

Statewide university strike near in NY —see page 4

Storm of student anger greets budget cuts



Hostos College: a liberated school running smoothly

By SHARON SHELTON-
NEW YORK, March 30—Last Thursday, in response to threats by the Board of Higher Education (BHE) to close Hostos Community College in the South Bronx, a coalition of students, workers, and community residents seized the school, fired the administration, and announced their determination to keep the school open.

"We are trying to build a whole new type of institution now. It's a pretty historical takeover in the sense that classes are being run," Ramon Jimenez, a professor who has been actively involved in the struggle to save Hostos, told Workers World on campus today.

Not only are classes running on schedule, but participants in the takeover have maintained security, set up daycare, organized new classes, and carried out the administration of the college. Throughout the school's spotless halls, signs on the walls proclaiming "We say Hostos stays!", "Hell no, we won't close," and "Kibbee asesino" evidence the takeover. Everywhere, clusters of students and community members can be seen fervently discussing ways their new institution can fight the closing.

"Everyone's helping in one way or another," Jimenez explained. "The whole school is being mobilized to save the school."

RACIST KIBBEE PLAN SPARKED ACTION

The takeover was prompted by a BHE announcement last Wednesday that it had informally agreed to accept the bulk of a plan by City University Chancellor Robert J. Kibbee which included calling for closing several CUNY facilities (including Hostos), ending open admissions, and imposing tuition.

Members of the Community Coalition to Save Hostos, which initiated the takeover, said the new institution would focus much of its energies into fighting the Kibbee plan and the racist closing of Hostos, which the BHE is trying to disguise as a "merger" with Bronx Community College. Hostos is the

only bilingual college on the East Coast and has a 98 percent Black and Latin student population.

Jimenez said that the new institution would designate one day each week to be a "Day of Struggle." This week, a march through the community and protests at the banks for profiteering off CUNY cutbacks have been scheduled for Thursday.

Other changes to be made in the structure of the school include setting up departmental committees, run by students, professors, and community residents who will supervise the departments; creating a new curriculum to serve the needs of the people; changing teaching methods that alienate students; and beginning education of the teachers.

A CENTER FOR ORGANIZING AGAINST CUTS

"This new institution will be one which will be utilized by the community for its struggle," a widely distributed circular published by the coalition announced. "The struggle of the community is our struggle, our struggle is their struggle. For this reason we must work together, and use Hostos as a center for organizing our response to the crisis that threatens to wipe us out."

A tour through the seized building housing Hostos today revealed how much the college has already changed in the past six days. The fired president's office, for example, has been changed into a daycare center for the children of Hostos workers, students, and members of the community. Library workers who have continued to come to work throughout the takeover smiled, waved, and gave visitors the clenched fist salute of struggle. Teachers confirmed that classrooms have been well attended.

"The school right now belongs to the people," Henry Adames, a Hostos student, said proudly in a voice hoarse from days of discussion.

NY pickets support Palestine general strike



NEW YORK, March 30—Today at noon, 100 Palestinians, Arabs, and Americans marched in front of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations in support of the people's uprising and the general strike in occupied Palestine. The demonstration demanded the end of Israeli terror against the Palestinian people and the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Middle

East. It was called by a coalition of all progressive Arab groups in New York, including the Organization of Arab Students and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. Among the U.S. groups supporting the demonstration were the Palestine Support Committee and Youth Against War & Fascism.

WW photo: G. Dunkel

THE STRUGGLE IN BRIEF

Rally held for Menominee Warriors

MILWAUKEE, March 21—Over 125 people attended a rally today at St. Michael's Church in solidarity with the Menominee Warriors and the struggles of the Menominee people.

On April 1, the four remaining Warriors go on trial to face charges stemming from the January 1975 occupation of the Alexian Brothers Novitiate, an empty monastery the Menominee people wanted to convert into a hospital. Since the trial is being held in Juneau, Wis., far away from all supporters, the Menominee Solidarity Committee in Milwaukee wants to mobilize as many people as possible to attend the trial and show the government that it cannot isolate and intimidate the Warriors or their supporters.

At the rally, Gordon Dixie, head of the Menominee Peoples Committee, spoke of the various problems confronting the Menominees in their restoration to tribal status. Gwen White spoke of the formation of the organization Drums, saying that while it initially led the struggle of the

Menominees in the late 1960s to get back their stolen land, it was then taken over by Aida Deer, present head of the "Menominee Restoration Committee." Drums is nonexistent today for all practical purposes.

A slide show illustrated the poverty conditions the Menominees are forced to live under, and it highlighted aspects of the reviving Menominee culture.

The key speaker, Mike Sturdevant, one of the Menominee Warriors facing 90 years imprisonment, spoke of the death of John Waubanasum and Arlin Pamenet one month ago. Both men were Menominees murdered by Sheriff "Paddo" Fish and the struggle continues to this day to get Fish out of office and tried for murder.

Sturdevant ended the rally by simply asking people to help, to support him and his people. Contributions can be made to the Milwaukee Solidarity Committee, 820 E. Center Street, Milwaukee, Wis. 53212 or the Menominee Legal Defense-Offense Committee, P.O. Box 431, Keshena, Wis. 54135.

March against racism set for Boston

BOSTON, March 29—"We appeal to humanity, to students, to trade unionists, to educators, to parents, and to elected officials. Just as you helped us win in Selma in 1965, march with us on April 24 in Boston!"

With these words, Reverend William S. Weeks, president of the Inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston, called for all progressive people to join in a national march to defend desegregation and stop the racist attacks here in Boston on April 24. He spoke at a press conference today called by the Coalition for the April 24 March on Boston chaired by Maceo Dixon, National Coordinator of the National Student Coalition Against Racism and Project Director for the April 24 march.

Also speaking at the conference was Tom Turner, president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO Council and National Board Member of the NAACP. Brother Turner called on all of labor to support the Black school children of Boston, particularly in light of the racist "National March on Washington" called jointly by ROAR and the so-called "Labor United Against Busing" of Louisville, Ky., for the same date to call for a constitutional amendment against busing—which really

means a rollback of all Black rights

A representative of Mosque No. 11 of the Nation of Islam was also present and stated that Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad, Chief Minister of the Nation of Islam, supports all freedom fighters fighting for justice and truth.

Prominent endorsers of the April 24 action include Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy, Hank Aaron, Ossie Davis, Congresspeople Yvonne Burke, Ronald V. Dellums, Charles Diggs, Parren Mitchell, and John Rangel; Mary Goode, Doris Bunte, and Bob Fortes of the Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus; Ellen Jackson of Freedom House, Ruth Batson of the Crisis Intervention Team, Rexford Weng, vice-president of the Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; East Boston People Against Racism; National Lawyers Guild; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Youth Against War & Fascism; and the National Student Coalition Against Racism.

The April 24 coalition has called this march at a time when racist violence against Black people is escalating in this city. Anti-racist forces must mobilize April 24 to change the climate in the city and put a stop to racist violence.



In Boston, members of the Third World Workers Association demand that Black workers be hired for construction projects in the Black community.

Black construction workers in Boston win court battle in fight for jobs

By J. FRANK

BOSTON, March 22—Today over 150 people from the oppressed community jammed the courtroom at Roxbury District Court for the trial of 26 construction workers of color.

The 26 members of the Third World Workers Association had been arrested and charged with trespassing at the construction site of a new city high school in the Black community when they refused to let the predominantly white work crews enter the site. The workers are demanding at least equal numbers of workers of color on job sites in Boston's communities of color, and 30 percent of the jobs in the rest of the city.

WIN ACQUITTAL

The workers' lawyers made it abundantly clear in court that the workers had every right to take the actions they did. The two witnesses from Perini (the racist construction company at the site) and the police officer who testified admitted that "no one knew whether or not" the workers had a right to be there.

The law the workers were arrested on didn't apply. It was shown by the defense that the racist group ROAR had disrupted construction sites and not a person was arrested. As one worker said, "We believe it is Perini who should be in jail for misuse of public funds. We can't understand how he can build an integrated school in our community without full integration of the work crews."

In acquitting the workers, the Black judge pointed to the importance of First Amendment free speech rights in this case. However, he completely contradicted himself by warning the workers that if they did it again, they would be dealt with severely. In a statement to the press outside, the workers said they would

definitely be back to picket.

CONFRONT
MAYOR'S OFFICE

The workers then formed a car caravan to City Hall and staged a militant occupation of the mayor's office to press their demands. For an hour and a half they pressed to speak directly with the mayor.

They carried out a heated debate with Director of Affirmative Action Kegler. They told him he was standing between them and the mayor, and demanded to know his position on the demands for 50 percent of the jobs. To his vacuous and evasive statements about effective enforcement and sanctions, they shouted "Bullshit!" and asked why nothing had been done so far. When he said community liaison committees would have to make the plans, they confronted him with his failure to convene these committees for the last year.

The workers pressed the fact that there was no community input on either hiring or planning for construction projects in the communities of color. They also pointed out that hiring halls were saying, "We can't find workers of color," while the city-funded Third World Jobs Clearing House had been unable to place a single Third World construction worker on a job. Kegler's only answer to these points was, "We are not a placement agency."

The workers obtained a commitment from Kegler to put out revised percentage standards for the Perini job within a week and to arrange a meeting with Mayor White on March 31. They have called a demonstration for that day at 10:00 at City Hall.

This just and militant struggle is a powerful frontal attack on racism in Boston, the national focus of the right-wing racist mobilization. It deserves the full support of all progressive people who love justice.

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DECLINE AND FALL



SOAK THE POOR

The New York Times, March 28:

"Buenos Aires—This was the first weekend after the military coup, and the collapse of the three-year-old Peronist government gave a special glow to the sumptuous dinner parties that still make upper-class Argentines the social lions of Latin America.

"The guests began to arrive only around 11 last night at Mario's 10-room apartment in the Palermo district overlooking the city's most elegant causeway. It was dawn before the last of the 26 revelers straggled out of the marble-lined lobby.

"My husband is so happy over the coup that he's going to pay taxes for the first time

ever," said the wife of an agricultural-machinery contractor.

"That's right," her husband said. "All my friends are saying the same thing. We really want to see this Government succeed. If these military fellows are as serious as they look we'll get serious also."

"Tax evasion is widespread in Argentina. The former government acknowledged last year that nonpayment of personal income taxes had reached more than 70 percent. Many people here say that was an optimistic estimate."

WHY FISH PICKED APPLES

New York Post, March 4:

"America and apples are synonymous," says Rep. Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R-N.Y.). So

it's only natural that the apple be designated as the nation's Bicentennial fruit.

"Fish, whose district is one of the largest apple-growing areas in the country, also noted that adoption of his resolution might help promote apple sales."

WHILE THE CITIES
BEG FOR MONEY

Buffalo Evening News, March 3:

"The government has hidden \$4 billion in new currency inside a \$7 million dugout in a Virginia mountain as a hedge against any nuclear attack that would wipe out the nation's money supply.

"...the Federal Reserve Board is now spending about \$1.8 million a year, to maintain and guard the hoard inside Pony Mountain near Culpeper, Va. At least

\$650,000 is spent each year to maintain an elaborate telecommunications system at Pony Mountain which keeps the Federal Reserve and the nation's big banks in daily touch."

The bomb-shelter also has room for 400 people, who presumably can spend the rest of their lives underground spending the \$4 billion. Was Dr. Strangelove really so far out?

NOT IF WE
CAN HELP IT

Buffalo Courier-Express, March 7:

"Foreign capital is 'pouring in' to buy U.S. companies because foreign investors are 'convinced the United States will be the last country to go socialistic,' said Royal Little, Textron Inc. founder. Textron owns Bell Aerospace and Spencer Kellogg."

Palestinians demand return of homeland

General strike of Arab workers challenges Israeli rule

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

NEW YORK, March 31—Posing the greatest challenge to the racist Israeli settler state since its creation in 1948, a general strike of Palestinians on March 30 led to widespread fighting and brutal repression by the Zionist occupiers.

At least six Palestinians were killed as soldiers opened fire on crowds repeatedly during the day. Among the dead was a 14-year-old boy. Hundreds were brutally and sadistically beaten and an estimated 300 strikers were arrested for daring to demand an end to the occupation of their

homeland.

In addition to protests on the occupied West Bank, scene of militant demonstrations for the past two months, yesterday's strike encompassed Palestinians in the Galilee area and throughout Israel.

MORE LAND TO BE STOLEN

The wave of protests against Israeli rule was sparked by a multi-million dollar land expropriation plan in which 6 million acres of Palestinian-owned land are to be seized and used for new Jewish settlements.

In Nazareth, where a Palestinian member of the Israeli Communist Party was elected mayor but resigned in protest of police repression, racist border police went on a rampage. The mayor's home was attacked by the police, who beat family members and friends and ransacked the house in full view of TV cameras.

"The strike succeeded nonetheless," said Toufik Zayad, the former mayor, commenting on the police violence. "It was a clear-cut protest against both the land expropriations and discrimination that has been carried out against the Israeli Arab for 27 years."

Massive solidarity rallies for the strike were held in Lebanon, where Palestinians together with the Lebanese leftist movement are on the verge of a decisive military victory against the pro-imperialist forces in that country.

PALESTINIAN UNITY

In a show of unity, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) chairman George Habash appeared together to address a rally in Beirut in solidarity with the general strike.

A bloc of Palestinian

organizations, most importantly the PFLP, had previously broken from the executive board of the PLO over the question of negotiations with Israel. These differences appear to have been resolved by the uprising within Israel and the defeat of the Phalangist attempt to liquidate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

U.S. imperialism's former stable allies in Israel and Lebanon have now become the main battlefields for the liberation struggle in the Middle East. At the head of this struggle are the Palestinian people, who are fighting for a progressive, anti-imperialist solution to the social and religious divisions imposed by imperialism and Zionism.

Marines poised off Lebanon

NEW YORK, March 31—U.S. Defense Department spokesmen announced yesterday that seven U.S. warships carrying 1,700 Marines have been ordered into a "holding pattern" off the coast of Lebanon in an obvious threat to the victorious anti-imperialist forces now in control of the overwhelming majority of the country.

U.S. Marines invaded and occupied Lebanon during the Civil War of 1958 in order to prevent the pro-imperialist wealthy rulers from being overthrown.

This new and open military provocation brought a quick response from the Palestinian resistance movement.

"America says its fleet can arrive on these shores within 24 hours," Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat told a massive rally in Beirut. "I say we are now within range of the 6th Fleet. But they are welcome and we will sink them in Lebanon as they were sunk in Vietnam."



Truncheon-wielding Israeli soldiers seize Arab youth by the hair during strike in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli army opened fire on the strikers, killing six, arresting some 300, and assaulting hundreds more for daring to demand an end to the occupation of their homeland.

Democratic mask discarded by capitalists

Argentine military launches assault on labor movement

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, March 30—The ultra-reactionary military junta now ruling Argentina has declared an out-and-out program favoring greater capitalist exploitation of Argentine labor. The generals are also calling for a parallel increase in the level of political repression.

The junta, led by self-appointed Lieutenant General Jorge Videla, has outlawed all political parties, banned all trade union activities, and placed public employees under military control.

The headquarters of the largest unions, including those of the auto and metal workers, are presently occupied by the junta's troops. Many union leaders have been arrested or are in hiding. According to the April 5 issue of Newsweek, in Buenos Aires "several labor militants were shot to death when soldiers invaded union offices to round up an estimated 800 leftists and Peronists."

STRENGTH OF WORKING CLASS

However, the military leaders will think twice before trying a Chile-style, bloodbath against the

Argentine working class. The workers are highly organized and class conscious, and are backed by strong guerrilla movements of the Montoneros (the left Peronists) and the Revolutionary Army of the People (ERP), which appear to be still intact since the coup last week.

In fact, the guerrillas have attacked the junta's forces in the last few days. One police sergeant was killed by guerrilla machine gun fire in the city of La Plata, the capital of Buenos Aires Province. And just yesterday, a high-ranking federal police official was shot in broad daylight in a suburb of Buenos Aires.

MILLIONAIRES IMPOSE AUSTERITY ON WORKERS

The junta's economic plans to attack the workers' standard of living have been made obvious by Videla's appointment of Jose Martinez de Hoz as Minister of Economy. Martinez is a member of one of Argentina's wealthiest families, head of the largest private steel company in Argentina, and chairman of the Argentine Business Council. The word "austerity" is already being used by Martinez, whose

credentials as a capitalist hard-liner appear to be impeccable. According to a New York Times dispatch from Buenos Aires yesterday, Martinez "is well known to bankers in the United States and Europe."

These imperialist bankers, who are all too eager to reinvest in Argentina, were elated to hear that Martinez' first action was to declare that from now on wages would be decreed by the junta while price controls initiated under Mrs. Peron's "wage-price freeze" would be lifted.

The economic crisis which brought down the government was not the work of Isabela Peron or her right-wing Peronist colleagues alone. Argentina's rate of inflation soared to 335 percent in 1975 and as much as 700 percent in early 1976. This has brought Argentina close to default on international loans of more than \$1 billion.

RULING CLASS ECONOMIC SABOTAGE

The real perpetrators of this economic chaos are the Argentine capitalists, who, by their own admission, sabotaged the economy under the Peron regimes of the last

three years. Many businessmen have openly boasted of their refusal to pay taxes to the Peron governments, thereby creating critical revenue shortages and forcing the government to produce more money by the mere printing of it—fueling the fires of an already rampant rate of inflation.

Other capitalists have admitted to stockpiling their products. They have sold their goods across Argentina's borders or within local black markets at much higher prices, or have held off selling their products anticipating that a more pro-business regime would take over and allow prices to move up more freely.

And even if Argentine businessmen could show no actual profit on the sale of their goods, they have been able to rake in large profits merely by borrowing money from the government banks at relatively low interest rates. The payments on these loans have been made with money eventually worth only one-quarter what it was worth at the time of borrowing.

These hideous and concealed practices of capitalist economic sabotage are all too familiar. Some

of the same economic "dirty tricks" helped pave the way to the overthrow of the Allende government in Chile less than three years ago.

But Juan and Isabela Peron were much more conciliatory to capitalist interests than Allende ever was. Nevertheless, this did not prevent the Argentine bourgeoisie from seeking greater exploitation and profits than it could extract under the Peron administration.

Where the Perons failed, in the eyes of the capitalists of Argentina, was in not being able to hold down the economic demands of the powerful trade unions and in not crushing the ever-growing guerrilla movement and radical political parties. But the new capitalist regime in Buenos Aires, along with its backers in Washington and Wall Street (which recognized Videla's junta with unprecedented speed), by overthrowing the Peronist cover for capitalist rule, may only be hastening the day when the Argentine proletariat rises and overthrows the hated capitalist system altogether.

'Health care is a right, not a privilege'

Thousands protest hospital closing in N.Y.

By L. VOLPE
NEW YORK, March 26—Thousands marched today in the Lower East Side to try to stop service cuts at Gouverneur Hospital, one of the latest budget cuts of the Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB). This demonstration followed yesterday's demo in Harlem where thousands protested the closing of Sydenham Hospital. Gouverneur serves a community of mostly poor and working Black, Latin, Asian and white people.

The march assembled at Gouverneur and marched through the Chinese community. Those who couldn't walk were bused to the rally site, a park across the street from a building housing the departments of health, hospitals, and sanitation.

As the crowd marched through the community, many people joined. One group of Chinese senior citizens, who depend on the hospital for their very existence, joined in proudly carrying their banners and chanting. Banners and chants were in Chinese, Spanish, and English and the entire march gave one a feeling of solidarity among the older and young, Black, Latin, Asian, and white, women and men.

The march stopped at the rally site to hear community speakers. Inside the City building across the street, hearings were going on to decide the fate of the hospital. The building was heavily guarded and few were let in. But as the marchers approached the rally site, a line of police on motorscooters blocked entrance to the street between the City building and the speakers' platform.

This didn't discourage the front line of marchers, mostly women, who broke through the police line

and led the other marchers into the street as the police "scooted" to the curb in bewilderment.

HEALTH CARE A RIGHT

As the rally progressed, one speaker after another demanded that the community's hospital be kept open. One Asian man said, "There is no such thing as freedom and democracy in this country. . . . Health care is a right, not a privilege."

Others attacked Mayor Beame and the EFCB. "The people who

voted to close Gouverneur don't live here. We'll die here."

The speakers—hospital workers, senior citizens, trade unionists, and high school students—all expressed the need for unity between the working people of the community and of the city to fight the service cuts by the EFCB dictators.

One older woman who is a hospital volunteer worker said, "Suppose I get a heart attack, where do I go? The hospital is only three or four years old. I go for

therapy for both my legs. We want the hospital kept open for the people. We fought very hard to get it and I don't want that hospital closed for no reason in the world."

Inside the hearing room militant speakers echoed their neighbors outside. Many pointed out that the hospitals being closed are in oppressed communities.

After three and a half hours of militant demonstrating and hours of testimony by community spokespeople at the hearing, the banker EFCB members surely got

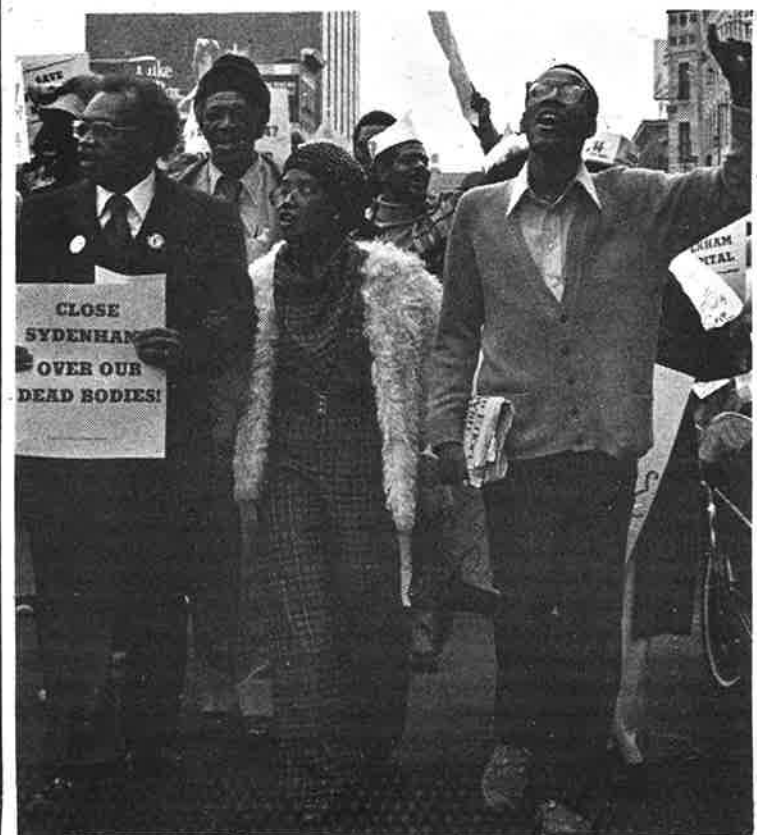
the message. As a hospital worker said, "The closing of Gouverneur is a death sentence for the people of the Lower East Side."

The only unfortunate incident happened as the rally began to break up. Two or three not clearly defined groups got into a brief physical confrontation over who was allowed to speak at the platform. Luckily, most of the people had left before this developed, but the 200 or so people who remained left frustrated with this sectarian fighting.



3,500 march to save Sydenham Hospital

NEW YORK, March 25—At least 3,500 people marched down 125th Street today to protest the projected closing of Sydenham Hospital in Harlem. The march was called by the Coalition to Save Sydenham and included contingents from District Council 37, AFSCME; Local 144, SEIU; the Nursing Students Association; Public School 144; Public School 102; and St. Thomas Moore Parochial School. At a rally following the march, speakers pointed out that closing Sydenham would not help New York City's financial crisis since the hospital does not operate at a significant loss, but it would be a deadly blow to the Black and poor people of Harlem who depend on it for their lives and health. Most of the speakers felt that closing Sydenham was a deliberate attack on the Black community.



State Univ. students and workers fighting mad over cutbacks

BUFFALO, Mar. 25—Over the past two weeks, students at New York State universities have displayed extreme anger over projected budget cuts. Literally thousands of students and university workers have taken part in protest actions against the proposed cutbacks, and the possibility of a statewide student strike is great.

Over \$52 million of the total amount of state funding allocated for the State University of New York (SUNY) in the 1975-76 school year will be cut from the SUNY budget in 1976-77. Particularly hardest hit are minority and women students and faculty.

GAINS OF BLACKS AND WOMEN THREATENED

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the heroic struggles waged by Blacks and the women's liberation movement won many concessions from the ruling class in the field of education. The right to have Black history classes and women's studies courses was won as the result of many lengthy struggles. More minority faculty and service workers were also hired at the universities during this time.

However, as the state lowers the boom on the educational system as a whole, it is feared that these hard-fought gains will be taken away unless there is a fight to defend them.

Just yesterday, the State University Board of Trustees approved a \$100 increase in dormitory rates. The increase for graduate students is 2 to 3 times greater. Hundreds of faculty positions and university service workers' jobs will also be eliminated as a result of the budget cuts, as the list of cutbacks grows.

Coalitions to fight the cutbacks have been organized on at least eight state university campuses and encompass a broad spectrum of organizations.

On Thursday, March 18, an effective one-day boycott of classes was staged at Purchase University to protest the cutbacks. On that same day, over 200 people took control of the Purchase administration building. The actions of the students received the enthusiastic support and participation of many rank-and-file CSEA workers whose jobs are on the line. The administration building continues to be held.

On Friday, March 19, students at Fredonia University took direct action in opposition to the cutbacks by seizing the administration building there as well. The students controlled the building up to March 21, when police entered the building and arrested 26 students. These 26 students now face suspension from school in addition to criminal charges.

Amnesty for these students is one of many demands being put forward at Fredonia in opposition to the cutbacks.

Students at Buffalo State, Binghamton, and New Paltz universities have also seized administrative buildings as a means of emphasizing their demands against the cutbacks.

On Tuesday, March 23, an administrative building was held for three hours at the University of Buffalo (UB) by over 250 students who left only after university president Robert J. Ketter threatened to call in city police to "kick the students' asses out of the building." The Coalition to Fight the Cutbacks is now in the process of organizing for a strike vote at UB to come up in the near future.

Also at UB, the Graduate Student Employees Union has been fighting for almost two years for union recognition. With the prospect of layoffs and the other cutbacks, their organizing drive has gained momentum, and today about 125 members and supporters picketed the administration building to demand President Ketter recognize the union.

As more and more cutbacks are announced the heated anger of students and workers is reaching the boiling point. These current struggles are just a small part of what is yet to come.

Atlanta cops arrest UFW supporters for picketing a store too effectively

By L. DUJACK

ATLANTA, Ga., March 25—It was a nice day, Saturday. The weather was great and the farmworker boycott picket line was very effective and spirited.

And then, just as the picketing was about to end, Atlanta police under the command of a young strikebreaker in uniform, G.M. Johnson, arrested seven adult and two children picketers.

The arrests were on request of the owner of the Superior Food Store, which was being picketed for its refusal to take Sunmaid and Sunsweet products off the shelves. The farmworkers have called for a boycott of these products.

POLICE PUT PROFITS OVER PEOPLE

The storeowner had complained that the picketers were turning people away from his store (which is the idea of a boycott picket line). So the police, faithful to their role as protectors of businessmen's profits, simply arrested the picketers. Phony city and state charges of "blocking traffic" and "interference with the lawful occupation of another" were levied against the seven, while the two children (ages 4 and 5) were threatened with being sent to a juvenile detention home.

Additional charges of "creating a turmoil" and "obscenity in the presence of ladies and children" (those arrested) that were lodged against some of the picketers for protesting their illegal arrest were later dropped as citywide support for the seven began to be felt.

Taken to Atlanta City Jail, the picketers sang union songs and distributed farmworker support literature to other prisoners. The bail bond of \$300 each was raised from area supporters in about three hours. But the last of the seven was not released until 12 hours after the arrest as jail officials kept up petty harassment against the demonstrators and even threatened to arrest the wife of one of the seven for trying to get her husband released.

The next day, a large picket line of close to 50 people returned to the store. They re-enacted the "crime" of the day before, and effectively persuaded sympathetic shoppers to go elsewhere until Superior removes UFW-boycotted products from its shelves.

Once again, the store owner called the police. But this time, under the spotlight of TV cameras and the pressure of mushrooming support for the farmworkers, the Atlanta scab police squad decided

against more arrests.

The store owner told a reporter he had lost several thousand dollars already from the picketing. A wiser store owner in Atlanta just two weeks ago gave in to UFW demands to remove Sunsweet and Sunmaid after only 45 minutes of picketing.

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN OF FARMWORKERS

The picketing here in Atlanta is part of a nationwide campaign by the United Farmworkers, AFL-CIO, to win the right to union elections and effective representation for California farmworkers. Earlier this year, the newly-established California Agricultural Labor Relations Board was gutted by a denial of operating expenses from the California legislature after the UFW had won a majority of elections conducted by the board.

The agency was denied funds after an intensive lobbying effort by large agribusiness owners and growers. At the top of the list of those lobbyists are Sunsweet and Sunmaid. The national boycott is aimed at persuading some of the growers to drop their opposition to funds for union elections in the fields. A few weeks ago, the Sunkist Company reversed its position and endorsed the desired appropriations bill after only the first 48 hours of a national UFW selective boycott against the company.

But Sunsweet and Sunmaid are as hard-headed and anti-labor as the Atlanta owner of Superior Foods, although their capacity to resist is greater. In both cases, however, support has grown tremendously for the UFW

demands. In Atlanta, Coretta Scott King, widow of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congressman Andrew Young, area union members, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia have offered their support.

Preliminary hearings for the seven arrested will be held on April 5, and the picket lines will continue, demanding: "Drop the false charges;" "Don't buy and don't eat, Sunmaid or Sunsweet;" and "Boycott scab Gallo wine, grapes, and lettuce."

As bankers vow to enforce wage freeze

NYC transit workers vote to strike

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

NEW YORK, March 29—An overflow crowd of 5,000 transit workers voted unanimously yesterday to strike on Thursday unless their union's contract demands are met.

The Transport Workers Union (TWU), which closed down New York City with a 12-day walkout in 1966, is now the latest guinea pig for the union-busting experiments of the banker-dominated Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB). The unelected EFCB has final say over all city workers' contracts and all city finances.

TWU President Matthew Guinan had requested that the EFCB participate in the contract negotiations between the union and the Transit Authority. The EFCB arrogantly refused this request, saying, "We have nothing to offer



Just before seven picketers were arrested, empty parking lot at a normally busy hour shows effectiveness of the UFW picket line called to protest Superior's selling of scab products.

the negotiations. There is no money, period."

Heavy pressure is being brought to bear on the union to surrender to the banker-imposed wage freeze on all city workers. Mayor Abraham Beame has warned the transit workers not to strike the city's subways and buses, saying, "An orderly settlement of this dispute is essential to the city's economic recovery."

Explaining why she voted to strike, a young woman steward told Workers World outside the union meeting at Manhattan Center, "It's not us who want to strike but the EFCB and the Transit Authority are out for blood. They're telling us it's against the law to get a wage increase to keep up with inflation, but it's not against the law to raise the subway fare to 50 cents. It's not against the law to lay people off, or close

hospitals or schools. Well, we're just going to have to shut this city down for a while and teach these bankers and politicians a lesson."

Another transit worker, a steward from the Track Department, told Workers World, "As soon as the contract talks started being discussed, the supervisors initiated speedups on the job. They weren't called that and there weren't directives or orders sent down to the foremen, but we're doing more work with fewer people and our jobs are becoming increasingly dangerous. Our contract rights are under constant attack as far as safety and working conditions."

This speedup by the Transit Authority has enabled them to squeeze \$80 million in "productivity gains" out of the workers in the past year alone, TA negotiators have admitted.

Long, bitter struggle

Buffalo Forge strike ends in compromise

By BRAD KANE

BUFFALO, March 25—After over six months on strike, 1,000 production workers at the Buffalo Forge Co. have voted March 14 to return to work. The vote followed a calculated campaign by the company (vigorously echoed by the local media) to get the workers to accept what Buffalo Forge termed its "final offer" before moving its plants out of Buffalo. These threats to "run away" undoubtedly influenced the workers' decision to accept the company offer and end the strike.

However, under the new contract, Buffalo Forge workers, who are greatly underpaid for their jobs skills, will receive a \$1.27 an hour increase over the next two-and-a-half years, some improved working conditions, and other small gains.

Throughout the strike, the workers had remained strong and unified. They had kept up daily picket lines at the Buffalo Forge Co. since Sept. 29.

In the early period of the strike, these pickets were essential to shut

down the operations of the company and turn away trucks bringing supplies to the plant.

COMPANY THREATENS TO LEAVE CITY

Throughout the strike, the company had threatened many times to leave the city and "escape" what company officials called "intolerable" demands. The threat to move seemed a great possibility to the strikers, as Buffalo Forge also has operations in Virginia, Mexico, and elsewhere in Latin America. These plants are not yet unionized and wages are considerably lower.

In the week prior to the contract vote, these threats were stepped up, especially in the bourgeois press where editorials and feature articles were tremendously pro-company and encouraged the strikers to abandon the strike and return to work at any cost. Not once did the newspapers ever direct the company to meet the demands of the strikers, which the company was more than able to meet. Buffalo Forge Company's earnings have more than tripled over the past year despite lower production due to this strike, and an earlier strike by office workers fighting for union recognition.

EARLIER STRIKE OF OFFICE WORKERS

For the duration of that earlier strike, the 370 mostly women office

workers conducted some of the most militant picket lines in recent Buffalo labor history. They were forced time and time again to defend themselves from the strike-breaking cops, who made 30 arrests during the strike. The climate of fear engendered by these strong-arm tactics finally led to the defeat of this union-organizing drive.

However, labor solidarity behind those arrested has been strong. Some of these arrests came in April of last year when members of many different unions, including AFSCME, TWUA, Operating Engineers, IBEW, and many USW locals rallied together with the Buffalo Forge strikers in a tremendous display of worker solidarity. As the orderly picket was ending, the police charged the line and arrested Joe Benbeneck, a staff representative from USW, Tom Comar of IBEW, and Bill Covington, a taxi driver.

On March 9, 1976, Comar and Covington were in effect cleared of all charges. Just minutes before their trial was to begin, the court offered to drop two misdemeanors if the defendants would accept a violation, which carries no jail term, probation, or fine.

In the 11 months since the incident occurred, support and legal funds had been raised through collections at plant gates, a benefit social, and union donations.



UFW leader John Mackowiak is interviewed while protestors continue picket line in defiance of the previous day's arrests.

WW photo: Tom Gardner

90 percent of E. Timor remains liberated

FRETILIN wages heroic resistance

By SHARON AYLING

NEW YORK, March 29—For six months now, the oppressed East Timorese people have been waging a tremendous war of resistance against a well-armed invading army from Indonesia.

Indonesia's generals, acting as policemen for U.S. investment in Southeast Asia, are using 30,000 troops against this tiny former Portuguese colony located in the Lesser Sunda Islands chain. Napalm, bullets, and bombs have killed tens of thousands of villagers.

Yet the invasion has failed. Ninety percent of this newly independent nation remains in the hands of the liberation forces, aided by local people using spears, traps, and poisoned arrows.

The resistance continues strong to this day, despite Indonesia's complete blockade of Timor. No journalists, health workers, or aid organizations have been allowed in to see the results of the Indonesian occupation. Despite a UN resolution last December calling for Indonesia to withdraw its troops, the illegal occupation continues under the phony cover of a "provisional government" established by the Indonesians.

ATTEMPT TO QUELL REVOLUTION

Indonesia's motive for the invasion is to snuff out East Timor's profoundly revolutionary development since Portuguese colonial rule began to disintegrate in April 1974. The masses of people have surged into political consciousness and activity and have begun to reorganize their lives.

For 446 years Portuguese colonialism had kept the East Timorese people one of the most oppressed and underdeveloped in the world. Ninety-five percent of

the people were subsistence farmers, with no access to medical assistance or education, and averaging a per capita income of only \$40 a year. Before the war, East Timor had one or two operable factories. More than 90 percent of its export earnings came from coffee, 40 percent of which was controlled by one Portuguese company.

The Portuguese colonizers had levied a poll tax on all male adults, requiring payment in labor if the farmers could not generate cash.

FORMATION OF FRETILIN

On Sept. 12, 1974, Fretilin, the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, was formed, representing all pro-independence forces. Since August 1975, when the Portuguese Administration withdrew from Timor, Fretilin has been the de facto government. On Nov. 28, 1975, it unilaterally declared independence from Portugal—and within ten days Indonesia launched a massive invasion (with the approval of its patron, U.S. imperialism, whose head of state Gerald Ford had just concluded a visit with Indonesian President Suharto).

Fretilin's program and activities were based on a rejection of colonialism, for a government truly representing the people, for an end to corruption and racial discrimination, and for an economy planned to meet the needs of their oppressed people.

Under the leadership of Fretilin, land was seized from landlords, new land for growing crops was opened up, and production cooperatives were established. People's shops for the distribution of food and other basic necessities were set up, to undercut the exploitative practices of the Por-

tuguese and settlers from Taiwan.

FRETILIN BRINGS EDUCATION TO PEOPLE

Under Portuguese rule, education had been available only at Portuguese missionary schools—for a price, where the Portuguese language, history, and culture were taught. Children who dared to speak their native language were beaten.

Fretilin initiated the National Union of Timorese Students. In addition to carrying out political, social, and cultural activities within the schools, the union started an ambitious project of collecting local history and folklore to encourage the decolonization of education and culture. Later, these students were sent to the countryside to form the backbone of Fretilin's literacy program, which now operates 200 centers. The local language, Tetum, just recently transcribed for the first time, is being taught at these centers.

These terribly impoverished people had an infant mortality rate of 50 percent; the tuberculosis rate was the highest in the world. When the Portuguese governor and administration left in August 1975, they took with them the only remaining doctor.

Fretilin has set up health and hygiene centers in the countryside, providing the people with medical assistance for the first time, although they have all along been in desperate need of medical supplies. Since the war started, Indonesia has refused to allow the International Red Cross into the country.

WOMEN ORGANIZE

The Popular Organization of East Timorese Women (OPMT) has organized women and encourages them to participate in literacy projects, agriculture, and political life. It also aims to

counteract the subservient role which traditional Timorese society and Portuguese colonialism had both given to women. Women are now playing an active part in defending their revolution.

Adelina Tilman, a member of OPMT who is presently in New York to participate in the upcoming UN Security Council debate on Indonesian aggression, told this reporter that "the women of East Timor, among the worst victimized by the Indonesian aggression, have joined the war of resistance. Up to 1,000 women fight along the border lines." The first Indonesian prisoner was captured by a woman soldier along the border between Indonesian (west) Timor and East Timor.

While East Timor was a Portuguese colony, and the people were under cruel oppression, the pro-U.S. military junta in Jakarta did not consider East Timor to be a threat to the "stability" of the area. But now, with its goals of national liberation and social justice, East Timor is a "Cuba" in their midst.

East Timor's example is considered extremely dangerous by the CIA-installed generals, who rule over 130 million Indonesian people by a system of terror that funnels the vast wealth of their country into the hands of the generals themselves and their imperialist (mainly U.S.) masters, while the millions literally starve.

Indonesia's massive invasion reflects the U.S. corporate rulers' desperate fear of popular revolution anywhere on the globe. But, as Jose Ramos Horta, East Timor's Minister for External Relations and Information, declared at the Dec. 22, 1975 UN Security Council meeting, "We must bear in mind the lessons of Indochina, the lessons of the heroic people of Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe. The waves of national liberation will go forward and the people of East Timor will win."

Suharto troops still in Timor

NEW YORK, March 31—Jose Ramos Horta, Minister of External Relations and Information of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, said today that Indonesia is continuing to send troops to East Timor, despite its statements that it has begun a withdrawal.

According to a statement by Mr. Horta, who is in New York to speak at an upcoming UN Security Council debate on Timor, 5,000 Indonesian troop replacements have been introduced into Timor in the last two weeks to take the place of men injured and killed in the fighting there.

The UN Security Council voted unanimously in December to condemn Indonesia for the invasion and called on it to withdraw its troops. In recent weeks, the Indonesian government has claimed to have begun at least a partial withdrawal.

But Mr. Horta's information, which was relayed from the Fretilin command post in the liberated areas of Timor, shows that the statements from Jakarta are but another attempt to deceive the world about the true state of affairs in Timor.



Fretilin organized a people's army, Indonesian invaders.

Committee c against invas

NEW YORK, March 30—Next week, the Timor Defense Committee will hold a demonstration at the United Nations, 42nd St. and 1st Ave., against the brutal U.S.-backed Indonesian war currently being waged against the people of East Timor.

The protest activity has been called for 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 5, at which time it is expected that the UN Security Council will be debating Indonesian intervention in the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

Demonstrators will be demanding the immediate



Villagers arrive at a 20,000 strong rally.



On their way to the Fretilin rally in Dili.



ny, first against the Portuguese colonialists and now against the

calls for protest demo sion of East Timor

removal of all Indonesian troops, an end to the genocidal war against East Timor, freedom for 100,000 Indonesian political prisoners, and money for jobs instead of for U.S. aid to Indonesia.

Another demand will be victory to FRETILIN (the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor) under whose leadership independence was declared last November and the democratic republic proclaimed.

Some of the co-sponsoring organizations include the Group of Khmer Residents, Asian Americans for Action, Association

of Vietnamese Patriots in the U.S., Eritreans for Liberation in North America, American Committee on Africa, TAPOL—U.S. Campaign for the Release of Indonesian Political Prisoners, Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF), and Workers World Party.

Another expression of solidarity with the struggle in East Timor against Indonesian aggression took place in Australia with a demonstration of 2,500 people in Darwin and another of 1,000 people in Sidney during a three-day moratorium March 18-20.



ong rally in Dili on May 20, 1975, in support of Fretilin.

Photo: Oliver Strew

1 million Indonesians killed since CIA-led coup of 1965

By JOHN C. OTTO

NEW YORK, March 29—Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor may surprise some. But the massacres that have now been reported in Timor—the Indonesian themselves admit to 60,000 people being killed there, or one-tenth of the population!—sound only too familiar to those who have followed the ruthless history of the Suharto regime, which took power in 1965 and proceeded to carry out one of the bloodiest purges in history.

Before October 1965, the workers and oppressed masses of the large East Asian island nation of Indonesia were growing stronger in number and organization, and bolder in their deeds.

Their bosses were often the large imperialist companies, and it often happened that workers seized holdings like Goodyear Rubber's plantations in Sumatra and demanded that the Sukarno government nationalize them.

There were 3 million members in the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), and 20 million in PKI-influenced trade unions and mass organizations. The PKI had posts in the Sukarno cabinet. The nationalist government itself had challenged imperialism by pulling out of the U.S.-dominated UN and by taking over some of those corporations the workers had seized. There was even talk in 1965 of forming a mass people's militia.

But on October 1 of that year, a group of right-wing army officers with close ties to the U.S. seized power in Djakarta, Indonesia's capital. Their intent was to smash the PKI and the workers' organizations and reopen Indonesia to the imperialist corporations.

BLOODBATH AND REPRESSION

To crush these organizations was no simple task, but the fascist generals and their U.S. backers were willing to unleash a bloodbath of horrendous proportions to do it. The PKI leadership were all killed or jailed, later to be executed. And somewhere between 300,000 and 1 million Indonesian men, women, and children were massacred in the short period between October 1965 and April 1966.

These killings, though aided by groups of religious fanatics and right-wing student organizations, were largely the initiative and the work of the U.S.-backed Indonesian Army.

The New York Times magazine of May 8, 1966 quoted a schoolteacher in a village near Job-jakarta who witnessed some of the killings:

"My students went right out with the army. They pointed out PKI members. The army shot them on the spot along with their whole family; women, children. It was horrible. . ."

Hundreds of high-ranking officers in this army, among them the men who were to become Indonesia's new rulers, had received military training in the U.S. As many recent books and articles on CIA coups around the world have finally admitted, the right-wing military takeover in Indonesia had been carefully prepared by the U.S.

In what was to become a model for later fascist overturns, as in Chile (where the counter-revolution was code-named

"Operation Djakarta"), the army unleashed wanton carnage.

The Guardian of Britain on April 7, 1966, carried this account from Djakarta by Nicholas Turner:

"A traveller who knows the island of Bali well, and speaks the language . . . describes mass executions and the annihilation of village after village in some areas. A consular official in Surabaya accepts a figure of 200,000 for Bali, which has a population of 2 million.

"Estimates of the dead in Sumatra also range around 200,000 and a similar figure for Java is generally regarded as on the low side. When the death tolls for other islands such as Borneo and Sulawesi are added, the total may be upwards of 600,000. Just how many of these are Communists is another question.

"It appears certain that the great majority of the dead were innocent victims of political hysteria. . .

"In some areas, Communist suspects were shot or poisoned, but usually the Moslem youth beheaded its victims with the parang. . . The heads were often impaled on fences and gateposts. . .

"Rivers in many parts of the country were clogged with corpses for weeks. A European resident of Surabaya describes finding bodies washed up by the river on to his back garden."

And terrible repression has continued throughout the ten years of General Suharto's "New Order" in Indonesia.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Perhaps the continued political repression is shown most dramatically in the conditions of Indonesia's political prisoners.

Three hundred thousand were taken prisoner in 1966, for no crime but their beliefs or organizational affiliations. One hundred thousand survive and are still in the prisons, and new prisoners are taken each day. The Indonesian regime itself admits to between 35,000 and 50,000 political prisoners still in detention.

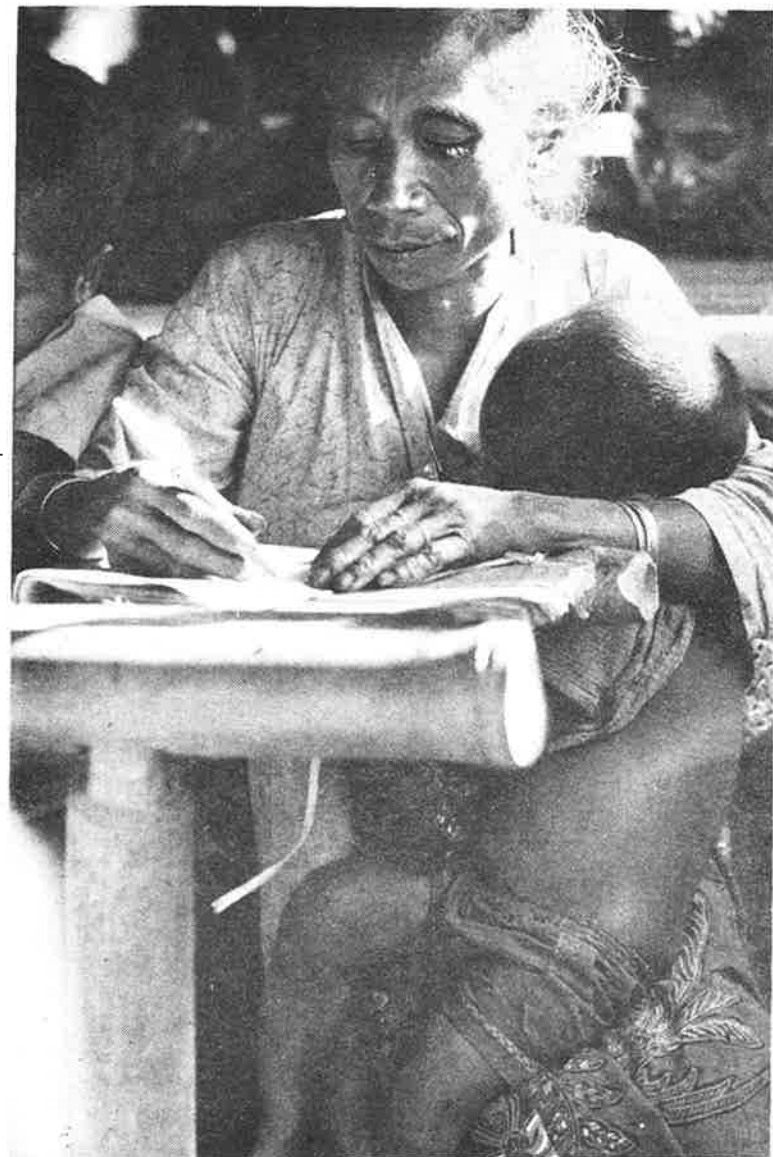
Mrs. Carmel Budiardjo, an ex-prisoner who is a British citizen married to an Indonesian still in Suharto's jails, recently toured the U.S. to talk of her experience and to mobilize support for those who remain. She said that only 300 have ever been given trials. The rest of the hundred thousand remain captives of the military regime, with no rights, only the Bible or Koran available to read, a starvation diet, and subject to torture by their guards.

Many prisoners have been sent to "resettlement camps," says Mrs. Budiardjo, where they are forced to work all day in cruel conditions and on a minimal diet. But new arrests have again crowded the prisons on the main islands, giving evidence of the instability of the regime and its continued reliance on repression and torture.

Substantiation of Mrs. Budiardjo's account of Indonesian prison camp life recently appeared in an Australian paper, The Age, of Melbourne on Jan. 23. The paper had interviewed Mrs. Leonore Ryan, a member of the Australian mission of Amnesty International who had spent three weeks in Indonesia.

"She decided to speak out after publication in 'The Age' this week of a report detailing conditions in Indonesian prisons, in particular the case of a young woman whose

(Continued on page 11)



For the first time, under the leadership of Fretilin, the deeply impoverished masses of East Timor learned to read and write their own language.

EDITORIAL

The right-wing offensive:

1) SUPREME COURT VS. GAY RIGHTS

During the period when Earl Warren was its Chief Justice, the U.S. Supreme Court gained in some quarters an undeserved reputation as a guardian of liberty. It is now apparent that the Warren interlude (which was never as progressive as its enthusiasts claimed) was merely a brief detour from the court's well-beaten path of judicial repression, and that today the majority of the nine judges are solidly in the camp of the extreme right. Their recent decision upholding a Virginia law making homosexual relations between consenting adults in private punishable by five years in prison and a \$1,000 fine is a case in point.

Accepting the Virginia court's twisted reasoning (based in large part on Biblical sanctions preached in Leviticus!), the Supreme Court didn't even permit a legal argument but found against gay people's rights summarily. By thus slandering homosexuals as criminals, this handful of begowned bigots has upheld the anti-gay laws that exist in 36 states and has given the green light for further discrimination against gay people in housing, jobs, and a host of other areas.

This assault on gay men and women is part of a broad reactionary drive organized by this country's wealthy rulers. The Supreme Court has been allotted the task of breaking down some of the progress made by Black people, women, and gays during the progressive resurgence of the 1960s. This "Nixon" court has over the last few months undercut the voting rights bill that was supposed to guarantee Black and Brown Americans equality at the polls; has undermined important provisions of abortion laws won for the protection of women; and has struck down the heart of the famous Miranda decision, an earlier court ruling banning police torture of prisoners in their custody.

2) SECRET POLICE REPRESSION

At the same time, the Supreme Court has ruled that the FBI has a right to infiltrate any people's organization it feels like harassing. Even this court, however, has not been able to find legal justification for the 92 break-ins the FBI now admits it carried out between 1960 and 1966 against the offices of the Socialist Workers Party, the only group whose name the bureau would divulge from among the 17 leftist organizations' headquarters and premises that, these cops confess to have repeatedly robbed.

Particularly monstrous has been the FBI COINTELPRO scheme aimed at derailing the Black liberation struggle. At the time of the COINTELPRO campaign many Black leaders like Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Fred Hampton were murdered. Nor have these political killings stopped. Just last Thursday, Santiago Mari Pesquera, the son of Puerto Rican Socialist Party General Secretary Juan Mari Bras, was assassinated by fascist elements believed connected with the colonial police.

The neanderthal rulings of the Supreme Court, the stepped-up repression of the political police and especially the fast-developing U.S. foreign policy offensive against Cuba, the USSR, and Black freedom fighters in southern Africa, all clearly point to an aggressive shift to the right on the part of the ruling class.

3) THREATS AGAINST USSR AND CUBA

This was clearly shown by Henry Kissinger's March 22 Dallas address menacing Cuba for extending aid to the liberation fighters in Africa. Among imperialist liberals themselves, these threats are being seen as much more serious than mere election propaganda.

Speaking in Congress on March 29, Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield said that Kissinger's Dallas statement "was the product of careful consideration within the executive branch," and that it represents "a calculated, deliberate attempt to intensify the issue until it approaches the proportions of crisis." His remarks, which we believe have not been reported in the media to date, referred tersely to "discussions about the resurrection of a naval blockade against Cuba, the use of remote-controlled laser guided weaponry, or more serious still, direct U.S. troop intervention against the island, or in Africa itself."

Kissinger's (and Ford's) threats must be seen for what they are—attempts to stir up a war fever against the socialist countries, just as the police repression against progressives and oppressed people in the U.S. and Puerto Rico is another facet of this global class struggle in which the poor and working masses are pitted against the big money men and their gunmen.



"Cast your 'bread' over the waters and it will return to you a thousand-fold."
Rockefeller 1 : 2

The smorgasbord connection

How Pentagon strings are pulled

By G. SCHMIDT

NEW YORK, March 26—When top-ranking military officers and Pentagon civilians responsible for testing and procurement of weapon systems and military equipment accept the hospitality of major war contractor corporations (Northrop Aircraft and others) at secluded hunting lodges, it is not simply an aberration of an otherwise laudable, workable system.

There have been enough revelations in the national media and press implicating Presidents, Presidential aides, governors, congressmen, generals, and departmental heads with similar corporation hospitality and gratuities so that a whole pattern emerges of government of, by, and for the major corporations and banks, systematically circumventing U.S. capitalism's own Constitution.

FORD'S "COINCIDENTAL" STRIP-MINE VETO

Hunting lodge hospitality for officers is surely no different, except in scale, from ski lodge hospitality accorded Commander-in-Chief Ford by Richard D. Bass, an owner of extensive coal fields. This multi-millionaire coal mine operator was seeking on behalf of himself and his fellow coal operators a virtual abolition of federal standards for revitalizing strip-mined areas. The fact that shortly after Ford was photographed taking his spills on Aspen slopes those federal standards were set aside, allowing

Ford's "friend" to extract several hundred million dollars in extra profit, was termed "coincidental" by the White House since "the subject never came up" at Bass's ski lodge.

Governors at a recent national governors' conference were "surprised" to learn that all their bills for food, lodging, liquor, and transportation were paid by one or another major corporation interested in selling more products to state bureaucracies or in obtaining special legislation or tax benefits for operations within the states.

News stories of weekend trips for congresspeople and their spouses on private corporate jets to the Bahamian or Caribbean retreats of wealthy industrialists are almost too common for extra comment in the press. Cocktail parties, formal dinners, and luncheons where the elite meet—co-mingling ruling class members, their corporate functionaries, and their government officials—occur so frequently that they are reported more often than not as "society news."

COPS AND ROBBERS

Once in a while, when the event is really too important for just passing reportage, wider coverage is given, such as at the recent annual dinner given for the New York County Sheriff's Jury. This allegedly "social" event of a "traditional," exclusive club of wealthy men, excused from regular jury duty because of their social status, included virtually every political, corporate, and financial luminary in New York—

both state senators, the state comptroller, the governor, New York's mayor and Chase Manhattan Bank chairman David Rockefeller, among others.

Since each guest left the dinner with his prettily wrapped "gift" unopened, can it be that these people are so used to receiving "gifts" that they no longer have any value—or might it be that each person was afraid that the size and value of the "gift" might become public knowledge?

WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE

Is the purpose of these social events the enjoyment of pleasant company? Do public officials attend for the free food and booze?

Hardly! When the news of these events is consistently followed shortly thereafter by other news of new legislation, tax benefits, or relaxation of federal environmental or safety standards, favoring the major corporate and business interests, the "smorgasbord and junket connection" becomes clear. These "freebies," these social events, these vacations are the occasions when the real governing elements—the capitalists—discuss policy, make decisions, and give orders that ultimately redound to every worker's detriment.

All else is window dressing in an attempt to delude the masses and to conceal the real operators in the shadows. A workers' government will throw out the window dressing and put the light of a revolutionary fire on the shadows.

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April 2, 1976

'Not in a thousand years' says diehard racist

Rhodesian regime rejects Black majority rule



Desperate to beef up its security forces with European and American mercenaries, the vastly outnumbered white-supremacist regime of Rhodesia knows that its days are numbered. Here, racist Rhodesian soldiers attack demonstration of Black people demanding majority rule.

By ANDY STAPP

NEW YORK, March 29—The breakdown of negotiations between the white-supremacist Rhodesian government and the small group of African leaders still willing to talk with it has all but guaranteed that majority rule will have to be won in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) by means of armed struggle rather than through diplomacy.

Raving that "I do not believe in black majority rule in Rhodesia—not in a thousand years," Prime Minister Ian Smith has clung to the pledges he made ten years ago when Rhodesia declared independence from England: that only the white settlers, a small minority (278,000 out of a population of 6.1 million) shall run this government, monopolizing for themselves all the good jobs, fertile land, and decent housing, while the African majority must sweat in the service of these European masters.

Such a Nazi super-race doctrine is wholly unacceptable to the Africans. Their answer has been to rename the country Zimbabwe and fight for democracy through majority control.

White-dominated Rhodesia is a virtual fascist state. Meetings of

more than 12 Africans have been banned. It is against the law for a Black person to attempt to enter a white hospital, even for emergency treatment. The Law and Order Maintenance Act forbids statements "likely to excite disaffection against the President." Whipping is a common punishment.

HIGH HOPES FOR FREEDOM

Despite all this suffering, hopes for national liberation have soared since the victories of the people of Mozambique, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau against the Portuguese colonialists and the U.S. neo-colonialists. Today Mozambique is a major base for the 13,000 Zimbabwe guerrillas who are operating against the racist army. According to the New York Times of March 28, the freedom fighters' "arms are mostly of Soviet or Chinese manufacture," including machine guns, assault rifles, grenades, and anti-tank weapons.

The fascist Rhodesian military is equipped with French Mirage fighter planes, British light bombers, and British Centurion tanks. In recent months U.S., West German, South African, Portuguese, and English kill-for-pay mercenaries have flocked to Rhodesia where the racists, outnumbered 20 to 1, are desperate to beef up their security forces.

U.S. THREATS

The U.S. government in particular has made it quite clear that it sides with the fascist regime, despite phony claims to support African majority rule.

On March 24, Secretary of State Kissinger even suggested that the Pentagon might go so far as to invade Cuba if Cuban troops helped the oppressed people of Zimbabwe to overthrow their tormentors.

It is too late in the day, however, for such threats to turn back the freedom struggle, in southern Africa. The masses of near-starving African people in Zimbabwe have seen their cousins across the border in Mozambique throw off the yoke of colonial bondage and are determined at any cost to win freedom and justice for themselves as well.

N.Y. meeting commemorates

Seven years of armed struggle against Marcos

By BRIAN BECKER

NEW YORK, March 27—A rousing celebration was held in Washington Square church tonight in commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the birth of the New People's Army and the subsequent renewal of the armed struggle in the Philippines.

Tonight's event was sponsored by the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and was attended by over 100 supporters of the Filipino people's struggle to free themselves from the U.S.-sponsored dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

The program included popular songs of Filipino resistance, theatrical skits depicting the organizing of the peasants by the New People's Army (NPA) in the struggle against the big landholders, and a number of educational talks which examined the painful conditions of the Filipino masses under the martial law imposed by Marcos in 1972, and the development and growth of the armed struggle in the Philippines.

PEOPLE CAUGHT IN ECONOMIC VISE

In her opening remarks, the chairperson gave an account of the plight of workers and peasants under the Marcos regime. She explained that since 1972 the cost of living has gone up nearly 150 percent while the minimum wage has remained at about one dollar a day for industrial workers and half that for farmworkers. Coupled with the sky-rocketing inflation is an estimated unemployment rate of 25 to 40 percent and an ever-increasing tax burden.

In order to crush the certain resistance of the people to these unbearable conditions, the Marcos regime, backed by the U.S. multinational corporations, has imposed a virtual state of siege on the population for nearly four years. Every vestige of so-called democracy has been wiped out. The Filipino Congress and Supreme Court remain suspended.

Over 20,000 people have been jailed as "undesirables."

GROWTH OF NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY

Although the U.S.-Marcos "rule by terror" policy has been aimed at crushing any and all forms of popular resistance, the growth of the New People's Army and other progressive forces has proven that this policy is far from successful.

A member of the KDP discussed the monumental growth of the NPA since its inception on March 29, 1969. From a handful of approximately 27-30 men seven years ago, the NPA today has grown to more than 10,000 regular, full-time forces.

In 1973, Marcos admitted that in

the 18 provinces where the NPA operated at the time (today in more than 34 provinces), it had 800 barrio organizations and committees and a mass base of 400,000. The speaker also noted that the policy of the NPA was not only to conduct the armed struggle but to organize the peasants by the initiation of agricultural reform programs, land confiscations from the big landlords, and through the creation of mass organizations of women and youth.

Significantly, the NPA now has considerable influence and operations in the Mindanao region. In this area, which is heavily populated by the Muslim national minorities, the NPA cooperates with the Moro National Liberation

Front, which is demanding self-determination for the Muslim minorities.

Messages of solidarity with the Filipino struggle were read by several organizations, including Khmer Residents in the U.S., Youth Against War & Fascism, and the New York Women's School.

This evening's celebration, which so clearly expressed the growth of the Filipino struggle and the undeniable will of the people to achieve their total liberation from U.S. imperialism and its puppets in the Philippines, concluded with the singing of the "International," the anthem of the world's workers and oppressed.

Economic crisis renews struggle in France

Protesting students battle with police in Paris

NEW YORK, March 29—On March 18, angry students and street youth clashed with the Paris police as they tried to march on France's education ministry. Tear gas filled the air of the Left Bank as police scooters chased youth up the side streets.

It was a scene familiar to veterans of the anti-war struggles in the U.S. According to the New York Times, it caused nightmares in wealthier French circles that recalled the May 1968 clashes between students and police which brought 10 million French workers on strike and threatened to topple the de Gaulle government.

According to Le Monde, most of the 10,000 university and high school students protesting reforms in the educational system obeyed the organizers' orders to disperse before colliding with the police. But unemployed youth who joined the march trashed bank and shop windows, along its route—those unemployed youth who are themselves a symptom of the

economic crisis in France.

EMPLOYMENT SINKS, FRANC FLOATS

The unemployed in France have numbered over one million for a while now, with the youth affected most. This economic contraction has hardly slowed down the inflation, and workers who still have their jobs have a smaller real income.

With the franc considered a "weak" currency, the government decided to let it float on the international monetary market (the Italian lire and British pound had both declined in value in the past few months) instead of supporting it at the old rate. By March 21, after the first week floating, it had lost 5.6 percent with respect to the West German mark and 3.8 percent with respect to the dollar.

Monetary speculation and competition between the capitalist states are rapidly wiping out the much-heralded monetary cooperation of last year's Rambouillet meeting.

This international rivalry ex-

ploded in the past months in the wine-growing region in France. French wine farmers protested the import of cheaper Italian wines and demanded governmental action. A clash with the police resulted in armed battles and farmers were killed. While this struggle of the farmers was not completely progressive in its political content, the form it took demonstrated lack of support for the capitalist government.

In the same period civil service workers have held one-day general strikes. Tens of thousands of workers demonstrated in Paris demanding higher wages and jobs for all. These were the first massive workers' demonstrations since the economic downturn.

ELECTORS FACE LEFT

The dissatisfaction with the Giscard government and the turn to the parties of the "union of the left" was also reflected in the local, cantonal elections in early March. Out of 1,863 cantonal offices, the French Socialist Party won 540 seats, a gain of 194, and the French

Communist Party won 249 seats, a gain of 75. The capitalist parties all had large losses. The union of the left, with Mitterand as its presidential candidate, had been narrowly defeated (by less than 1 percent of the votes) in the May 1974 presidential elections.

The pro-imperialist past of the French Socialist Party leaves no doubt that it wouldn't even try to usher in a socialist era if it had an electoral triumph. Nonetheless, this local election, just like the local elections in Italy in June, indicates a leftward turn in the population.

SPRING RECESS

The university and high school students are now on their spring recess. They have promised to renew their struggle against the educational reform when they return to classes. While the issue may seem small compared to the others facing French society, the French ruling class still fears that what starts as a campus skirmish could erupt into another chapter of the class struggle in France.

Rigged elections, 1876-1976

The undemocratic primaries

By V. COPELAND

Instead of discussing the election of 1908 in this article, now would be a good time to say something about the Presidential primaries, since they are inundating the country. They are supposed to be very democratic, since ten or a dozen contestants for the honor of piloting the capitalist ship of state can get into the act instead of just two.

Assuming that this is really so, we would have to say that 1976 is the first year in which the primaries could even pretend to work that way. It is the first year that the majority of delegates to the Democratic and Republican conventions (70 percent) are to be elected by the "people"—that is, by a small percentage of the registered Democrats and Republicans.

In 1972 only 44 percent of the delegates were so elected and in previous years much less. But it should be noted that even in 1976 a contestant who wins 51 percent of all primaries (and there is absolutely no possibility of any individual winning that much in the Democratic race) would still have only 36 percent of the delegates.

The other 15 percent necessary to win the nomination would be chosen in "smoke-filled rooms" at the national convention—the people in those rooms being in constant contact with plushly air conditioned 36-room apartments and Wall Street executive suites.

STILL NO NATIONAL PRIMARY!

The idea of a single national primary was proposed over three-quarters of a century ago, when only one state—Florida—had a Presidential primary (for whites only). The single primary idea was popularized by President Theodore Roosevelt, the capitalist reformer we discussed in our last two installments.

In such a single primary the Democratic and Republican rank and file could presumably choose, among several highly publicized individuals, the actual candidates for the November election.

Such a countrywide primary has never been established in all the ensuing years since it was proposed and it is never likely to be established. For one thing, it goes against the vested interests of a large number of capitalist politicians who might lose some of their power in such an event.

Moreover, the capitalist class itself is by no means sure it wants such a reform. Even with the practical certainty of two true-blue servants of the capitalist class being chosen by such a device, it may be unacceptable because it is a step away from the iron cen-

tralization of capitalist monopoly power. Even the so-called anti-Eastern Establishment capitalists are not so interested in destroying this centralism as in capturing it.

SOME OF THE FLIM-FLAMS

Let us take the case of this year's primaries. In the Republican contest, the incumbent, who always has a tremendous advantage, is somewhat handicapped this time by being a non-elected President in a deeply split party of a deeply split ruling class. But nevertheless, nationally unknown two years ago, he has won five primaries out of six through sheer machine control—and capitalist funds behind him.

The extreme Republican right represented by Ronald Reagan may yet win some more primaries, but the Republican nomination, if things take the usual balloting road, will most probably go to Ford.

In the Democratic primaries the fight seems to be more exciting because there is more uncertainty. But the fact is that a contestant who is unsure of one state or another simply stays out of the campaign in that state, and then on getting 10 or 20 percent of the vote there, claims a "psychological victory." And the capitalist backers of that person have more flexibility at the convention.

Or as in the case of Illinois, one candidate like Jackson can allow another—"Jimmy" Carter in this case—to win the Democratic primary with the hope that in addition to the handful of delegates he, Jackson, came out with, he will get the nearly half the state's delegates that are pledged to Adlai Stevenson, (the 3rd) and are really pledged to Democratic machine boss Richard Daley. These latter delegates will be sold to the highest bidder at the national convention.

WINNERS WHO DIDN'T WIN

Even when there were many less primaries to win, the winners rarely went on to capture the nomination, much less the Presidency. In 1968 Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy won most of the primaries. But McCarthy got shoved out, and Kennedy got shot. Hubert Humphrey won the nomination without winning any primaries at all.

In 1952 the late Senator Estes Kefauver, who had become popular by crusading against the big drug companies on TV, won nearly all the primaries there were. But then-President Truman controlled the Democratic machine and engineered the nomination of Adlai Stevenson (the 2nd) at the convention.

One of the reasons primaries are

supposed to be so much more democratic this year is because corporations are not supposed to give in their own names (they weren't supposed to in 1972 either!) and because of "matching funds" from the U.S. Treasury.

THE PHONY REFORM

The matching funds are a device to make the better-healed candidate more sure to win. To be eligible for matching funds, a prospective candidate has to collect a large sum from each of at least 20 different states, which guarantees that no real newcomer without some big business backing can muscle in for a share of the people's tax money.

Secondly, the matching funds perpetuate and actually deepen the gulf between poorer candidates—or less capitalist-favored candidates—and the richer ones.

Thus, if Candidate A has collected \$100 and Candidate B \$1,000 after getting matching funds, Candidate A has \$200 and Candidate B \$2,000. The second sums are still in proportion but the gulf between them instead of being \$900 is now \$1,800.

The new law requires candidates to spend "only" \$50,000 of their own money and individual contributors to give no more than \$5,000 apiece.

(Continued on page 11)

Get in the struggle with Youth Against War & Fascism and Workers World Party!

Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism are organizing and responsible for many of the struggles you read about in the pages of this paper. These groups are made up of women and men, Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native American, young and old, straight and gay, working, students, and unemployed, who fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

If you would like to find out more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join them in their struggles, contact the branch nearest you from the list below.

ATLANTA—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Georgia 30301
BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 2402 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
BOSTON—Workers World Party, 419 Boylston Street, Room 204, Boston, Mass. 02116, (617) 353-1400
BUFFALO—Workers World Party, 730 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202, (716) 855-3055
CHICAGO—Workers World Party, 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, Illinois 60605.
CLEVELAND—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 2576, East Cleveland, Ohio 44112, 451-9538 or 231-8456
DETROIT—Workers World Party, 229 Gratiot, 3rd floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226
HOUSTON—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Texas 77052
MILWAUKEE—Workers World Party, 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, 224-0422
NEW YORK CITY—Workers World Party, 46 West 21st Street, New York, N.Y. 10010, (212) 255-0352
NORFOLK—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, Virginia 23509, 627-0870
PHILADELPHIA—Youth Against War & Fascism, P.O. Box 9894, Philadelphia, Pa. 19140
RICHMOND—Youth Against War & Fascism, P.O. Box 12132, Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 353-9937
ROCHESTER—Workers World Party, 171 State Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14614 (716) 546-6429
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Workers World Party, 930 F Street, North West, Room 720, Washington, D.C., 20004 (202) 783-7079 (evening)

New pamphlet examines

Gay oppression in history

The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal by Bob McCubbin, World View Publishers; \$1

By CONNIE HARRIS

Perhaps there is no form of oppression so poorly understood as gay oppression. Bourgeois psychologists state that homosexuality is an illness, the courts of law call it a crime, and religious leaders condemn it as a sin.

Because such assertions serve the interests of the bourgeoisie in terms of creating division among the working class—similar to those created along racial and sexual lines—it took a mass movement of gay people to expose such harmful beliefs for the lies that they are. The proud and militant gay women and men of the gay liberation movement have done much to challenge the stereotypes which have been used to oppress them.

Lacking, however, in their efforts to explain the nature of their oppression was a class-conscious approach to the question, a materialist perspective on the roots and history of gay oppression.

That important gap has been

filled with the publication of The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal by Bob McCubbin. The product of several years of research, the book is the first Marxist view of the origin and development of gay oppression. Tracing the history of gay oppression from the beginning of class society to the present day, the author develops the principal theme of the book: that homosexuals have not always been oppressed, and that homosexual oppression (as well as restrictions on all forms of sexuality) originated with the overthrow of primitive, pre-class society, a society characterized by sharing and equality in human relationships; and the rise of class society, with its glaring material and social inequities in all areas of life.

Two aspects of gay oppression are given particular attention: the role of organized religion in the persecution of gay people, and the special function that scapegoating of gays (and all oppressed minorities) serves in a period of capitalist decline. The first is illustrated by the "witch-trials" and the Holy Inquisition initiated by the Catholic Church to crush the

substantial opposition to its increasing power from peasants who clung to the old pagan religions, which included homosexual practices. The second is exemplified by the death of over 200,000 gay people in Nazi Germany's concentration camps.

Just as important as the past of gay oppression is the future of gay liberation. The author's explanation of the class nature of gay oppression points to the only viable means to gay liberation. For if the roots of gay oppression are inextricably linked to the rise of class society, then, just as surely, the liberation of gay people must be wedded to the overthrow of capitalism through socialist revolution.

In order for this to be possible, it is absolutely necessary for heterosexually oriented members of the working class to understand that not only does the preservation of anti-gay prejudices not benefit them, but hurts their class interests.

The careful reading of The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal will do much to advance that understanding.

FOR THE BIRDS...



POLITICAL PRISONERS



State Assembly reimburses Attica murderers

By MOLLY CHARBONEAU

NEW YORK, March 29—In a move which constitutes a flagrant insult to every prisoner in New York State, the State Assembly passed a bill last Thursday to reimburse \$153,000 in legal fees to state troopers and prison guards investigated for their role in the massacre of Attica prisoners and hostages in September 1971.

The State has made clear all along that, although every scrap of evidence—from films to eyewitness reports—points to Rockefeller's storm troopers as the real criminals and murderers at Attica, they would not be punished. In the eyes of the bourgeois politicians, the Attica prisoners were guilty of a bigger "crime": rising against the op-

pressive slave labor conditions and racist treatment to which they had been subjected and inspiring other prisoners by their heroic rebellion.

VICTIMS INDICTED. MURDERERS GO FREE

The railroading of Charlie Joe Pernasilice and Dacajeweah and the continuing charge of murder against Attica brother Dalou—in fact all the indictments against brothers who took part in the rising—are part of a strategy by the State to punish the victims of the Attica massacre while letting the real murderers go free.

This vote to reimburse the guards and troopers, only one of whom was indicted and all of whose legal expenses had already been paid by the State Police Benevolent Association and the State Correction Officers Benevolent Association, is another example of the State's blatant disregard for the rights of prisoners and poor people. This money is needed by Attica Now, the prisoners' defense committee, to pay the legal expenses of Attica defendants who have no "benevolent" associations to turn to.

So unjust was this vote that one assemblyman, in voting against it, commented: "... we are saying to a state employee that if you do something wrong while on duty we will pay for your defense, and if you're not indigent we will pay more than we would for a poor person."

Activist Bob Canney receives parole

ATLANTA, March 24—The Florida Parole and Probation Commission unanimously voted today to parole political activist Bob Canney. Having served four months of a two-year sentence

This prison is located in the heart of KKK-infested mountains of southern Ohio. There is a limited number of us who do not allow color distinctions to disrupt our unity against the tyrant administrators. It was from those ranks that 21 of us stormed the fences last May 18th.

Christopher Nesbitt, one of our Black brothers, is dead. He need not be. During the first of a series of trials, Warden Arnold Jago admitted that the prison administration knew of the escape in advance! That treachery cost a man his life! I lay wounded between two of the 12 feet of barbed wire-topped fences and "played possum" to avoid a likely coup de grace. The warden was unaware of my presence and ordered his men to "let any of 'em have it that rise up."

This is only one example of the senseless murdering brutes who rule the prisons. They are political

plum appointees chosen for their willingness to comply with the capricious demands of paranoid state leaders.

Our brothers here are hanging themselves (three since May) to escape the barbarism. On August 21 a man was "found hanged," and that same day another was found with his eyes cut out!

We intend to bring many truths to light during the trials. We need spectators and support for our counsel, who has volunteered his services. Ohio is notoriously lacking in support groups for prisoners, so we appeal to you.

For further information contact Mr. Christopher Stanley, Attorney at Law, Room 600 A, Film Building, 2108 Payne Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, 44114.

Thank you for all my brothers and comrades.

Yours in Struggle,
Denver Sturgill
(125614)

Judy Sikes and Louise Hunter

By AMIN HODARI

Judy Sikes and Louise Hunter are two women presently imprisoned in Lowell (Florida) Correctional Facility. They have filed a civil litigation against the prison officials for "cruel and unusual punishment," handled by two local attorneys.

While serving a life sentence for first degree robbery, Judy and Louise have been subjected to extraordinary repression because of their unwavering determination to maintain their dignity—to fight for their status as human beings and to be treated as such.

After being promised her release year after year by the parole board which reneged just as many times, Judy Sikes got together with Louise and three other women inmates and succeeded in making an escape in December 1974. They remained free until the next morning, when they all were captured and subsequently sentenced to 20 to 40 years, an obviously unbearable length of time for most people. No one was hurt during the escape attempt, so it is inconceivable as to what basis was used for the imposition of so many years upon these sisters.

The other participants in the escape compromised their beliefs and made a deal not to take their

struggle against the state any further. However, sisters Louise and Judy refused to become pawns for the state on any level and continued the battle waged since their incarceration.

Consequently they were placed in isolation, where they have been since December '74, and denied all essentials, such as bedding, clothing, books, and paper. But these sisters have stood strong in the face of monstrous oppression and have vowed that the fight for decency will be continued on behalf of their fellow prisoners.

Just recently a guard told sister Judy, "You bitches don't think you'll ever leave this hole alive, do you? Not after making a fool out of us by escaping in our van!"

In a recent communication, Judy Sikes says: "I'm not fighting my conviction, tho stiff it is—I'm fighting against what they do to men and women that are sent to prisons and what it turns them into—the brutalities, the inhumanities." Regardless of the suffering she and her fellow inmates have endured, she has learned to love and to care for others as she does herself and her ten-year-old daughter.

To give support of any kind, please write to Judy Sikes or Louise Hunter, P.O. Box 147, Lowell Correctional Facility, Lowell, Fla. 32663.

being held without trial and were likely to live and die in prison without knowing the reason for their arrest, she said."

U.S. imperialism has found this regime worthy of aid, especially military aid. Like the repressive governments in Chile, Spain, south Korea, and Taiwan, the Indonesian butchers find their most solid supporters in the White House, on Capitol Hill, and especially in the Pentagon.

There are many indications, however, that despite the terrible blow dealt the progressive forces in Indonesia in 1965, the small ruling group is in disarray. The state oil monopoly has declared bankruptcy. A steadily mounting foreign debt fuels inflation. The conditions of the masses continue to deteriorate, so that near-starvation has become the rule for the majority of the people in this fertile, rich land!

And little Timor, whose continued resistance has exposed such weakness and demoralization among the Indonesian troops, may be the spark to set in motion a new revolutionary upsurge within Indonesia itself—the very thing the invasion of Timor was supposed to prevent.

And little Timor, whose continued resistance has exposed such weakness and demoralization among the Indonesian troops, may be the spark to set in motion a new revolutionary upsurge within Indonesia itself—the very thing the invasion of Timor was supposed to prevent.

—Rigged elections

(Continued from page 10)

Such a rule might have helped Goldwater and Nixon against Rockefeller, or Humphrey against Kennedy. But it would have made no difference to the populists or to the Socialist Eugene Debs, or to Black Dick Gregory or Bobby Seale.

THE MONEY AND THE MACHINE

The cost of primaries in general is absolutely prohibitive to ordinary people. Nelson Rockefeller was reported to have spent over \$3 million in his campaign to get the 1968 Republican nomination. Richard Nixon, about 10,000 times poorer but with a large chunk of big business behind him, spent more. Nixon had the bulk of the Republican machine behind him. And this latter fact demoralized Rockefeller, who might easily have spent more.

According to a New York Times report of June 17, 1964, Rockefeller spent all of \$5 million in his effort to get the Republican nomination in 1964. But Goldwater, who pleaded poverty, collected \$5.5 million for the primary campaign from his pro-fascist backers.

The liberal John F. Kennedy, with a fortune of \$400 million behind him, forced Hubert Humphrey out of the primary race in 1960, when the latter ran out of funds after his defeat in the West Virginia primary. Humphrey

threw in the towel, when he ran for his Senate seat, was \$30,000 in debt.

This year Fred Harris, the most radical of the Democratic hopefuls, found that he could get practically no capitalist backing at all for his potentially popular reformist program. He had to end his New York campaign where he was unable to raise the deposit demanded by the New York Telephone Co.

The figures for Jackson, Carter, Reagan, Ford and Company are

just as high this year as other years in spite of the pious talk about election "reform." When all the post-Watergate primaries are in, and whoever gets the nomination, it will still cost big money.

Of course the primaries will also test out whether various individuals can get a vote for every dollar—or every two or three dollars—invested, while they generate enormous free publicity and help to fool the voters into thinking they have "democracy."

Supreme Court continues its plunge to the right

By LESLIE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, March 23—The Supreme Court ruled today that the U.S. Constitution gives citizens only limited protection and recourse against public officials who defame them.

This reinterpretation of the Constitution rules that state and local officials, for example, the police, who defame a person may not be sued unless some additional injury can be proven such as loss of job. This applied even when the police brand someone as a criminal who has not been convicted of a crime!

SHRINKING RIGHTS

The court's decision came in response to a suit in Louisville, Ky. In 1972, the Louisville police sent out a flyer to 800 merchants giving photographs and names of persons described as "active shoplifters,"

and "active in various criminal fields" in shopping areas.

One of the people described was Edward Davis, whose case was in fact never prosecuted and was dismissed in the Louisville police court a few days after the release of the flyer.

Mr. Davis sued in federal court against the police who circulated the flyer, citing that it had violated his constitutional right to privacy, his right to be presumed innocent, and his right not to be branded a criminal without first having an opportunity to be heard.

With today's ruling, the "Nixon" court has reaffirmed its right-wing character, weakening the "presumption of innocence" (which in fact hasn't applied to poor and oppressed people, anyway) and putting semi-judicial powers in the hands of the police.

Don't forget to subscribe!

April 2, 1976

The refusal of the racist Rhodesian authorities to grant African majority rule has left armed struggle as the only road open to the Black freedom fighters. Page 9.

Assassination directed at independence movement

Son of Puerto Rican socialist leader murdered



By P. MEISNER
NEW YORK, March 27—U.S. colonial repression in Puerto Rico reached a new level Thursday morning when the dead body of Santiago ("Chagui") Mari Pesquera was found in a car located on the highway between San Juan and the interior city of Caguas.

Santiago was the 24-year-old son of Juan Mari Bras, Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP). The target of a vicious CIA-style political assassination, he had been shot in the right temple and left in his sister Rosa Mercedes' car, which he had borrowed earlier.

In a press conference held at noon yesterday in San Juan,

Fiorencio Merced and Ramon Arbona, members of the Political Commission of the PSP, and Carlos Gallisa, member of the PSP's Central Committee, stated to the press that "this horrendous assassination has a clear political character and it is the first time in the history of Puerto Rico that the extreme of killing the son of a political leader has been reached."

Mari Bras' other two children, Juan Raul and Rosa Mercedes, both have been subjects of previous attempts, including being shot at and receiving threats from ultra-rightist elements. In a recent attempt against Rosa Mercedes, fascist criminals shot several times at her residence in Rio Piedras Heights while

shouting, "Communists, we're going to kill you all!"

PSP WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Leaders of the PSP have announced that they will conduct their own investigation of the assassination, since the colonial police have usually looked the other way after crimes have been committed against pro-independence organizations.

Messages of sympathy to Juan Mari Bras, Paquita Pesquera, the mother of Santiago, and the PSP are beginning to arrive from around the world as well as from various political groups within Puerto Rico. Even Puerto Rico's House of Representatives passed a

unanimous resolution condemning the assassination.

And although there exists a virtual news blackout on the assassination in the big capitalist press here in the U.S., feature columnist (and former lightweight heavyweight boxing champion) Jose Torres, in today's edition of the New York Post, expressed a common feeling among Puerto Ricans as to where the responsibility for the cowardly murder rests:

"It is a painful but reasonable suspicion that young Mari Pesquera was killed by one of his father's political enemies, and that the direction of the crime may have come from the north, from the U.S."

Workers World Party message to Mari Bras

NEW YORK, March 27—Following is the text of the telegram sent by Sam Marcy, Chairperson of Workers World Party, to Juan Mari Bras, Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party [PSP]:

Dear Comrade Mari:

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to you at this time of great personal loss. We have learned that your son and comrade Santiago Mari Pesquera has been brutally slain. This cowardly, desperate

murder by the forces of U.S. imperialism cannot but outrage the Puerto Rican people as well as all progressive forces around the world. We in Workers World Party know the long history of oppression and struggle for freedom of the Puerto Rican people. We share the outrage and grief of your loss and will continue to struggle to defeat our common enemy, U.S. imperialism, and to support the Puerto Rican people's movement for independence and freedom.



In the midst of their grief, the parents and brother of the slain youth give an independence salute.



Santiago Mari Pesquera, son of Puerto Rican Socialist Party leader Juan Mari Bras, was a victim of political assassination. The PSP has announced it will conduct its own investigation. Here, his body as it was found in his sister's car.

Protest murder to colonial puppet

NEW YORK, March 27—Following is the text of a telegram sent by Tom Soto, member of the National Committee of Workers World Party, to the colonial governor of Puerto Rico, Rafael Hernandez Colon, in San Juan concerning the political assassination of Santiago Mari Pesquera:

We are shocked upon

learning of the brutal political assassination of Santiago Mari Pesquera, son of Juan Mari Bras, Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. In light of your government's policies of repression against the independence movement within Puerto Rico, we put full responsibility for this

horrendous crime upon you and your overlord masters in Washington. This cowardly act will not crush the independence movement in Puerto Rico. We demand an end to the systematic arrests, beatings, and murders of Puerto Rican patriots who are fighting for independence and freedom.