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 311 in Lawrence. One hundred workers from Malden Mills listened intently to unionists describe their struggle.

Plankenhorn told the garment workers, "Decatur is known as 'The War Zone.' Over 4,000 workers are on strike or locked out by Caterpillar, Firestone, and Staley. All three of these companies want to break the unions, and the workers are determined to win." Plankenhorn said the unionists and supporters meet weekly to plan joint activities to win solidarity.

Schable said, "Companies try to divide us along sex and race lines. But we need unity and solidarity in the labor movement in order to beat the companies." The textile workers raised \$250 and the discussion continued for several days.

Valerie Johnson is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1473 in Framingham. Karen Ray is a member of the ILGWU Local 311 in Lawrence.

## United Airlines vote: AMFA seeks to pit union members against each other

ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI, Florida — After a year-long raiding operation against the International Association of Machinists (IAM) at United Airlines, the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) has succeeded in getting a union representation election called.

Beginning on November 18 the National Mediation Board will oversee the election, which involves 14,000 mechanics, fuelers, and utility workers out of an IAM-organized workforce at United of more than 20,000. If less than half of the eligible voters return their ballots the mechanics and related workers will no longer have union representation.

Baggage handlers, stores workers (parts distributors), and food service workers, all in the IAM, are not part of the election.

AMFA is a company-minded outfit that wants to bring back the long-outdated craft union setup among airline mechanics. Its view of craft unionism focuses on the most backward aspects of the craft unions that existed in this country before the rise of the industrial unions in the 1930s.

In a recent letter to mechanics at United Airlines AMFA National Director O.V. Delle-Femine states that the IAM exploits mechanics in order "to provide an artificially high wage scale for untrained laborers". It says United pays these "untrained laborers 200% to 300% their market rate."

In the same letter Delle-Femine quotes from AMFA lawyer Lee Seham who says, "The professional lives and collective bargaining aspirations of skilled craftsmen cannot be dictated by individuals who preponderantly wipe tray tables, dispose of trash, or clean the exterior of an aircraft with a mop. Forcing this unnatural alliance guarantees instability."

AMFA's position is that mechanics will make gains at United by helping the company drive down wages and benefits of other IAM-organized workers.

IAM members agree that AMFA has gathered significant support among me-

chanics and even won over some aircraft cleaners. This is largely due to the anger among mechanics and other United workers at the deep concessions — pushed by IAM officials — in the form of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) that went into effect in July. This almost six-year-long contract includes a 15 percent pay cut, the loss of paid lunches, and establishing a quick turnaround air shuttle service where workers work harder and faster.

What was extremely rare at an IAM-organized airline a few years ago—AMFA supporters wearing AMFA buttons and distributing AMFA literature to fellow workers—is commonplace at airports where United operates today.

While some United mechanics strongly support AMFA many more hold views along the lines that Bob, a mechanic at Miami International Airport, expressed. "I'm not voting for AMFA," he stated, "I'm voting against the IAM. I've been in the IAM for 27 years and I keep losing. I want to shake up the IAM."

Much of the IAM literature answering AMFA focuses on secondary questions, such as the fact that AMFA represents only 124 mechanics and related airline workers. These workers at Atlantic Coast Airlines have yet to negotiate a contract. The IAM officials also point to the fact that the IAM has a large full-time staff, while AMFA has one staffperson.

### Divide and rule

Worst of all, IAM officials often try to explain away AMFA by touting the ESOP as an example of the strength of the IAM when in fact the ESOP represents giving in to company demands without a fight—the exact thing that has so angered many IAM members and led many mechanics to buy into AMFA's and management's divide-and-rule strategy.

One IAM flyer does make a key point, explaining, "Pitting workers against each other is an age-old ploy used by companies

to make organized labor weak. The only winner is the company."

Barry Daumit, a United mechanic at Dulles Airport, said, "I would do anything to ditch the IAM: I think it was humiliating and an insult to our intelligence when they tried to convince us to go along with the ESOP. When the history of the labor movement is written, I think we will see that the IAM has seriously set back for years the cause of labor."

Many other IAM members at United, who also oppose the ESOP concession deal, think that we need to keep the IAM. As the largest union in the airline industry they believe this can be the most effective vehicle to stand up to company attacks.

Mike Albertin, a San Francisco mechanic who has been active in strike solidarity efforts, said, "When the IAM kept telling us that concessions saved our jobs, I signed an AMFA card. I hoped AMFA might be interested in solidarity. But all they talk about is separation from other crafts, and I don't like that stuff. I know I'm not any better than anybody else, so I'm sticking with the IAM. But we need some fight in this union, and it's going to have to come from us."

Robert Gilchrist, a union committeeman for cleaners at Dulles Airport, has been leafleting workers coming in and out of work. "All classifications should be together," Gilchrist stated. "It's solidarity that's important. Our strength is in numbers. You don't want to go into battle with an army that's divided."

Ernie Mailhot is a United food service worker in Miami and a member of IAM Local 368. Also contributing to this article were Kathleen Denny, a mechanic in San Francisco and member of IAM Local 1781; Janice Lynn, a utility worker at Dulles Airport and member of IAM Local 1759; and Betsey Stone, a utility worker at LaGuardia Airport in New York and a member of IAM Local 1322.

# Vancouver doctor shot

Continued from front page

months. Anti-abortion rights outfits have previously demonstrated outside the doctor's home and office, thrown nails onto his driveway, and harassed him at Vancouver General Hospital.

The sniper shot Romalis less than a week after a Florida jury convicted anti-abortion rights terrorist Paul Hill for murdering Dr. John Britton outside a Pensacola abortion clinic.

Romalis's family received threatening phone calls at their home the day before the shooting. Nickerson said that Romalis had never had trouble with any disgruntled former patient, and that his only enemies were those in favor of eliminating abortion rights.

Two weeks before the sniper attack on Romalis, Gordon Watson, a radical anti-abortion thug, was convicted of criminal contempt for violating an injunction that ordered him to stay away from the Everywomen's Health Clinic. Watson also faces charges in a second trial on an assault charge stemming from an incident in which he allegedly pushed a video camera into the face of a clinic worker. Despite his record of aggressive actions outside abortion clinics Watson remains free pending appeal of his conviction.

Watson's response to the shooting was to state that he "condone[s] violence." In a letter written by him to *Vancouver Sun* columnist Elizabeth Aird, he refers to abortion providers as serial killers and mass murderers who, after due process of law, should be "eliminated."

Defenders of a woman's right to choose abortion across Canada condemned the attack. Kim Zander, spokesperson for the Everywomen's Health Clinic, said, "It's not a surprise that what has happened in the United States should happen here. The antichoice movement in the U.S. and Canada have very strong links." Zander called for a police investigation of these ties and condemned police for being too slow in responding to attacks on clinics.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a longtime campaigner for abortion rights in Canada, described this shooting as an isolated incident inspired by religious leaders using inflammatory rhetoric. "I hope the religious leaders will decry the shooting," he said.

Antiabortion violence is not new in Canada. In fact, Morgentaler's abortion clinic in Toronto was bombed in 1992. No charges have ever been laid.

More than 100,000 abortions are performed annually throughout Canada. Abortion rights activists are calling on local governments to enact legislation providing no-go zones around clinics and private homes targeted by antichoice outfits. However, British Columbia attorney general Colin Gabelmann said, "If I can be persuaded that an injunction is going to prevent a nut from using a gun, then I would be inclined to ask our people to do that. I have yet to be persuaded that injunctions are any protection at all against crazy people."

The British Columbia Medical Association has called for so-called antistalking legislation to protect abortion providers. Some pro-choice forces are calling for all abortion rights opponents who own guns and who have ever voiced threats to be fully investigated now.

Vancouver police claim they have increased surveillance of streets around abortion clinics, and are providing a guard for Romalis while in the hospital, as well as 24-hour protection for his family. Increased protection is being provided for several nurses and doctors who feel they may be the next target, as well as for Joy Thompson, spokesperson for the British Columbia Coalition for Abortion Clinics, who received a threatening phone call after the shooting.

Supporters of abortion rights demonstrated against the shooting in Ottawa, Ontario, on November 9. Vancouver pro-choice groups are organizing a public protest and rally for Saturday, November 19 at noon at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The rally leaflet outlines antiabortion terrorist actions across North America over the past several years and calls for protection for health-care providers. Numerous groups are endorsing the action and it is being broadly built in the area.

# Cop's testimony discredits frame-up

Continued from front page

dreds of charges were brought against strikers based on the false testimony of these company spys. Injunctions kept dozens of union activists from the picket lines and the resources of the union tied up in costly legal battles.

Since the Sept. 18, 1992, explosion, the company, the RCMP and the big-business media have waged an intense frame-up campaign to blame the strikers.

In the year following the blast more than 400 CASAW members, their families, friends, and other unionists in Yellowknife were interrogated by the RCMP. Some were forced to submit to lie detector tests. According to CAW Local 2304 president Rick Cassidy, "Dozens of strikers and their families received letters from the RCMP acknowledging that their telephones had been tapped since the explosion. At least 40 undercover cops operated in the area during the strike."

## Cop terror and intimidation

The RCMP claims that in the final hour of the 12th interrogation, Warren confessed. "These sessions were terror and intimidation tactics used by the cops," explained CAW member Al Shearing. "They were more like torture. Each session was several hours with at least two RCMP cops present."

Shearing and fellow CAW member Tim Bettger face trumped-up charges on incidents not related to the September 18 mine blast. Shearing was interrogated more than 31 hours over six sessions and Bettger was interrogated four times, with each interview lasting for several hours. Their families, including their children, were also subjected to this cop harassment.

The RCMP didn't limit their intimidation tactics to the Yellowknife area. "I think people in every province were questioned," Bettger said. "Tim's parents and his wife Izzie's parents were questioned in Saskatchewan. When my son was interrogated by the RCMP they told him that I was a murderer and my wife was a liar."

"When Roger was arrested on October 15, 1993, he was kept for about two weeks in the RCMP headquarters in town, denied cigarettes, had his reading glasses confiscated, and was not allowed to take a shower. Then Roger was flown and held for four days in maximum security prisons in Edmonton without his family being informed. To show you how they [RCMP] operate, they told Roger that Al and I were going to do him in," Bettger said.

"It wasn't until March 18 1994, that we were able to talk to Roger in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and find out these ridiculous things they were telling him," added Shearing.

"When Tim and I were arrested on October 18, 1993, we were both put in isolation



CASAW Local 4

Company used cops to harass Yellowknife miners during last year's strike

the first night," Bettger said. "That means a cell six feet by eight feet, with only a bed and a stainless steel toilet. In the middle of the night a guard comes by every hour and the lights are turned on. It wasn't until mid-November that we were both put in general population and were able to have regular visitors a few times a week."

## Government's far-fetched story

The prosecution claims that Warren crawled into the mine down ladders to a depth of 750 feet where the blast occurred, walked through miles of tunnels, and then crawled out. Tapes played in court move from a hypothetical case of how a bomb could be rigged to an outright claim that Warren admitted to setting up a bomb to disrupt production.

Many unionists in Yellowknife voice doubts that Warren was even physically capable of crawling into the mine and doing what he is accused of. Warren is in ill health and has a weak heart. Miners also point to other holes in the prosecution case. "If he did what they accuse him of why didn't they find a detonator and a power source," Shearing said.

Miners who saw the rail car that carried the workers killed in the blast explain that it was highly unlikely, given the way the frame was bent, that the explosion came

from the track as claimed by the RCMP. Many believe the explosion came from inside the rail car itself, as a result of criminal negligence by the company. Royal Oak often transported explosives on the same cars as the miners, in violation of mine safety regulations. "The morning before the blast, C.I.L. [the company that makes explosives] delivered hundreds of pounds of Amex [explosives] to the same level as where the blast occurred," Shearing noted.

"Royal Oak originally denied this, but invoices from C.I.L. proved them wrong. As well, a bomb expert from the steelworkers union offered to help and was refused entry into the mine by the RCMP. They also refused to allow a representative from C.I.L. to help with the post-blast investigation." Immediately after the blast the union offered to send strikers into the mine to help in the rescue operation, but the company also refused this aid.

Financial contributions to help defend Roger Warren can be sent to: Warren Fund, c/o CAW Local 2304, P.O. Box 1628, Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2P2. Tel: (403) 873-4528.

*Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 692 in Vancouver, Susan Berman is a member of CAW Local 1285 in Toronto.*

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#### Vancouver

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**Can't make a buck on Mexican flags?** — "It pisses me off. You see these kids walking down the street with a Mexican flag and demanding that *this country* give

**Reasonable question** — "Why should we carry American flags when this country wants to kick my friends out of school and send them back to Mexico?" — L.A. high school demonstrator Mariela Flores.



**Harry Ring**

them a free education." — Howard Furst, owner of an L.A. flag factory and eight retail outlets, expressing dim view of anti-Proposition 187 student demonstrators.

**Hard for a cop to keep up** — In Johannesburg, South Africa, a white cop was abusive to a double-parked motorist who was Black. When the motorist objected to the rudeness, the cop grabbed him by the throat and hauled him in. At the station house, it took 20 minutes for the cop to accept that his victim, Sydney Mufamadi, was what his passport said, the Minister of Police. Mufamadi filed an as-

sault charge.

**To fly to the Hereafter?** — Domino's Pizza invited children 12 and under to write a Thanksgiving grace about why everybody should be thankful. While it is a grace, Domino's assures entrants do not have to be religious. The first 500 to send in graces will be awarded a coupon for a free order of chicken wings.

**The split-second society** — In California, Pacific Bell's directory assistance operators have been instructed to drop the "please" from the greeting. Now it's "Hi, I'm Mary, what city?" (Most often, "Mary" is a company required substitute for a longer name.) Anyway,

this will shave the greeting by half a second, permitting thousands of extra calls a day. Currently each operator is required to handle about 1,200 calls a shift.

**Puleeze, give us a break** — Pacific Bell says another reason for dropping "please" is that some callers confuse it with "police" and think they've reached 911.

**Something like ending capitalist wars** — A Red Cross subcommittee said it's given up on the hope that next year's UN weapons conference would ban land mines. A Red Cross official met with Britain's foreign secretary who apparently advised him that the idea

was "utopian."

**Mix or match** — A new, two-kit fashion line, Minigirl. The creator was inspired by her children who relate to Barbie dolls and Barbie's clothing. The one kit includes a body suit, a wrap skirt, a dress and a bikini. The other, pants, shorts, bikini and T-shirt. We're not sure if they're for dolls or children. Each kit \$225.

**Cockroaches have lasted far longer** — Expressing distaste for the tell-all book by his son, the Prince of Wales, Britain's Prince Philip observed that the monarchy has been around "for the last thousand years." He opined, "It's lasted that long, it can't be all bad."

# What's behind bipartisan drive against welfare?

BY SARA LOBMAN

In their controversial book *The Bell Curve*, Charles Murray and Richard Herrnstein use pseudoscientific claims and racist arguments to justify their proposal that government welfare programs be abolished. Their basic premise is that the government is wasting money since workers who receive welfare, particularly Blacks, are poor because they are genetically less intelligent than white professionals and businessmen.

While most capitalist politicians are not as open about their class and racial prejudices, virtually every Democratic and Republican candidate has backed the campaign proclaimed by President Bill Clinton to "end welfare as we know it." In his first remarks since the November 8 elections, Clinton bragged about the toughness of the welfare bill he proposed earlier this year, calling it "quite similar to one that several Republicans themselves have proposed."

The calls for gutting welfare, together with other major themes of the recent election campaigns, such as cracking down on workers under the guise of fighting crime and curbing the rights of immigrants, all scapegoat sections of the working class for the social ills of capitalism.

New York governor Mario Cuomo, who just lost his reelection bid to his Republican opponent George Pataki, was accused by Pataki of being soft in the war on welfare. But Cuomo proposed cutting Medicaid services; fingerprinting welfare recipients, supposedly to prevent fraud, and reducing payments to parents whose children drop out of school.

More than 14 million workers and farmers rely on AFDC to subsist.

The Republican Party's "Contract with America," introduced by the upcoming Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, would allow states to abolish all assistance to children of mothers younger than 21, whether or not they work. As an alternative to welfare, state governments would be encouraged to build orphanages for the children.

Most of the proposals accuse workers on welfare of stealing money from those who have jobs. This false argument is used to justify substituting welfare with "workfare," that is, providing temporary, minimum-or subminimum-wage employ-



Lining up at unemployment office in Texas. As bosses attack welfare and pit employed against unemployed, the challenge for unions is to mount a campaign to win jobs for all and protection for working class from ravages of capitalist depression.

ment to those currently eligible for benefits. New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani has proposed a plan to require people on the state Home Relief program to clean streets, remove snow, and maintain parks in exchange for the \$350 they receive each month. He would also limit benefits to a few months, then prohibit a individual from reapplying for two years.

**Goal is to divide working class**

But those targeting welfare don't care about providing jobs. Their goal is to defend the profit rates of the rich by dividing the working class and going after the social wage, protections, and democratic rights that were won in struggle by previous generations.

The rulers' attacks on welfare recipients are aimed at turning the worst-off sections of the working class into a pariah layer. They want to deepen divisions among the class, particularly between those who have jobs and those who don't. They try to convince employed workers that those most subjected to unemployment, particularly workers who are Black, are not really part of the working class but rather "welfare mothers," "welfare cheats," or some other label that dehumanizes and criminalizes them.

All the welfare-gutting proposals include abusive restrictions on democratic rights, targeting especially those who are most vulnerable. Some of the proposals by a Clinton administration task force, for example, require teenage mothers to live with their parents and force young women to identify the father of her children to be eligible for benefits. These kinds of coercive policies, which use welfare or other social benefits as a club to force workers to mold their lives to the prejudices of middle-class social engineers, must be rejected. The bipartisan assault on welfare is one of the reasons why Murray, who has been campaigning for the elimination of welfare for more than a decade, is now getting so much attention and why his pseudoscientific arguments are treated as legitimate, if "flawed," in the big-business media.

**Jobs for all**

Murray and others glorify the pre-welfare days when impoverished workers were forced to rely on private charity, or-

phanages, and the philanthropic pretenses of members of the moneyed class. While welfare, as an entitlement, was an advance over a time when large sections of the working class were forced into starvation conditions by every downturn in the capitalist economy, the fact remains that welfare is set up to degrade and humiliate those who have to rely on it, a fact that capitalist politicians demagogically point to in

order to justify their own reactionary proposals.

Instead of supporting the capitalists' anti-labor and racist campaign, working people need to support demands that help unite the entire class — employed and unemployed, Black and white, immigrant and U.S.-born.

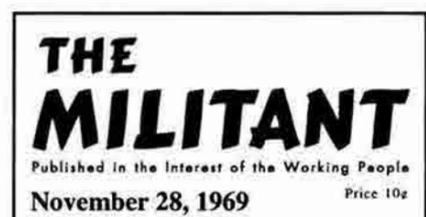
This means first and foremost fighting for jobs for all at union wages, which can be accomplished by shortening the work-week with no cut in pay.

The government should also launch a real public works program — paying workers union wages to repair roads, and build badly-needed housing, hospitals, and schools. Equally important, is putting a stop to the capitalists' scapegoating through demands to protect the worst-off sections of the working class by fighting to increase the minimum wage, strictly adhere to affirmative action quotas, and defend immigrant workers.

In addition, working people should fight for protection from the ravages of capitalism, not through handouts of any kind, but as a right. Social Security should be extended to provide unemployment benefits at union rates to everyone without a job.

The bosses will squeal that they can't afford this. But that is their problem. It is only by fighting for such demands that the working class can defend itself against the ravages of a system mired in depression and forge a movement to replace capitalism with a society based on human needs.

## -25 AND 50 YEARS AGO-



WASHINGTON, D.C. — From every conceivable city, village and town they came to participate in the most massive demonstration in American history. The roughly one million Americans who marched on Washington and San Francisco Nov. 15 were taking part in the largest political confrontation ever between masses of American people and the government that supposedly represents them.

The sheer numbers involved were staggering. Standing on the crest of the hill which forms the base of the Washington monument, and watching the hundreds of thousands of demonstrators pouring into the area, it looked like there was no room for more.

Yet tens of thousands were still crowded into the area in front of the Capitol, more than a mile away, waiting to begin the long march up Pennsylvania Avenue, which was also packed with demonstrators. And many were still trying to get through the traffic jam into Washington.

The crowd as it finally assembled was so massive that there was no terrestrial vantage point from which one could see the total number.

There was more of everything in this demonstration. There were more adults, more Afro-Americans, Puerto Ricans and

other Third Worlders, more GIs. More labor unions endorsed and participated in this action than ever before.

But even these important steps forward were dwarfed by the unprecedented numbers of high school and college age youth who turned out.



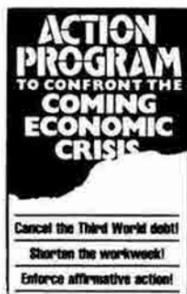
November 25, 1944  
The [Belgian] government of Hubert Pierlot, puppet of the Anglo-American imperialists, was on the verge of collapse last week and was saved only by the failure of the Stalinists and "Socialists" to resign on the issue of disarming and disbanding the former underground fighters of the Resistance Movement.

An order commanding these fighters to surrender their weapons by Nov. 18 was issued by the Pierlot government. The two Stalinist members of the government, Dr. Albert Marteaux and Raymond Dispy, supported by the "left-wing socialist" Ferdinand de Many, protested against the order but continued to cling to their posts when Pierlot refused to rescind or modify it.

It is one thing to "order" the disarming of the workers, quite another to enforce it. The workers have resolutely refused to surrender their arms or disband their formations.

The crisis therefore continues. As the *N.Y. Times* correspondent in Brussels significantly reports, "a wave of unrest is expected to cross Belgium now that the Leftist underground organizations are on their own".

*from Pathfinder*



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Edited by Doug Jenness

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## New openings to defend Cuba

If there is one thing the November 12 March on Washington indicated, it's that thousands of young people are repelled by the U.S. government's attempts to strangle Cuba, distrust what they read in the big-business press about the Caribbean nation, and are eager to find out the truth. Many of these youth are attracted to the example of Cuba's socialist revolution. The same is true of numerous workers and farmers, particularly those engaged in struggle.

The participation of hundreds of young people in the march of 3,000 against Washington's anti-Cuba policies demonstrated the effectiveness of such public protests in drawing new forces into this fight.

The success of the November 12 march can now be translated into building a host of upcoming activities in defense of the Cuban revolution. One is the January 6-20 international youth brigade, which dozens of people have already signed up for, including 50 at the Washington march. Now is the time to follow up on those who asked for more information, securing initial payments, getting campus newspaper credentials for the trip, and raising funds. Seeing revolutionary Cuba with their own eyes, discussing politics with Cuban workers and youth, and getting the chance to return home and report on these experiences is something many youth will be excited about.

The March-April tour of Cuban youth leader Rogelio Polanco on U.S. campuses offers another opportunity to crack Washington's information embargo. Polanco, who took part in the mass mobilizations last August in Havana in support of the revolution, will be able to explain firsthand the determined response of Cuban workers and

students to the giant challenges they face today. Tour organizers are urging supporters to rapidly obtain letters of invitation from a broad range of academic figures and organizations. University speaking engagements can also be set up. These immediate steps are needed to allow time for launching a broad public campaign to win a visa if one is delayed by U.S. authorities. The tightening of travel restrictions by the Clinton administration gives greater importance to such preparations.

Other activities in defense of the Cuban revolution in the coming months, including report-back meetings for participants in the upcoming World Solidarity Conference in Havana, will offer further openings to broaden the fight for a visa for Polanco.

Cuba is in the news again as the Clinton administration tries to extricate itself from the problems it created by confining tens of thousands of Cubans under abysmal conditions at its naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba. More and more protests by the Cuban detainees are being reported. The White House, given its lack of other attractive options, has now indicated it may grant entry to a third of the 24,000 Cubans being held, mainly children and their parents. But as the exclusion of Cuba from a December continental summit in Miami shows, the Clinton administration will continue to press Washington's 35-year-long campaign to destroy the Cuban revolution.

The youth brigade, the tour of a Cuban youth leader in the United States, and other such activities will be effective vehicles to educate about the socialist revolution that continues to defy imperialism only 90 miles from U.S. shores.

## Airline safety takes a nosedive

"When it comes to safety, we are well within the mean range," scoffed USAir Chairman Seth Schofield at claims that the airline may be putting a higher premium on saving money than the lives of its passengers. But safety is so questionable on the nation's sixth-largest airline that even major big-business newspapers are expressing concern. "US SCAir" blared a recent front-page headline in the *New York Post*.

A two-page feature on the airline's troubles in the November 13 *New York Times* describes an airline that eliminates needed safety checks, forces workers to cut corners, falsifies reports, and tries to cover up for mistakes before the government gets a hold of the data.

USAir and cooperative government officials claim that the company's safety problems are just a string of "bad luck" and there is nothing to be concerned about. It "could have happened to anybody," says Anthony Broderick of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about USAir's five major airline disasters since 1989. But the point is it didn't. While not every accident can be avoided, USAir's cost-cutting frenzy is certain to produce future airline disasters.

In their drive to put profits before safety USAir has relied on the friendly aid of U.S. government agencies that are supposed to be the watchdogs of the airline industry. Lapdogs might be a more appropriate term. When USAir decided to switch engines that became "tired" from long-haul flights and use them for shorter

flights, the FAA willingly obliged. This unsafe practice enables the company to save millions of dollars in annual maintenance costs.

Like other airlines USAir is in financial trouble. The company is carrying a debt load of \$2 billion and is losing \$2 million more a day. Management's drive to cut costs and get back to profitability is putting intense pressure on workers to shave safety procedures. In at least one incident that saw the light of day, a USAir maintenance supervisor signed off on a plane with a faulty stall-warning system. In sworn testimony he pointed to the financial condition of the airline as a reason for delaying the repair work.

USAir's response to the Flight 427 tragedy outside Pittsburgh, which killed all 132 people on board the plane, has been to cover up and then turn to the workers for more wage and work rule concessions to help the company become profitable.

Union members at USAir already took a steep round of concessions less than two years ago. At that time the unions began to put up a fight and won the backing of other airline workers. In their fight against company blackmail this time around, USAir workers deserve and will need stronger backing from the union movement.

Workers in the airline industry are the guardians of safety, and a fighting union movement can help beat back the profit drive and government collusion that is at the root of airline disasters.

## Crimes of Kennedy and Clinton

President Bill Clinton made a bad choice when he picked William Doherty as his new ambassador to Guyana. The appointment embarrassed Washington when it put an unwanted spotlight on the U.S. government's sordid history of overthrowing elected governments it doesn't like. In this case it was the Kennedy administration's successful effort in the early 1960s to destabilize and topple the government of Cheddi Jagan, who today again happens to be Guyana's president. It turns out Doherty was a key figure in Kennedy's CIA operation, a fact well known in that Caribbean country but less so elsewhere. Kennedy deemed Jagan "too leftist" although he was the most popular leader in Guyana.

This is a good reminder of the true record of the Kennedy presidency. Despite efforts by the big-business media and Hollywood to prettify him as a man of peace seeking to avoid war against Vietnam and Cuba, Kennedy's was one of the most aggressive U.S. administrations in postwar history.

Only months before sending its operation in Guyana into full swing, the Kennedy administration organized the invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs by an army of counterrevolutionary exiles. They were defeated within 72 hours by Cuban workers and farmers. The same president imposed the trade embargo against Cuba that seven subsequent U.S. presidents have maintained. Kennedy also launched several unsuccessful attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and other leaders of the revolution. And as a good protector of U.S. billionaire interests, Kennedy began the large-scale escalation of

the murderous war against the people of Vietnam.

If Clinton styles himself as a follower of Kennedy, he has a point. The Clinton administration too has distinguished itself as one of the most warmongering presidencies — from NATO bombing runs over Yugoslavia, to the invasions of Somalia and Haiti, to bombing and threatening a new invasion of Iraq. Clinton has tightened the embargo against Cuba and launched provocations against the island.

Because such crimes are not popular among workers and farmers, the U.S. rulers are compelled to cover them up and increasingly carry out actions behind the backs of the population, as they did in the war on Iraq. To this day, the "civilized" gentlemen in the White House and Pentagon refuse to reveal the casualties in the final 48 hours of that massacre, in which the U.S. forces slaughtered tens of thousands of Iraqi farmers and workers who were fleeing the battlefield.

Such cover-ups and government secrecy are standard operating procedure for all imperialist governments. This is brought home by the current revelations in Canada on the torture and murder of a Somali youth by Canadian troops during the imperialist invasion of that African country.

Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara had an apt term for the capitalist rulers of the United States and Canada and their counterparts around the world. He called them an "international of crime." Only working people have the interest and the capacity to govern society for the benefit of humanity and forge an international of solidarity.

## USAir gives up safety for profits

Continued from front page

tion (FAA) inspectors found more than 40 deficiencies last year in USAir's flight operations and training programs for its more than 5,000 pilots. One outrage involved falsely certifying that a captain had completed training to avoid violent down drafts, known as wind shear.

The *Times* also reported that USAir violated federal regulations by permitting a plane to fly for 13 days without repairs to a dented and cracked wing flap. In another case, a maintenance supervisor admitted to trying to save the company money by allowing a plane to fly even though a mandatory stall-warning system was inoperative. The supervisor, who said he felt pressure because of the company's poor financial situation, was suspended for 10 days.

### Unique engine maintenance program

Barron's, the leading Wall Street weekly, also published an article September 19 expressing concern with USAir's safety procedures. The piece written by Cheryl Strauss Einhorn highlighted a unique maintenance program implemented with the agreement of the FAA specifically to save USAir cash. Under a maintenance routine approved only for USAir earlier this year, the airline's long-haul engines are allowed to be switched over to short-haul flights without an overhaul.

USAir's flight manager Paul Sturpe told Barron's that this new maintenance program "enables us to save millions of dollars in annual maintenance costs, saving USAir \$500,000 per airplane per year, in part because we keep the engine in use as opposed to bringing it in the maintenance shop."

"As our engines got older and no longer met criteria to operate at a higher power," Sturpe continued, "they still met the criteria to operate at the lower power settings without a maintenance change, thus, we decided to continue to use them and to either take them off the airplanes that they had been put on and put them on an aircraft that required the engine to run at a lower level or, at times, to just make wiring changes on an aircraft."

USAir flight 427, which crashed outside Pittsburgh, was part of the FAA-approved maintenance program, although Sturpe said to the best of his knowledge the engines had not been transferred from another aircraft.

Stung by the criticisms of its safety record and procedures, USAir released a statement to the press after the *New York Times* article appeared. "The Federal Aviation Agency has kept USAir under intense scrutiny for almost the past two years," the company responded. "The FAA knows no shades of gray when it comes to airline safety. An airline either operates safely, or it is not allowed to fly. We operate safely, and we will continue to do so."

While there is more and more concern that USAir's skimping on safety procedures is putting lives in danger, the Clinton administration continues to give the airline its backing. The USAir accident in Charlotte, North Carolina, in July 1994, which killed 37 people, prompted a delegation of senior FAA officials to travel to Pittsburgh to meet with company executives August 29. Anthony Broderick, associate administrator for regulation at the FAA, said the session had been productive and friendly. "Their safety problems are not linked to their financial problems," Broderick said. "I think they've had a real string of bad luck here and a number of these crashes are not their fault and could have happened to anybody." Ten days after the meeting the USAir Flight 427 crashed near Pittsburgh.

### Billion dollar solution

An article in *USAir News* October 24, which is distributed to its employees, points to the company's "billion dollar solution" for survival. The company's program is a mix of attacks on the workforce and cutbacks in maintenance and safety that are certain to produce future airline disasters.

"USAir must reduce its costs to survive in an extremely competitive environment," [USAir Chairman and Chief Executive Seth] Schofield said. Meanwhile, efforts to lower costs by increasing efficiency and productivity continue. The maintenance department, through its Profit Improvement Program, has identified \$130 million in expense reductions over the next two years. The flight operations Continuous Improvement Program team has presented a list of opportunities—some of which would require changes in labor contracts — that could save the company over \$100 million annually if successfully implemented."

USAir, which is more than \$2 billion in debt and losing \$2 million a day, wants \$500 million annually in lower labor-costs. Officials of the Air Line Pilots Association, Association of Flight Attendants, International Association of Machinists, and Transport Workers Union are presently negotiating with USAir over the company's demands. Workers at the airline already gave the company a raft of wage and benefit concessions two years ago.

# Canada pulp mill walkout halts production

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute short items as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles.

Some 800 workers marched out of the Macmillian Bloedel pulp

An industry-wide agreement covering 12,000 paper and pulp workers in British Columbia expired several months ago. The paper bosses decided to break with the 45-year tradition of negotiating an industrywide agreement.

## N.Y. State nursing home workers on strike

In Syracuse, New York, some 420 members of Service Employ-

and welfare plans of 3 percent a year. It includes provisions protecting seniority, allowances for part-time work for editorial employees with young children, and pay raises for librarians. The contract also calls for safety studies and includes pledges that printing presses will be operated by union members only.

All strikers will return to work without threat of discipline, except those convicted of a felony or those who "committed acts with the intent of causing bodily harm or serious property damage." The employers and police labeled the strike violent in their campaign to undercut support for the striking workers. Teamsters negotiators, representing truck drivers, agreed to allow the elimination of 150 drivers jobs through attrition. Los Angeles truckers protest police brutality

Seventy truck drivers, organized by the Latin American Truckers Association (LATA), organized a truck caravan November 7 that wound through Los Angeles in a protest against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187.

Along with banners opposing the ballot initiative were many declaring "Stop police brutality in Santa Fe yards," and "No Justice, No Trains."

A common grievance of truckers is the arrogant and sometimes brutal behavior of the police employed by the Santa Fe railroad in its yards. Every day thousands of truckers, a majority of them Chicanos and Mexicans, go in and out of Santa Fe's intermodal container yard where containers are transported by truck up from the harbor and then placed on trains for shipment east.

On September 9, trucker Ruderis Lazo was beaten to the ground by three Santa Fe cops after a dispute over the sticker on his truck.



Militant/Dan Grant  
Some 1,000 unionists and local supporters rally outside Macmillian Bloedel pulp mill to protest union busting.

Lazo was dealt more than 20 blows from fists and clubs, handcuffed, and taken into a room where he received another beating. Lazo is now charged with attacking three cops.

LATA is also pressing the Santa Fe for contract negotiations with the independent truckers.

## Alaska Airlines demands new concessions

Alaska Airlines is demanding fresh concessions from 2,300 ticket and reservation sales agents, clerks, and office workers. The workers, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Air Transport District 143, are under separate contract agreements from airline mechanics, ramp, and fleet service workers.

The workers have been working with no contract for close to two and a half years. In 1986 airline

management forced through a concession contract slashing wages and benefits by 24.9 percent.

According to a leaflet produced by the IAM negotiating committee, Alaska management's demands now include: eliminating cost of living increases; increased payments to health insurance; establishing a new, lower "C" pay scale; and restricting the use of accrued sick leave.

Negotiations between the union and the company are under way.

Contributors to this week's column include Paul Kouri, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 2952 in Vancouver, British Columbia; Buddy Diotte in Syracuse, New York; Craig Honts, member of the United Transportation Union in Los Angeles; and Chris Rayson, member of IAM Local 2202 at Alaska Airlines in Seattle.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

mill in Port Alberni, British Columbia, November 10. Chanting "Rat free B.C." to the tune of Solidarity Forever, they were greeted by construction unionists who have been picketing the site since September 30 to protest the company's decision to break with a 45-year closed-shop policy.

Sixty five members of the British Columbia and Yukon Building Trades have been arrested thus far for attempting to block TNL Construction and its employees, members of the employer dominated Canadian Iron, Steel and Industrial Workers Union, from crossing their picket lines to build a new paper mill adjacent to existing facilities. On October 27, 1,000 unionists and their supporters rallied in front of the mill to protest the company's union busting efforts.

With Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union Local 592 now on strike, all production and construction has come to a halt at the mill, and TNL has been forced to halt its operations for the moment. TNL has asked for an injunction limiting the number of pickets and for police escorts to cross picket lines.

ees International Union Local 200 are on strike against Loretto Geriatric Center. The walkout began August 6. Loretto demands the union accept a new, inferior health plan and is engaging in unfair labor practices against union members.

In an attempt to break the strike, Loretto hired untrained scabs to replace the unionists. Strikers have publicly exposed the undignified and inhuman conditions to which management and scabs have subjected the residents of the nursing home. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration also cited the nursing home with numerous safety and health violations.

## S.F. newspaper unions reach agreement

Representatives of eight striking unions representing workers and journalists at the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner reached tentative agreements with the owners of both papers November 12. Machinists, printers, and paper handlers have ratified the contract.

The pact reportedly includes an average increase in wages, pension

## LETTERS

### Islamic fundamentalism

I was disappointed when I read the article "Attacks on Muslim youth in France spark debate" in the November 14 issue of the *Militant*. The *Militant* seems to be in the position of resisting against racism, but is unfortunately falling into the line of defending "religious fascism," i.e., Islamic fundamentalism.

Let me remind you that, as a rigorous example, on July 2, 1993, in Turkey, they burned 37 people — most of them socialists. Also let me remind you that the Islamic fundamentalists are not against imperialism and capitalism (remember Afghanistan!). In general, capitalist governments back them to smash the socialist movement, as is the obvious case in Turkey. So, if you believe that you are a socialist movement, you have to revise your approach against Islamic fundamentalism.

Lastly, I will raise the following question: Would you defend Neo-Nazis if the French government tried to bar them for the purpose of dividing, weakening, and repressing the struggles of youth and workers? I know that you would say no! The conclusion is the following: Neo-Nazis (in the west) = Islamic Fundamentalists (in the East) = Fascism.

I.H.Y.  
London, England

### Solidarity, not competition

At a rally in Cleveland of over 1,000 on October 26, Ralph Nader added his voice to the "America First" campaign pitting workers in the United States against those in other countries. He was the featured speaker at a rally sponsored

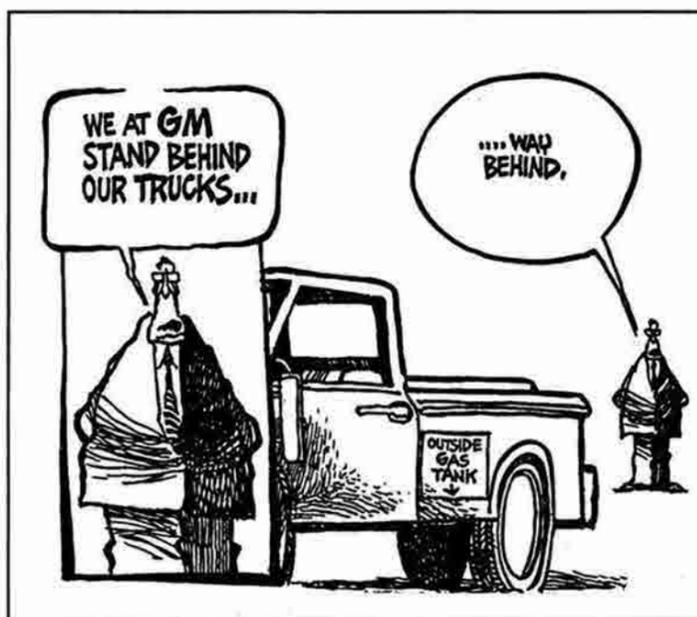
by the United Auto Workers, Steelworkers union, and others, to oppose the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

He adopted a populist stance, pointing to big business's domination of the government, in order to present his super-patriotic themes.

Condemning GATT as "NAFTA on steroids," Nader complained that Congressional approval of GATT would result in

in the UN." Nader wants to convince workers that we have something to fear if Washington does not dominate world affairs.

GATT, like NAFTA before it, is the product of the bargaining between billionaire rivals around the world. Workers have no interest taking sides with one group or another in the debate among bankers and businessmen over how to best protect their profits.



"giving up our sovereignty."

Nader's central concern was that the U.S. government might not be able to control the World Trade Organization set up by GATT. "Our laws would be open to attack from foreign countries." Countries like "Luxembourg, Singapore, and Cuba would have an equal vote with us," he complained, "unlike the veto we have

Adopting the "Stop GATT" campaign promoted by Nader and the union officialdom will only disarm us as we fight to build links with workers in other countries. Solidarity, not competition, should be our attitude toward workers in Luxembourg, Singapore, and Cuba.

Michael Italie  
Cleveland, Ohio

### Anti-Klan protest

Over 500 anti-Klan marchers participated in a counter-demonstration to a KKK rally in Annapolis, Maryland, October 29. The energetic marchers, about half of whom were Black, and a third of whom were young people, chanted "Jobs yes, racism no, the KKK has got to go."

The demonstrators wound their way from a historical slave debarkation site in downtown Annapolis to the First Baptist Church, one mile away, where a rally took place.

A short distance away, 35 Ku Klux Klansmen gathered for a rally at the foot of the state capitol building. There they were confronted by about 200 people not attending the rally, who shouted down the KKK speakers.

"We wanted to show that Annapolis is not a fertile ground for the Klan to till the soil and plant their seeds," said Robert Eaves, a central organizer of the Multicultural March for Racial Harmony. "We put this march together so that Annapolis could come out and show in force what we stand for."

Ken Morgan  
Baltimore, Maryland

### Debate on Cuba

Some 100 people attended a November 3 debate on Cuba at Cleveland State University sponsored by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. On one side, U.S. State Department official Dennis Hays defended the U.S. government's policy against Cuba and the U.S. economic embargo against that country.

On the other side, Rafael Dausá

Despedes from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., defended his country's socialist revolution. He emphasized that Cuba is prepared to negotiate with the United States, but with no preconditions, and insisted on respect for Cuba's sovereignty, independence, and self-determination.

Professor Gloria Still of Capital University praised the achievements of the revolution and urged those in the audience to actively defend it.

A discussion period of more than one hour followed. The audience bombarded Hays with critical comments and questions; there was not one hostile comment aimed at Dausá. This was particularly striking because the audience was much broader than activists in solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

Three Cubans spoke in defense of the revolution, a Nicaraguan criticized U.S. interference in his country's internal affairs. A veteran of the Freedom to Travel campaign demanded to know what action the government was going to take against her, a participant in the upcoming Pastors for Peace caravan asked the same thing, and a woman wanted to know how Hays could justify prohibiting U.S. citizens from traveling to Cuba.

Tony Prince  
Cleveland, Ohio

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.

## Strikers in France occupy plants

BY DEREK JEFFERS

BELFORT, France — Thousands of workers have occupied GEC-Alsthom factories in a fight that began October 24. They are demanding a monthly wage increase of \$283 (US\$1 = FF5), a minimum monthly wage of \$1,415, and contracts for all temporary workers.

Some 7,600 people, mostly production workers, make turbines and alternators, and assemble high-speed trains at the Belfort work site of the Franco-British conglomerate. Workers also struck the GEC-Alsthom transformer plant of 700 in Petit-Quevilly, near Rouen, on November 10 around the same demands. Actions have also taken place at other Alsthom plants, which together employ 34,000 workers in France.

The strikes began at the GEC-Alsthom gas turbine plant in Bourgne, some nine miles from here. On October 21, the General Labor Confederation (CGT), one of the main union federations in France, distributed a leaflet informing the 600 workers there that profits in the gas turbine division were up 25 percent for the fiscal year, reaching \$41.5 million, whereas the general wage increase this year was only 1.4 percent, about \$19 a month for most production workers. This provoked a lot of discussion on the shop floor. On October 24 a group of 60 young non-unionized workers blocked the factory gates. A strike vote was taken with 64 percent of all workers approving the occupation of the plant.

The walkout spread to the 1,200 gas turbine workers at the Belfort complex, who joined the strike the next day. On November 2, at a general assembly of 1,600 workers from the entire Belfort site, workers voted to occupy the plant and set up pickets at all gates. Since then all the factories



Militant/Derek Jeffers  
GEC-Alsthom workers march in December 1993 to demand shorter workweek. Current strike for pay raise is reinforced by several other labor struggles now unfolding.

here have been shut down. Management has been forced to move to a hotel in the city. Negotiations resumed November 13.

Workers continue to occupy the plants in Belfort and Bourgne, with a couple of hundred signing up for different shifts, through the day, night, weekends, and holidays. The three unions involved also called for a regional demonstration of support for Alsthom workers November 15. Storekeepers in Belfort have been asked to close their shops on this day. In addition, work stoppages are being organized in other

GEC-Alsthom plants throughout France.

At the November 7 daily meeting of 4,000 workers in front of the Belfort factories, Joel Niess spoke in the name of all three union federations involved in the strike. He said management had made tentative offers covering gas turbine division workers, but demanded the gates be opened before negotiations could continue. "But the gates," Niess replied, "are open all year and nothing is ever negotiated, nothing goes forward, everything goes backwards in spite of the gates being

opened."

At the Bourgne plant, management has made two attempts to set back the factory occupation. On November 4, the plant director, a judicial officer, and about 100 executives and engineers came to the plant gate. The strike pickets allowed them in, but they soon left. When they tried to repeat the same operation on November 7 they were drenched at the gate with fire hoses and compelled to leave.

GEC-Alsthom requested a court order against the factory occupations at a court hearing November 10 and for sentences against 11 workers, mostly union representatives, for blocking the gates. A decision is expected on November 17.

Young strike pickets report that two workers have died in accidents this year at the Belfort complex, one just five days before the strike broke out. Increases in orders have led to some new hiring, but often without regular contracts, and under more pressure from supervisors.

As he helped to guard the main gate at the Belfort factories, Didier, who knew one of the two workers killed by a factory accident, said, "This is a movement that started with the rank and file." In Bourgne, Danny, a 21-year-old striker, expressed the determination of many. "I know that I am going to fight this through to the finish," he said.

### Wage strikes spread

The Alsthom strike is one of a number of conflicts that have erupted in the last weeks for wage increases. Thousands of Alsthom workers cheered in front of the Belfort plants on the morning of November 9 as union leaders read them the details of the victory by Pechiney workers at the aluminum plant in Dunkerque. This plant — touted as a new "model" by French bosses — was opened three years ago in an area very hard hit by unemployment, which averages nearly 13 percent in France. The plant accounts for half of the total aluminum produced in France — 215,000 tons a year.

Workers there, fed up with continuing sacrifices demanded by Pechiney, saw their chance for action as aluminum prices on the world market reached a four-year high last month. They struck for two weeks, demanding a \$190 monthly wage increase. Their action paralyzed the plant, costing the company \$189,000 a day. While occupying the plant, they continued to produce unpure aluminum in order to avoid damaging the ovens. The November 8 agreement provides for monthly wage hikes of \$95-\$115 for production workers, as well as two to four extra vacation days each year.

In Chatellerault in the center of France, 600 workers have been on strike since October 17, demanding a \$95 monthly wage increase and the hiring of 50 new workers at Sochata, a subsidiary of the SNECMA airplane engine group. Three subsidiaries of Air France also recently went on strike. At Rabewerk, in Colmar, which manufactures agricultural machinery, workers struck and obtained an increase in their annual bonus.

In the longest strike ever at Radio France, the national union representing hundreds of journalists won significant wage increases, which will bring them parity with those in the state-run television system within 18 months. Radio France also agreed to pay strikers' wages for 15 of their 16 days on strike.

The current fights, which take place at the opening of an upturn in the economic cycle, reinforce each other. The national daily *Libération* titled one article on the victory in Dunkerque: "Pechiney galvanizes the strikers at Alsthom." The Alsthom strike is regularly featured on national television news programs.

Derek Jeffers is a member of the CGT and works at the GEC-Alsthom Transformer plant in St. Ouen. Nat London also contributed to this article.

## More facts revealed in torture, murder of Somali youth by Canadian soldiers

BY COLIN MCKAY

TORONTO — More of the truth has recently come out about the torture and murder of a Somali youth, Shidane Arone, by Canadian soldiers during the invasion of Somalia in 1993.

Graphic photographs were published in many of Canada's major newspapers November 8. The photographs, taken by soldiers as mementos, show a member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment posing with the bloodied and near-dead Somali youth. The photographs have been the most powerful evidence so far in this incident, which happened in March 1993. They have sparked debate among working people about the real nature of so-called peacekeeping missions by Canada's armed forces. Nineteen months and six court-martials later, a clear picture has emerged of what happened to Arone at the hands of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, one of the Canadian army's elite units.

On the evening of March 16, Canadian

troops arrested Arone for being near the Airborne's encampment in the town of Belet Huen and accused him of being a "looter." He was taken to the encampment's prison, known as the Pit, blindfolded, and tied up.

Earlier, a senior officer had authorized soldiers to abuse prisoners they had captured and make them an example for other Somalis accused of looting. Over a period of four hours Arone, who was 16 years old and weighed 120 pounds, was punched in the jaw, kicked with heavy military boots, struck with a baton, burned on the soles of his feet with a cigar, and smashed in the shins with a metal bar. The photographs show how the youth was covered in blood, his nose smashed, his lips split and swollen. As he was beaten, his torturers forced him to scream "Canada, Canada, Canada."

During the torture and beating of Arone, at least 15 soldiers looked on. Some 80 heard his screams of pain and agony, in-

cluding many senior officers. None bothered to intervene, and by midnight, Arone was dead.

Though six court-martials have taken place so far, only two soldiers have been convicted of any crime. Master Cpl. Clayton Matchee was judged not fit for trial after being found hanging in his prison cell. He suffered severe brain damage. Matchee is accused of committing most of the torture and the media has campaigned to place most of the blame on him. Pvt. Elvin Brown, who admitted to torturing Arone, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to five years in military prison. Sgt. Mark Boland was convicted of negligent performance of duty while guarding a prisoner and given a 90-day sentence. He is now back in the Airborne regiment.

### Officer receives reprimand

In contrast, Maj. Anthony Seward, the officer who issued the order to abuse prisoners, and was present at the torture and murder, received only a reprimand. Lt. Col. Carol Mathieu was acquitted of all involvement in the torture and murder of Arone, even though he ordered soldiers to shoot "looters" if they tried to run away.

"It is true the officer corps looks like it is being favored," said a soldier from the Airborne to the *Toronto Sun*. He added, "You'll get bad apples wherever you go."

Hoping to restore some lost confidence in Ottawa's intervention in Somalia, a *Globe and Mail* editorial called for a parliamentary inquiry into the events, saying, "Canada's honor is at stake." The paper's editors expressed concern that the convictions would be viewed as too mild and might discredit the military justice system. The editorial carefully avoided mention of the fact that the minister of defense at the time did not admit that the event actually happened until two weeks after Arone's torture and killing.

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