



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

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# Dukakis chooses big money over rainbow of workers, poor

## Hope for progressive forces lies in break with Dukakis-Bentsen ticket

Isn't it clear by now? Michael Dukakis's choice of Sen. Lloyd Bentsen as his running mate and his racist exclusion of Jesse Jackson makes Election '88 just like all the others.

The broad progressive movement of poor and working people who rallied behind the Rev. Jackson have been shut out in the cold by the capitalist establishment that runs the Democratic Party. Bentsen, a millionaire Texas landowner, has already been dubbed the "clone of George Bush."

What will happen to all the unredressed grievances, all the pain and suffering that have propelled this movement forward? Can those committed to the struggle for social justice just fall in line behind another racist, big-business administration that puts profits and military power ahead of the needs of the people?

In this issue of *WW* (pages 4-5) we look at how the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket was shaped in defiance of the will of the people. And in an in-depth interview Larry Holmes, Black anti-capitalist candidate, talks of how the workers and poor can break free of the political grip of the billionaire establishment and carve out an independent road of struggle.

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The struggle goes on — from rent strikes in Soweto to liberation fighters in Namibia to the jails that have failed to break Nelson Mandela and the spirit of freedom.

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## SOUTHWEST LAND STRUGGLE

Amador Flores sits in jail but others guard his land as developers try to move in on Tierra Amarilla, N.M.

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# AIDS activists set Oct. 8 for national conference

By Joan Marquardt  
San Francisco

AIDS activists from around the country will converge on Washington, D.C., the weekend of Oct. 8 and 9.

Timed to coincide with the first anniversary of the largest demonstration for lesbian and gay rights in U.S. history (Oct. 11), the two-day conference will include a teach-in, workshops and strategy sessions to build the AIDS activist movement. Like last year, the NAMES Project quilt will

also be spread out on the Mall from the Capitol to Washington Monument.

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, a rally at the D.C. headquarters of the Health and Human Services building is planned, to be followed by a demonstration and direct action/civil disobedience at the headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in nearby Maryland. The lack of a serious federal effort to meet the demands of the AIDS healthcare emergency will be addressed at the rally. At the FDA building, the agency's conscious role

in suppressing new AIDS treatments will be the focus.

Representatives of grassroots organizations like ACT UP, OUT!, C-FAR and others, all loosely affiliated with the AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize and Win (ACT NOW), met on July 2 and 3 in San Francisco to plan the upcoming conference and actions. People came from as far away as Boston, New York, Rochester, Washington, D.C., Orlando, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Houston, San Diego, Los

Angeles, Sacramento, as well as San Francisco. Participation was planned in actions at the upcoming Democratic and Republican party conventions.

The active role of women, people of color and people with AIDS was discussed throughout the weekend, with women, Black, Latino and Asian delegates and people with AIDS and ARC taking the lead in these discussions. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, especially among women, thought to be caused by human herpes virus VI (HHV-6), was also discussed.



WW PHOTO: J. RAYNOR

**Atlanta march for lesbian, gay rights.** Atlanta Gay Pride Week culminated in a march and rally of over 1,000 on June 26. Contingents included lesbian and gay parents, friends and relatives of gays and Black lesbians and gays — all marching in the blistering heat to demand, "Money for AIDS now!" Members of the cast of "Higher Ground," a play by an Atlantan based upon testimony of people with AIDS, were featured in the afternoon rally. Of the 28 cast members, 22 have AIDS. That evening, a concert was held in Piedmont Park. Although the turnout was larger than in other years, the Gay Pride march and rally was given no coverage by the local media.

## FDA limits access to AIDS drug

On July 8 the FDA announced that the drug dextran sulfate will have to go through another trial. Limited to only 60 people, it will be conducted in San Francisco and Boston. This is just another example of why people with AIDS are planning a major action at the FDA headquarters; dextran sulfate is among the many treatments to which people with AIDS are demanding access.

## One year of Spanish page!

Workers World newspaper is proud that this month marks the first anniversary of our Spanish page. Launching and sustaining the Spanish page has been an important though modest step in reaching all sectors of the working class with a revolutionary Marxist perspective on domestic and international issues.

**Workers World Party (WWP)** fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization — Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about **WWP**, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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## CALENDAR

### DETROIT

**Sat., July 23:** "Cuba: Socialism, international solidarity and the legacy of Che Guevara." Workers World Party Forum. Dinner and childcare. \$2 donation (\$1 for unemployed). 6 p.m. At

1945 Grand River. Call (313) 962-4979.

### NEW YORK

**Fri., July 29:** Celebration of the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions at Workers World Party Forum. Featuring slide show and

presentations showing gains in Cuba by members of the recent Veneceros Brigade. Donation. Refreshments. Literature. Wheelchair accessible. Air conditioned hall. 7 p.m. At 146 W. 25 St., 3rd floor, Manhattan. Call (212) 255-0352.

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# New Mexican farmers fight corporate land theft

## At Tierra Amarilla, it's a question of class

By Gloria La Riva  
Albuquerque, N.M.

Amador Flores has worked and lived on his land here in northern New Mexico for over 21 years. He now sits in jail indefinitely for refusing to give up his land to an Arizona-based development corporation called Vista del Brazos.

Meanwhile, several dozen people from this rural community have set up an armed encampment to defend the land and keep the development company from taking it over.

The Vista del Brazos company plans to build condominiums for a nearby ski resort. It has never produced any proof of ownership of the land, yet Judge Bruce Kaufman last year granted ownership of 1,900 acres of Tierra Amarilla to the company in a summary judgment.

Kaufman has ordered Flores imprisoned until he agrees to vacate his 500 acres. Instead of giving up, Flores' family and supporters have rallied around him and set up camp to defend the land.

Tierra Amarilla was the site of an historic struggle in the late 1960s when Chicano leader Reies Lopez Tijerina and other residents demanded that the U.S. government honor the town's land grant, that was supposedly guaranteed in the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty of 1848. After the U.S. "won" a huge part of Mexico in the Mexican-American war that it provoked, the treaty was signed to assure that the Mexican residents would retain their land and culture.

Much of the land was at that time communally owned and farmed. Since then, Latinos and Native people have fought the encroachment by the U.S. military and developers to keep their land and water rights. Much of the area's water is threatened by the Vista del Brazos development.

### Parallels land thefts of 1800s

Flores' attorney, Richard Rosenstock, told Workers World today, "Amador has been stripped of all his rights. This kangaroo court procedure is parallel to the way that the Tierra Amarilla land grant was originally

taken away in the late 1800s. In both cases, speculators appeared in court and won title without any knowledge of the people on the land."

In 1966, Flores got deed to 80 acres from his sister. The land had been in the family for generations. In 1968 he wrote himself a deed to 400 acres within the land grant — which had not been in use by anyone at all — to graze his cattle and farm.

New Mexico property laws state that anyone who uses land "quietly and peaceably" for ten years wins "prescriptive rights," meaning the right to continue using the land. The state has accepted property taxes from Flores for 21 years.

In 1987, Vista del Brazos suddenly appeared and sued Amador's wife Frederina for summary judgment to demand title to the land. Summary judgment means there is no dispute at all. The judgment was granted in one day without the required 10-day notice. Rosenstock says the company "didn't attach a single deed" to the motion to show proof of ownership.

On April 4, 1988, the company filed a

motion requesting an injunction. That same day Judge Kaufman ordered an injunction for Flores to vacate the land. Flores never got notice.

### Defenders set up armed bunkers

The people who have known Flores and who are defending the camp are determined to stand their ground. Pedro Arechuleta says, "This isn't a dispute between the Mexicans and the gringos. This is a class struggle." Flores and his camp supporters are a symbol of resistance for oppressed people in New Mexico who are familiar with the lack of rights or justice in court. They stand strong in the face of reported government plans for SWAT team raids.

Former Vietnam veterans among the defenders of the camp are using their experience and have set up armed bunkers to defend themselves against any possible raid.

Letters of solidarity to Flores should be sent to the Espanola Jail, Espanola, N.M., 87532. His lawyers plan to file an appeal.

# Boston U. union demands new kind of contract

## Pay parity for women, increased minority hiring, childcare on list

By Steven Gillis  
Boston

Under the slogan "B United — twice as strong," the clerical and technical workers at Boston University (BU) are preparing to strike in what has become a landmark struggle to include ground-breaking demands and previously unorganized workers in a new, unified contract.

The workers, 75% women and 25% Black, Latin and other oppressed nationalities, have launched their offensive against BU on two fronts. At the main Charles River Campus, where 850 workers are represented by District 65 UAW, the union has made what it calls "the boldest wage and benefits proposal in the ten-year history of the local."

The major proposals are significant wage increases and pay parity with higher-paid male-dominated jobs; increased minority hiring, training and support services; an end to pay inequities based on race; and a historic 5-point childcare demand, including paid parental leave, subsidies and daycare.

On the second front, a majority of the 500 unorganized clerical and technical workers at BU's Medical School have signed union cards and publicly declared their intent to be in on the new contract negotiations. This is a creative and unusual organizing tactic, which their sisters and brothers at the Charles River Campus overwhelmingly approved and added to their demands at the table.

These innovative demands have significantly strengthened rank-and-file solidarity between the two campuses. In recent weeks the campuses have been alive with militant actions, rallies, joint meetings, literature and petition campaigns and exchange visits by organizers.

### 93% vote to strike if necessary

On June 23, one week before the old contract expired, 93% of the workers voted to tell the university they are prepared to strike.

For its part, BU's management, which prides itself on being enlightened and scholarly, has offered discriminatory merit pay, union-gutting open-shop language and takebacks. In an effort to confuse the workers and

quiet their militancy, BU has filed for a lengthy NLRB election at the medical campus.

BU's president, John Silber, widely known for his vocal support of the Nicaraguan contras and opposition to divestment from South Africa and to school desegregation, has spent \$200,000 for union-busting consultants Lingua-Sorbonne (L-S). L-S agents have collected information about workers' personal lives and union involvement; a main tactic has been to spread lies about the union.

This has only increased the workers' solidarity and militancy. When the workers voted to withdraw \$5 extra union dues from their paychecks to bolster their strike fund, BU illegally refused to administer it. Over 100 workers immediately responded with an emergency demonstration. They marched around a security blockade to the office of personnel, confronting their bosses with angry chants of "BU says take back, we say fight back!"

And at a noontime rally on the Medical Campus the following week, over 300 workers and many supporters from Boston's labor community challenged BU's intransigence and union-busting. Workers from both campuses stressed their support for the union's progressive demands and strike organizing. Representatives from the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Building Trades, SEIU locals, and the school bus drivers' union pledged the support of their members and financial assistance to District 65's struggle.

At the rally, District 65 shop steward Nan Genger told Workers World, "We see our fight in the context of a city alive with clerical and technical workers organizing. The election victory of our union sisters and brothers of AFSCME at Harvard was a tremendous boost to us, and to other union drives at Simmons College, Suffolk University and Northeastern.

"This campaign has united all the workers at BU in an exciting fight-back against our common problems of low wages, racism, sexism and insensitivity to the needs of parents," she added. Genger feels the union drive has "unleashed the potential of women workers to take on these wealthy and powerful institutions, which for too long now have profited off our backs."



BU Medical School workers.

WW PHOTO

# Detroit auto workers walk out over heat

By Jerry Goldberg  
Detroit

July 8 — The 100-degree temperatures in Detroit this week sparked the revival of heat walkouts at local Chrysler assembly plants. On Wednesday, July 6, afternoon shift workers shut down the Sterling Heights Plant. On Thursday, a wildcat stopped production at Chrysler's McGraw Glass Plant. While heat walkouts were common in the auto industry in the early 1970s, these are among the first to occur in over a decade.

Workers World spoke to Sterling Heights assembly workers before their return to work on Thursday. They described how the walkout began in trim and final assembly and then spread throughout the high-tech plant. While the union leadership was conspicuously absent, the rank and file decided that they valued their lives more than production and took matters in their own hands.

The workers said the plant not only lacked air conditioning but, prior to the walkout, the few fans were being used to keep the robots from overheating. Despite the over-100-degree tem-

peratures, all Chrysler offered its workers was free pop, a slight extension of breaks, and wet towels which were kept in a community tub much like an animal trough.

The workers described the Sterling Heights plant as a prison. When they walked off the line, management actually locked the doors to try to keep them from leaving. The workers had to call the Sterling Heights cops to let them out.

The heat walkout was the first wildcat ever at the new Sterling Heights Assembly plant, which just opened in 1984. For many of the afternoon shift workers, this is their first job in an auto plant.

Ron Brooke Eskridge, an assembler with four years seniority, ran down conditions at the plant. "Workers are forced to work nine hours a day and often six days a week. Job elimination is rampant, with one worker doing the jobs formerly done by three. The company is using a lot of part-time workers to weaken the union. Part-time workers' wages are subsidized by the government." All the workers were proud to be answering back with a solidarity action.

# Dukakis reaches out — far to the right

## Chooses rich, white male reactionary as veep

By Andy Stapp

In selecting Senator Lloyd Bentsen for his running mate, Michael Dukakis truly reached out to a much-maligned minority who in the past have not gotten much sympathy from the public: a rich, white, male Texan.

Bentsen, who comes from a big landowning family in the Rio Grande Valley, is in fact, one of the wealthiest

individuals in the Senate. A prince among princes. Here is a man who will really help Dukakis fight for the common person.

If you happen to own a small oil company, you can thank Mr. Bentsen for his years of service fighting in Washington to keep your depletion allowance. The Senator is also on your side in the battle for lower taxes on capital gains and providing greater

government "incentive" for your capitalist investment.

He also had a special "breakfast club" for lobbyists called the Chairman's Council. They met with him once a month and paid \$10,000 for the privilege of giving him "advice and assistance." He finally had to dissolve the council, but his popularity with the well-heeled remains. Bentsen has already raised more than \$5 million for his reelection — the biggest Senate campaign fund going.

### Record of greedy over needy

In picking Bentsen over Jesse Jackson, Dukakis selected a man who has voted against extending social security benefits for those in need, voted against halting aid to the Nicaraguan contras, voted against a nuclear weapons freeze, and, to keep children godly, voted for state-sanctioned school prayer.

And there's more. Senator Bentsen has been an avid supporter of deployment of the first-strike MX missile and the B-1 nuclear bomber. It figures, since he used to sit on the board of the Lockheed corporation. He also voted to bar Medicaid payments to help poor women who need abortions.

As a leading Senator, Bentsen fought against school desegregation and for forced AIDS "testing." He favors Reagan's Star Wars scheme. In conformity with the Reagan Doctrine of opposing national liberation movements in the oppressed countries, Senator Bentsen recently met with Jonas Savimbi, the stooge of South Africa at war with Angola.

During the Korean war, Bentsen, who was then a representative, urged President Eisenhower to use an atomic bomb against north Korean forces, which were supported by China and the USSR!

"He is more than favorably regarded by the business community," said Mark Bloomfield, president of the American Council for Capital Formation, on hearing that Bentsen was Dukakis's pick. The senator has gotten rich people so many tax breaks they called him "loophole Lloyd."

Said Robert Strauss, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, "Bentsen is going to do well in New York and Los Angeles. He talks the language of investment bankers and commercial bankers."

Dukakis has surrounded himself with these types.

Take Lawrence H. Summers, the person Dukakis described to the New York Times (May 13) as his "top economic adviser." Summers comes from inside the Reagan administration! He worked right out of the White House, on Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers.

### Dukakis's guilt-edged backers

Check out the key Dukakis fund raisers: There's Roger Altman of Wall Street's Blackstone Group, Ronald Homer, president of the Boston Bank of Commerce, and the usual investment bankers and large real estate barons. Real salt of the earth.

Perhaps this helps explain why Dukakis has never come up with a plan to build affordable housing or why he has rejected the idea of freezing the military budget for five years and saving the taxpayers \$60 billion, or why he is so vague about doing anything to assist the victims of Reaganomics.

There is no "Massachusetts Miracle" beyond the fact that with the Carter-Reagan military build-up, that state's prime military contracts rose from \$3.7 billion in 1980 to \$7.7 billion in 1985. This has been fine for the high-tech firms along Route 128, but a lot of folks in Massachusetts rightly feel left out of the party.

In many ways, you could say that Dukakis is pretty much in the tradition of other Democratic Party nominees for president, Humphrey, Carter and Mondale, who talked about how they wanted to speak for the average person, but in reality offered nothing but a kind of "moderate" version of their rightwing Republican rivals.

There is one small but obvious difference between Dukakis and Mondale, however.

Dukakis's vice-presidential choice is far more reactionary.



WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

**WWP candidate fights for lesbian and gay rights.** Workers World Party has nominated Maggie Vascassenno as its candidate for the New York State Assembly, 61st District. This area covers the West Village and part of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. A lesbian activist, Vascassenno defends the rights of people with AIDS and stands for taking funds from the huge military budget to finance an all-out drive against the disease. She has also been in the forefront of anti-racist and anti-war struggles in New York and nationwide. She has marched against racist violence in Howard Beach and in support of Tawana Brawley, and was arrested at a demonstration this spring calling for an end to U.S. intervention in Central America. Vascassenno was a leading organizer of Workers World Party's participation in the Oct. 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

# Hands off the Brawley family!

## Statement from WWP senatorial candidate Lydia Bayoneta

(Lydia Bayoneta is Workers World Party's candidate for the U.S. Senate in New York State. The following is a statement from her campaign.)

Hands off the Brawley family and its supporters! Stop persecuting the victims — prosecute the racists!

From the moment the big business media started to cover the atrocity that happened to Tawana Brawley, they, along with Governor Mario Cuomo, Special Prosecutor Attorney General Robert Abrams, and the capitalist political establishment in the State of New York have orchestrated a massive campaign to attempt to discredit Tawana Brawley and vilify her family and their supporters.

The attacks have grown to such proportions that they are even trying to devise ways to jail the family's attorneys — C. Vernon Mason and Alton Maddox Jr. — threatening them with FBI investigations as well as disbarment.

The racist judicial system has convicted Mrs. Glenda Brawley, Tawana's mother, of contempt of court, sentencing her to 30 days in jail and fining her for refusing to cooperate with

the grand jury. Juanita Brawley, Tawana's aunt, was sentenced to 15 days in jail after authorities dragged out an old bad check charge.

I demand that the media, the government and the FBI stop persecuting the Brawley family and their supporters and bring to justice the racists who are responsible for the utterly ruthless attack on Tawana Brawley.

I call on all freedom-loving and progressive people around the state of New York to rally behind the Brawley family and their supporters who are presently under attack.

The media, Governor Cuomo and Attorney General Abrams are not the least bit interested in Tawana Brawley or in prosecuting the racists who attacked her. The motive of the white ruling class establishment in the state of New York should be crystal clear to everyone by now — to set back the growing anti-racist struggle and to hurt the movement.

The rich who run this state feel very threatened by the growing political activism in the Black community and the new ideas that have emanated out of the Howard Beach struggle — to demand a special prosecutor to handle

racially motivated violence as well as withholding cooperation with the judicial system when not satisfied that it is acting in their interests.

These tactics have captured the imagination of civil rights activists all over the country.

There is no equal justice in this society. The judicial system is a racist system; in its long history there have been numerous cases of police violence and racist terror with no one held accountable and no one brought to justice.

We as Black, Latin, Asian, Native and poor people in this country have no trust in a judicial system that is incapable of representing us and we demand a say in our defense.

It is obvious that Governor Cuomo, Attorney General Abrams and the political establishment in this state want to crush that idea. It threatens their very legitimacy, their power and their rule. It is a dangerous idea to take hold in this state.

The media and the political establishment would like to destroy both C. Vernon Mason and Alton Maddox and make examples of these civil rights attorneys and activists. They want the



Bayoneta: 'Bring the racists to justice!'

people to know that if you go out on a limb, if you fight the state for your rights — especially in a case that is controversial — the wrath of the political establishment is going to come down on your head. They want to scare us back into silence.

To get justice in this unjust society, we must actively support the rights of these victims of racist violence to have a say in their defense. We must demand an end to the vile media and state campaign against Tawana Brawley, her family and their supporters.

# 'Time for a break to independent political struggle'

## Interview with WWP presidential candidate Larry Holmes

(WW contributing editor Monica Moorehead conducted the following interview with Larry Holmes, the Workers World Party 1988 presidential candidate, a few days before the opening of the Democratic Convention in Atlanta.)

**Monica Moorehead:** Is Dukakis the "lesser evil choice" for poor and working people?

**Larry Holmes:** People have to remember that what may seem the lesser of two evils is ultimately just plain evil. And this is the choice that poor and working people will have with Dukakis and Bush.

The lesser evil idea is used to generate the idea that even though a candidate is not saying anything, doesn't represent the people's interests or needs, doesn't have a program that calls for full employment, a decent living standard for everyone, equal rights, an end to militarism and so forth — that somehow you must pick one candidate over the other because you have no other choice, no other alternative outside the Democratic or Republican parties.

This is an idea that our Party is always fighting against because if there's one thing that the movement of poor and working people needs in this country, it's to be politically and organizationally independent from the two capitalist parties.

As for Dukakis, I think it's well known, certainly in the state of Massachusetts where he's the governor, that he is no friend of poor and working people, no friend of welfare recipients or of the many who are receiving minimum wage in all those so-called wonderful jobs known as the "Massachusetts miracle" that Dukakis takes responsibility for.

Certainly the lesbian and gay movement is on to him and considers him an enemy of their rights for coming out in opposition to lesbian and gay parents' right to have custody over their children. With each passing day, Dukakis comes closer and closer to Bush in terms of positions — so much so that they have become inseparable. The fact you can interchange one with the other lies behind the struggle between the Jackson forces and the Dukakis forces over the Democratic platform committee.

The Jackson camp has made a number of fairly moderate progressive suggestions; for example, that the super-rich, those who earn over \$200,000 a year, be taxed more heavily; that the corporations be taxed more than poor and working people, and that the military budget be frozen — not totally reversed, which is part of Workers World Party's platform. (We would like to take all the money that goes to creating bombs and missiles and keeps the world on the brink of annihilation and terrorism, and use it instead for jobs, health care, schooling and all those things that the majority of the people need.)

What has been the Dukakis camp's reaction to the Jackson proposals? They have been bitterly opposed to and ultimately vetoed them because they don't want the Democratic Party to appear to be "hard" on the rich, because they know that the rich hold the power in this country and they certainly do not want to alienate them.

Dukakis does not want the Democratic Party to appear to be soft on the military — an astonishing position to take at a time when the popularity of the military in this country is very low. It's not only because people are tired of the Vietnam wars, tired of aggression against the people in Central America, tired of complicity with the hated apartheid regime in South Africa and

tired of the aggression against the people in the Persian Gulf (and by the way, Dukakis and Bush sort of competed with each other in supporting the latest atrocity, the mass murder of Iranian civilians).

But it is all the more astonishing for the Dukakis forces to oppose a freeze in the military when recent revelations have exposed the Pentagon and the entire military-industrial complex establishment as perhaps the most corrupt, money-grubbing bunch of criminals that modern civilization has ever seen.

I think that the Bush-Dukakis "contest" is fundamentally a return to capitalist politics as usual, which in reality is democracy for the capitalist class, for the rich, and an oppressive dictatorship over the workers and the poor. Basically the capitalists pick two of their own, two from their system, two who represent their interests, who are enemies of poor and working people around the world — and ask us to pick one!

**MM:** What are some of the lessons of the Jackson campaign '88 that poor people, workers and oppressed peoples can benefit from?

**LH:** Four years ago, the legacy of the Jackson campaign was to provide dynamic expression to the anger and frustration of millions of Black, poor and working people in this country who have long suffered under the heel of racism and national oppression. This frustration and anger was vented towards the racist leadership of the Democratic Party whose interests are in total opposition to the poor and who have used, abused and taken for granted the Black vote.

In the larger context, this elitist leadership has given the green light to the racism that permeates every walk of life in society, from racist violence to the lack of affirmative action programs, the attempts by the Reagan-

## Michigan ballot suit

By David Sole  
Detroit

A lawsuit was filed July 12 in U.S. federal district court by Workers World Party (WWP) demanding the right of independent candidates to appear on the 1988 Michigan ballot.

Before this year, Michigan election laws had no provision for independent candidates to appear on the ballot. The same laws did require parties to file over 20,000 signatures to be qualified.

This past April, the Lansing State Legislature enacted Michigan Public Act 116, which not only increased the number of signatures needed for third parties to appear on the ballot but extended the same strict requirement to independents.

In December of 1987, WWP requested that its candidates for president and vice president appear as independent candidates in Michigan. With the passage of the new law, the State Election Commission ruled that even as independent candidates, the Workers World team must file the petitions.

WWP's legal challenge to the new law is based on the law's late passage, which allowed only 80 days petitioning time, instead of the normal 180 days. U.S. Federal District Judge Robert DeMascio ordered last month in a similar suit that the State Election Commission place other independent candidates on the ballot.

Currently the state is appealing that decision in an attempt to bar third party or independent voices from being heard.



Larry Holmes

WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

ites to roll back important gains won through the struggles of the '60s and earlier.

In 1988, in addition to carrying on that legacy, the Jackson campaign has given expression to a new phenomenon. The ruling class has been taken completely by surprise, not only by the larger numbers of Black, Latino, Asian, Native and Arab peoples, women, lesbians and gays and progressives that have come out in support of Jackson, but in particular by the support of white workers, including farmers across the country.

From the Super Tuesday successes to the primary elections in the Midwest, like Illinois and especially in Michigan, Jackson scored an astounding upset victory over the other Democratic primary candidates. These results have proven that the Rainbow Coalition had begun to realize its potential.

There are an awful lot of people of all races and nationalities, including white workers, who have not benefited from Reagan's "recovery"; who have had a different experience from what many of the capitalist politicians claim to be good times, times of economic stability for the country. An awful lot of working people are getting poorer, have suffered dislocation and are looking for an alternative to the status quo, business-as-usual politics of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The fact that so many whites have supported Jackson in '88 has also dealt a blow to the racism that the ruling class has historically used to sow divisions among the poor and working people of this country, to undermine the unity that is necessary to challenge capitalist rule.

Just to drive this point home further, the Jackson candidacy is a perfect example. If one remembers, during the early months of the Jackson campaign, the capitalist media tried to ignore Jackson and discount him as a serious contender. Then, all of a sudden, due to his surprising showing in the primaries, it raised the possibility that Jackson could win the nomination of the Democratic Party — an idea that terrified the entire capitalist establishment and created a real political crisis for several weeks.

The ruling class decided to close ranks, to mobilize and stop Jackson at all costs. The Stop Jackson forces plotted and schemed and delivered a crucial blow during the New York primary, when the capitalist media and the infamous Mayor Koch opened up an unbridled, undisguised and sustained racist attack upon Jackson and his supporters.

**MM:** What is your assessment of Jesse Jackson at this juncture?

**LH:** There remains a possibility that a serious struggle may erupt at the Democratic convention between the Jackson forces and the party lead-

ership over the progressive demands I mentioned earlier or even over the question of the vice-presidency. It seems, however, fairly clear at this point that the Jackson forces have imposed limitations upon themselves with respect to how far they are willing to take the struggle against the Democratic leadership. Their fundamental aim is to stay within the framework of the Democratic Party and to cooperate with the Party leadership, which is the same approach the Jackson forces took four years ago.

Due to these limitations, it may be that Jackson as an individual has taken this movement as far as he can. The problem for the movement that has been energized and awakened through Jackson's candidacy is that he is unable or unwilling to militantly and irreconcilably challenge the reactionary leadership of the Democratic Party. This is because Jackson's perspective is limited to working within the confines of the Democratic Party and to cooperate with the Democratic establishment.

The movement needs to and many may be ready to break with the Democratic Party, to go beyond the framework of this capitalist institution and reroute its course on an independent road of struggle and fightback.

**MM:** What is Workers World Party's alternative course of action for poor people, working people and the progressive movement as a whole?

**LH:** The most important thing that the Jackson candidacy has illustrated is that the political consciousness of millions of poor and working people is

*Continued on page 11*

## New Mexico petitions filed

Special to Workers World  
Santa Fe, N.M.

Today Workers World Party filed over 850 signatures to establish itself as an official party in New Mexico. As its first action, WWP also submitted the names of presidential candidate Larry Holmes and vice presidential candidate Gloria La Riva for the November ballot.

During the petitioning dozens of people requested to be kept informed of the Workers World election campaign. When one woman heard that the candidates planned to demand the dismantling of the military budget for jobs and services, she said, "I'm so glad that you're running. I've been waiting for years for someone to say that here."

At the filing, La Riva was interviewed by KGGM Channel 13 of Albuquerque, N.M., and Associated Press. She said, "New Mexico is one of the poorest states economically in the U.S. This week, a study showed that 50% of the 1.5 million population is 'medically indigent.' That is double the national rate. Yet the military bases here get astronomical budgets for war programs like the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative.

"We demand that the needs of poor and working people come first from now on."

Karl Kampovsky, state secretary for Workers World in New Mexico, explained that the secretary of state may reject the petition because of a law that requires the 500 signers of the petition to be registered members of the party. He said, "This provision is completely unconstitutional, and has recently been struck down in four states. If we are denied ballot status, we are prepared to wage a legal struggle. The ACLU is very interested in the case."

# The Carlucci link — scandal and slaughter

## Role in development of Aegis system

By Ron Holladay  
San Francisco

July 11 — In the wake of the U.S. massacre of 290 people aboard an Iran Air civil airliner, information has come to light that when Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci moved from the board of directors of the multi-billion-dollar defense contractor Sperry (later renamed Unisys), pressure was brought to bear to switch the contract for the billion-dollar-per-ship Aegis defense system to Unisys from RCA.

Soon after Carlucci's appointment as Secretary of Defense in January 1988, the sole source contract was switched to Unisys while Carlucci was still on that corporation's payroll for \$14,300 per year. Carlucci also received a \$96,000 "golden handshake" from Unisys in March, two months after the contract was switched. The U.S. Court of Appeals, in a similar case, has ruled that such payments create a conflict of interest.

*Janes' Fighting Ships*, the internationally recognized authority, has this to say about the Aegis: "No ship in modern U.S. Naval history has come in for as much derogatory commentary." Critics call the ship a "gold-plated failure which would be a death trap for her crew in time of combat."

The *Janes* entry also shows that

while they may be a boondoggle for some, Aegis cruisers like the Vincennes are a key part of U.S. imperialism's offensive strategy. They provided combat air control to the fighter planes that forced down an Egyptian airliner and allowed the kidnapping of Palestinian nationalists by U.S. ground forces. The same ships controlled the Navy bombers that mounted at least two attacks against Libya, including the eight planes that tried to murder Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi.

### Carlucci's murderous career

It is instructive to examine Carlucci's career to see how rewarding in power and wealth it can be to serve as the cutting edge of imperialist expansion.

His first State Department foreign service post was Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1958 and 1959.

He next popped up in Zaire in 1961 where progressive leader Patrice Lumumba was struggling for power. Lumumba was murdered in late 1961, in what many saw as a CIA plot. Carlucci served as "Chief Political Officer" of the Embassy, a title which often masks the CIA head of station. He was next posted to Tanzania where he was expelled for "subversive activity"

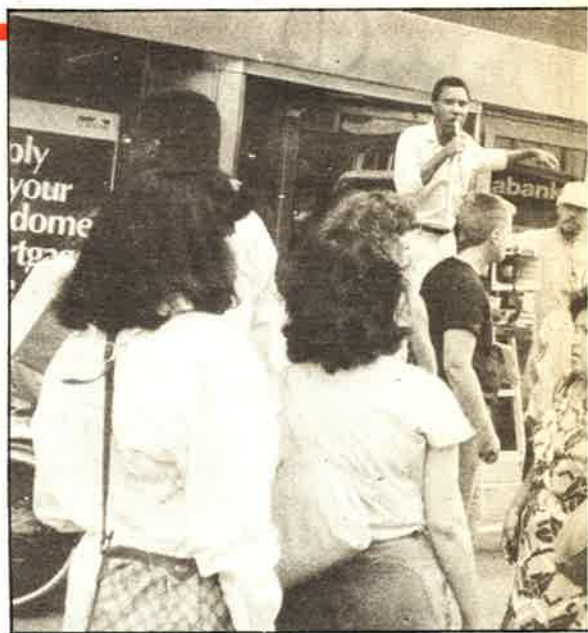
in 1965.

Carlucci then left foreign service to help President Richard Nixon dismantle hard-won social services at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1975 he was appointed Ambassador to Portugal at a time when left forces were fighting for democracy in what had been a repressive fascist state.

"After the Communist influence in the Portuguese government had been eliminated in 1976, State Department observers gave Carlucci much of the credit," says the 1981 edition of the standard reference *Current Biography*. Next, he shed the mask of a "diplomat" and was appointed CIA Deputy Director by President Jimmy Carter. (Information from *Who's Who* and *Current Biography* — 1981.)

Any serious investigation of Pentagon procurement scandals should ask the following questions: Why was Carlucci allowed to continue to receive money from Unisys while he could help the company get defense contracts as Defense Secretary? What was his role in the switching of the megabuck Aegis contract from RCA to Unisys?

If real justice were to be served, a people's tribunal representing all those countries where Carlucci did his ominous deeds would decide his fate.



This New York crowd was interested and sympathetic on gulf tragedy.

## After media l... of public is ple...

By Leslie Feinberg  
New York

None of us knew what kind of reaction to expect from the hundreds of passersby on 34th Street Friday evening when we unfurled a banner reading, "U.S. out of the Persian Gulf! Money for jobs, not for war!"

The Pentagon had shot down the Iranian Airbus only days before, killing 290 people. Each of us had heard the viciously anti-Iranian, pro-war propaganda on the TV and the "independent polls" which claimed that a majority of people stood firmly behind the U.S. presence in the gulf. Was it true? We still had to be out there, as socialists, telling the truth — even if we had to swim upstream to do it.

We set up a table with information on the Workers World Party's election campaign and other political literature, and a ladder with a sound system to speak from. For a moment, we all looked at each other. Would there be fights? Angry heckling? Or worse, would everyone just pass by and ignore us?

As the first speaker mounted the ladder and began to explain why we were there, I picked up a handful of Workers World newspapers. The headline read, "Plane massacre was not an accident — Shootdown is result of U.S. war policy in the Mideast."

Many people walked quickly past, used to seeing Bible-thumping street evangelists on this corner. Then, some came back to read the banner, stood in front of the ladder and listened. One woman, on her way home to cook dinner for her family, decided to stay. As she bought a copy of Workers World, she explained, "I never knew anyone else felt the way I did about this."

One man approached me, challenging, "What's this about? Is this about the plane?" I sucked in my breath. "Yes," I answered, "We are against the Pentagon presence in the Persian Gulf." "Good," he answered with a relieved smile, and added, "I'm Arab."

An even larger crowd gathered as Larry Holmes, Workers World Party candidate for president, drew parallels between the murders of 290 people on the Airbus, the police murder of Eleanor Bumpurs and the racist campaign which has followed the savage assault on Tawana Brawley. "He's right, that's right!" many called out and reached over people in the front row to buy a newspaper.

Half a dozen people were filling out subscription blanks while still trying to listen to what was being said. The paper was selling itself on the basis of the issues we were raising.

"Here's 50 cents," an older Black woman said, reaching to me with the change. I handed her a newspaper. "That's all right," she said shaking

## Yugoslav workers storm parliament to stop austerity

By Robert Dobrow

July 11 — Demanding an end to the harsh austerity measures imposed upon them by Western imperialist banks, workers in Yugoslavia are fighting back.

The most militant and dramatic action was a workers' takeover of parliament last week. Demanding wage increases, an end to the austerity plan and political changes in the government, about 4,000 workers from Yugoslavia's largest rubber and shoe factory in Borovo descended on the capital on Wednesday, July 6.

Marching to the legislature building chanting "We want bread!" and "We can fight!" they demanded to meet with Premier Branko Mikulic to air their grievances. Instead they were met by security forces who tried to block them on the steps of parliament. The workers quickly bypassed the police and then filled the main lobby of parliament for about half an hour before they were forced to leave.

The action has focused national and international attention on the resistance inside Yugoslavia to an austerity plan imposed six weeks ago which calls for wage rollbacks and price hikes. Strikes and demonstrations are sweeping the country. "We've had so many demonstrations lately," one Belgrade resident told the Christian Science Monitor (July 8), "that no one was shocked when the parliament was taken over. It didn't seem so new."

### Not like 'Solidarity'

The protest movement is not the same as what happened in Poland, where the so-called Solidarity organization has engaged in a right-wing struggle against the Polish government and against socialism, all the time being supported by the Reagan administration. The strikes in Yugoslavia represent an economic struggle against imperialist-imposed measures which place the burden of the country's economic woes on the backs of the workers.



A market orientation has brought capitalist-type ills to socialist Yugoslavia. These rubber and shoe workers from Borovo are outraged.

These measures are the direct work of the International Monetary Fund, the U.S.-controlled financial body which acts as global loan sharks, forcing countries to accept loans at usurious rates and then demanding the most onerous conditions when these countries can't pay the money back. The workers of Brazil, Jamaica, Argentina and Mexico are very familiar with what the IMF has done in their countries, causing price increases, layoffs and a widespread lowering of living standards.

In Yugoslavia the IMF is trying the same thing. The IMF's austerity plan calls for drastic wage rollbacks and price increases. Instead of fighting this, the government is granting even greater concessions to private capitalist forces than currently exist and allowing prices to be set "freely," that is, by the dictates of the capitalist market.

These measures aren't aimed at the privileges of the government bureaucracy or the pro-capitalist entrepreneurs who have been allowed to flourish. They are aimed at the working class. For instance, one component of the plan states that workers in the least profitable enterprises can earn

no more than the minimum wage, which is set at about 55% of the average regional wage.

Yugoslavia today is in a state of crisis. It is in debt to the imperialist West by \$21 billion. The inflation rate is a staggering 175%. Unemployment is officially 15%.

Even though Yugoslavia retains the skeleton of a socialist system and industry is state-owned, these conditions are the result of the enormous encroachment of capitalism throughout the country. Agriculture is in private hands. Much of centralized planning has been dismantled. And now the government wants to go even further toward a "market economy."

But the Yugoslav working class is not taking it lying down. The strike struggles and increased worker unrest are a healthy wind not only for Yugoslavia but for all of Eastern Europe.

Almost two years ago, a strike wave in Yugoslavia was able to force the government to reverse several price increases it had tried to impose. This time around, working-class action threatens both the government's austerity measures as well as the imperialists' attempts at economic strangulation of the country.

# More U.S. lies pop up over Persian Gulf

## Independent inquiry needed on Flight 655 massacre

By Joyce Chediak

The Reagan administration has announced that it will give financial compensation to the families of the 290 people killed when a U.S. warship shot down an Iranian commercial Airbus over the Persian/Arabian Gulf on July 3.

But this move is not motivated by compassion, as Ronald Reagan maintains. Far from it. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater openly admitted that the government timed the July 11 announcement to diffuse anger towards Washington the day before the plane massacre was to be brought before the UN Security Council.

The U.S. government is trying to placate world public opinion, which is aghast not only at the crime itself, but at Washington's callousness. The Reagan administration still maintains that this mass murder committed by the Pentagon thousands of miles from any U.S. border was a "justifiable defensive action."

Washington will demand that, in exchange for compensation, the families of the men, women and children who were blown out of the sky, most of them Iranians, will be required to sign a release absolving the U.S. government of any further liability.

The \$20,000 being considered per death is only a tiny fraction of the \$34 million in claims that Washington has submitted to the Iraqi government for the deaths of 37 U.S. sailors aboard the USS Stark. But then again, the racists in Washington have always maintained that American lives were worth more than those of Third World people — except when it comes to providing the kinds of services that poor people at home need to survive.

### New information contradicts Pentagon

By offering compensation, the Reagan administration is also trying to get itself off the hook in the face of a growing body of information contradicting the Pentagon's version that it was "justified" in blowing flight 655

out of the air because it mistook the civilian Airbus for an F-14 fighter plane. Among the latest information is the following:

- The captain of the USS Vincennes claims that the Airbus was descending "threateningly" towards the ship. But both the Elmer Montgomery and the John H. Sides, two ships near the Vincennes on July 3, as well as the British Government Communications Headquarters, report that the Airbus was level or climbing when it was hit.

- Shipping sources in Dubai say that the pilot of the Airbus, making a regularly scheduled flight from Bandar Abbas airport in Iran to Dubai, on the other side of the gulf, had requested and was granted clearance to climb to 14,000 feet by the tower in Bandar Abbas.

- The Vincennes had only 4 minutes in which to identify the ship and decide to fire, according to the Pentagon. It had 21 minutes, according to Gen. Manhour Setari, the commander of Iran's Air Force. At a news conference on July 7, Setari produced communications tapes showing that the Airbus was in frequent radio communication with the control tower at Bandar Abbas airport for 21 minutes from the time it started its engines until it was shot down by a missile. The U.S. could have, and may have, monitored all communications between the tower and the plane. Setari offered to make the tapes available to those investigating the shooting down of the plane.

- The Pentagon says it did not receive the proper IFF (identify friend or foe) signal from the Airbus, the signal which tells anyone monitoring the plane that it is a commercial airplane. It is on tape, however, that the tower at

Bandar Abbas asked the pilot to turn on his IFF system, the pilot confirmed he had done so, and the tower acknowledged receiving the IFF signal.

- Washington is trying to blame the Airbus for its own demise, claiming that it was warned. But the Pentagon admits that no attempts were made to contact the Airbus on the commercial air control frequency, which the Airbus was closely tuned to. The Vincennes' warnings were on military frequency which the Airbus did not have and a civilian distress frequency that commercial traffic does not usually monitor.

- Even if the Airbus was listening, as a regularly scheduled flight at approximately 12,000 feet it would not have recognized warnings to an "unidentified" plane at approximately 7,000 feet.

Meanwhile, the very U.S. imperialist military which committed this atrocity will now conduct the investigation of it! Heading the Pentagon inquiry is Rear Admiral William Fogarty, himself a perpetrator of genocide against oppressed people. Fogarty is the former captain of the battleship New Jersey, which lobbed hundreds of 16-inch shells at Lebanese mountain villages in 1982 and 1983.

Such an inquiry would merely try to cover up the facts and absolve the Pentagon. It can never be trusted by workers and oppressed people. What is needed is an independent and international commission of inquiry to examine not only the details of this terrible crime, but also the aggressive and provocative role that the Pentagon is playing in the gulf, a place where it has no business being in the first place.



empathetic as Larry Holmes spoke

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

## lies, reaction pleasant surprise

her head, "I know what the truth is. Keep on telling the truth."

A racist began to heckle from the curb. "Shut up and let them speak," several people yelled at him. As another reactionary began to spew anti-Iranian slurs, others in the crowd argued him down.

One bigot yelled at a Black South African woman in the crowd who was nodding in agreement with the speakers: "If you don't like it here, go home."

"When you get your bankers out of my country I can!" she shot back, silencing him. There was applause.

Police began to appear in squad cars, checking our sound permit again and again, and fraternizing with the two men who had yelled racist epithets. It was nearing dusk and the crowd of workers was thinning. The relationship of forces was changing.

As we began to put away our supplies, I noticed a dozen workers had stayed for the entire street meeting. Many put their names and addresses on our sign-up sheet at the table. All of us who had sold the newspaper began to pool quarters and subscriptions. We had sold 28 subscriptions and gotten \$75, mostly in quarters, in a little over an hour.

## What rules of engagement brought death to the gulf?

By Andy Stapp

For more than a year, the Reagan administration has resisted any attempt by members of Congress to curb its authority by invoking the War Powers Act in the Arabian/Persian Gulf. The explanation from the White House has been that the naval task force in the gulf is not on a combat mission, and that, moreover, this fleet is not at war with anyone, therefore, there is no need to implement this legislation.

Since July 3, however, we hear a contradictory and completely different story. The Iranian commercial airliner shot down by the guided missile cruiser Vincennes was itself at fault for its own destruction, we are told. The airline pilot brought it on himself for deliberately flying into a war zone!

Which is it, a "war zone" or "not a war zone"?

Part of the answer may lie in the new rules of engagement announced by the Pentagon at the end of last April for its battle fleet there. Captain William Rogers was apparently following these rules when he killed 290 civilians. The President, the press and the Pentagon keep saying ad nauseam that his action was "justified," that it

was "correct and proper," given the "latitude" provided by the rules of engagement Rogers was acting on.

"An airway is not a safety zone," Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard has explained with a straight face. Has the Pentagon ever warned the 150 civilian aircraft which pass through the commercial air corridor where the Vincennes destroyed Flight 655, with the loss of 290 lives, that they could be subject to sudden attack by U.S. missiles?

Why does Admiral William Crowe, the highest ranking officer in the U.S. military, continue to insist that the commander of the Vincennes acted with "circumspection and good judgment" in destroying the Airbus? Because he was only following orders?

But that's the really interesting part. The rules of engagement instituted last April are still secret. They were never subject to Congressional approval. The news media doesn't seem to know exactly what is in them either. No one is supposed to ask. The Iranians are simply to be dehumanized so it doesn't matter that 66 children died. Like robots which are encouraged to repeat over and over, "The captain was defending his ship."

From a commercial airliner.



Response in Washington, D.C., to massacre.

WW PHOTO: JARMILA DOKLADALOVA



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# Cuba expands free health services for all

## Has lowest infant mortality rate in Latin America

By Susan Rotgard

(This is part of a series of articles about Cuba which has been appearing in recent issues of Workers World. The author recently visited Cuba as part of the 19th contingent of the Venceremos Brigade.)

When I described the conditions for working people in the U.S. to Barbara, a young Cuban woman working with the Venceremos Brigade as a guide and interpreter, she had difficulty

grasping what I said. And when I explained to her that in New York City, where I live and work, people die in the streets because they cannot pay for medical care, she shook her head in amazement.

She literally could not comprehend a society where such a reality is not only possible but occurs frequently.

Barbara was born in revolutionary Cuba where health care is free and accessible to all.

Coming from New York City where

medical attention has become a privilege for the rich, I was overwhelmed with what I saw. We visited various health care facilities as part of our itinerary of two weeks in Cuba.

The Cuban health system is organized as a network of polyclinics and maternity homes (in the rural areas), municipal and provincial hospitals throughout the country, a major research hospital and the family doctor program. Altogether, this structure

provides completely free medical treatment and preventive health care for all the Cuban people (including contraception, abortion and psychological counseling).

### Modern and free

When we arrived at the Hospital Hermanos Ameijeiras, I was surprised. I had not expected the large, modern 20-story building which towered above downtown Havana. This 5-year-old hospital serves as a central reference of medical technology and science for the country. There are 950 in-patient beds, 38 different medical specialties and close to 3,000 workers.

Many foreign patients, mostly from the Third World, also receive medical attention here free of charge.

It is a very sophisticated medical center which has state-of-the-art, high-technology medical equipment. Heart and lung transplants are performed as well as microsurgery, kidney ultrasound, transplanting hearts, tissue, skin, cornea, pancreas, kidney, bone marrow, and limbs.

There is a special care system for the critically ill and for patients who undergo special surgery. Hospital Hermanos Ameijeiras will soon be expanding by adding two new buildings which will include facilities for nuclear medicine and a new research lab, a pain clinic, experimental surgery and a psychiatric hospital.

One of the newest innovations of the Cuban health care system is the family doctor program which, besides treatment, deals with preventive medicine. Family doctors, most of whom are 25 or 26 years old, actually live in the communities they serve. There is a doctor for every 120 families. They interact with and know the people they care for. People come with problems ranging from chronic illness to prenatal care.

These doctors, on the front lines of the health delivery system, also make home visits, enabling them to meet the whole family and see the conditions in which their patients live. In addition to monitoring and treating people, they are also involved in constant education — they meet informally with their patients (including adolescents) and talk about health issues such as teenage pregnancy, the dangers of smoking, the importance of nutrition and exercise, preventing accidents in the home.

At the family doctor clinic we visited in the Alamar community (which is also a model of housing and community planning), there had been no infant deaths that year. Cuba has the lowest infant mortality rate in all Latin America — and lower than U.S. cities such as Detroit and Washington, D.C.

In Cuba, which has a population of 10 million, there are currently 28,000 doctors and 29,000 medical students. The goal is 65,000 medical doctors by the year 2000. Cuba's internationalism (discussed more fully in an earlier article in this series) includes 10,000 doctors serving and teaching in other Third World countries besides treating people in Cuba.

### Psychiatric hospital

At the psychiatric hospital we visited, I was impressed with the dignity with which people were treated. The facility itself was spotlessly clean and pleasant.

Mida, the young psychologist who showed us around the hospital, told us that before the triumph of the revolution in 1959, this was the worst hospital in the country. The conditions were deplorable and there was a fence around the facility. Now it is open. The

Continued on page 9



One of Cuba's new "family doctors."

WW PHOTO: SUSAN ROTGARD

# Mass disaffection stuns Mexican ruling party

## Strong showing by new progressive coalition

By Teresa Gutierrez

The phenomenal results of the elections held in Mexico last week represent not only a huge, massive disaffection with the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), but also the sweeping and growing discontent of the Mexican people with the devastating economic, social and political problems that are currently ravaging their country.

For over 60 years, the PRI has managed to win every single presidential election virtually unopposed and with a large majority. In 1976, for example, President Lopez de Portillo easily strolled into office, unopposed, with more than 90% of the vote. In 1982, the current Mexican President, Miguel de la Madrid, again ran unopposed, and won with 71% of the vote.

This year's election, however, signaled a dramatic turnaround in Mexican politics. For the first time in PRI history, the elections presented a serious and strong opposition to its domination. From the left was the highly successful Cuauhtemoc Cardenas campaign of the progressive FDN (the National Democratic Front). From the right was the Manuel Clouthier campaign of the ultra-conservative PAN (the National Action Party), which has been vigorously promoted by U.S. imperialism.

### Cardenas sweeps Mexico City

The National Democratic Front presented the most serious challenge to the PRI, as voter results indicated that Cardenas had sweeping support throughout the country. Initial election results showed that Cardenas won the capital, Mexico City, D.F., a phenomenal victory in itself.

Cardenas up until a few months ago represented a disaffected movement within the PRI, the Democratic Current, that he helped spearhead while still a member of the ruling party.

Cardenas and the many other progressive "priistas" broke off with the PRI just nine months ago.

In this very short period, the movement was able to broaden and garner the support of workers and peasants throughout the country, progressive nationalists, and many of the socialist and communist parties of Mexico. In nine short months they were able to run a campaign for the presidency that presented the PRI with its greatest challenge in history.

Election fraud has always been strongly suspected of the PRI, and this election was no exception. As approximately 20 million Mexicans voted on Wednesday, July 6, results of the historical opposition movement were anxiously awaited.

### Panic over releasing vote tally

Initially, PRI election officials stated that results would be released that very night, but it was six nights later before they announced that the PRI candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, had won the presidential election with a narrow 52.8% against Cardenas with 29.1% and Clouthier with 16.6%.

There are indications, however, that Salinas did not in fact win the election at all, an event that if acknowledged would have the effect of a political earthquake. The FDN is charging that Cardenas, not Salinas, in fact won the presidency. The FDN, it says, has received information from "inside the government" indicating that Cardenas received the majority vote. The FDN forces claim that Cardenas has won 39% of the 6.7 million votes to Salinas's 33%.

Both major opposition parties, the FDN and the PAN, have strongly challenged the legitimacy of the official tally. In separate statements, they charged the government with widespread voter fraud, manipulation and intimidation to guarantee a victory for the PRI.

Cardenas has said that "under no circumstances" would he recognize a Salinas victory, and that the Federal Election Commission (FEC) results represent a fraud. This is the reason, he goes on, why the FEC took so long to release the results, and concealed electoral information so as to have time to alter the votes. Cardenas says that such a delay has "made the official figures lose their credibility."

### Massive protests over fraud

The results have spurred on a massive movement throughout the country as thousands and thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest the delay in election results and to demand a fair tally. Cardenas has called for the mobilization of the people, and FDN supporters have been reported to occupy many municipal offices.

In the northern part of Mexico, thousands blocked the bridges and highways leading into the U.S. all weekend long as thousands more demonstrated at congressional district offices, chanting slogans critical of the PRI and demanding that the government respect the "popular will."

A significant result of the elections is that in the Mexican Senate, long a PRI sanctuary, at least 8 out of the 64 seats will now be occupied by the opposition forces, including a seat for Porfirio Munoz Ledo of the FDN. Munoz is reported to be one of the progressive ideologists of the Cardenas movement.

The 1988 presidential elections in Mexico may be over, but certainly the influence of the opposition forces will be felt long after July 6. The overwhelming response by the masses of Mexico to the elections represents a demand for change from the increasing miserable conditions that ravage the country and that are caused by an economy bled dry by decades of Yankee imperialist exploitation.



# Nicaragua expels U.S. spymasters

## Cracks down on CIA-backed media

By Dee Knight  
Managua, Nicaragua

July 12 — "It's a very strong measure," U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton told Father Miguel d'Escoto when the Nicaraguan foreign minister told him he had 72 hours to leave the country, along with seven other embassy functionaries.

"Nothing could be stronger than the policy of systematic assassination and terrorism of the Reagan administration against Nicaragua," d'Escoto replied.

In a formal letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Father d'Escoto detailed the recent escalation of U.S.-financed contra attacks on Nicaraguan civilians:

- July 2: three adults and two children ages 4 and 5 killed by contras near the Honduran border.

- July 4: seven civilians killed and 10 wounded in the central province of Chontales, where plans are in full swing to celebrate the revolution's ninth anniversary next week.

- July 9: three women, one 45 and two 16 years old — members of a dance troupe — slaughtered near Matagalpa when the truck they were riding in struck a U.S.-made land mine and then contras opened fire with machine-guns and mortars. Many other members of the troupe were injured,

and four male dancers were kidnapped. One was later shot pointblank in the chest, according to another who managed to escape.

### Melton's provocations

D'Escoto also accused Melton and his staff of "open and shameless" incitement of illegal activities by extreme rightwing provocateurs in recent weeks.

Melton sat complacently in the front row at a meeting in Esteli July 3 when his plan for a wave of "civilian protest" was launched by a coalition of rightwing businessmen, bishops and political parties. The plan called for strikes and demonstrations pressuring the Sandinistas to surrender to a U.S.-approved "government of national salvation."

A week later in Nandaima, near Grenada, U.S. Embassy staff participated in a bloody confrontation with the Sandinista police. Demonstrators threw rocks and wielded knives, machetes and iron bars, calling on the government to resign. Ten police were injured and 45 demonstrators arrested, including three rightwing political leaders.

Witnesses said that participants in the confrontation were paid in both dollars and cordobas.

After the confrontation the government suspended the U.S.-financed newspaper La Prensa for 15 days for its disinformation campaign and incitements to violence. A Catholic radio station, mouthpiece of the rightwing bishops — not to be confused with the majority of Catholic priests and laity — got an indefinite suspension for playing a similar role.

### Retaliation?

The U.S. government "is essentially irrational," Father d'Escoto said when asked how the Reagan administration might retaliate. "They could do anything," he added, pointing to Reagan's systematic use of force, lies and disinformation against Nicaragua. Melton's interference in Nicaragua's internal affairs has "completely surpassed our capacity for tolerance," he said.

"Here they can't send U.S. procon-

suls, like in Honduras," he said. "This is Nicaragua, a sovereign and independent country. Here the North Americans can't behave like they do in other countries in the region."

Washington did retaliate immediately, revoking the credentials of Nicaragua's Ambassador Carlos Tunnerman along with seven of his associates. This "commensurate" response leaves the Nicaraguan Embassy virtually without a staff, while the U.S. Embassy still has at least 40 functionaries over and above its secretarial and support staff.

The Nicaraguan government is fighting to keep Ambassador Tunnerman in Washington, since he is also the Nicaraguan representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), whose majority would have to support an expulsion. Tunnerman commented that Melton's ouster followed violations of the Vienna convention governing diplomatic conduct, while his was based on simple vengeful retaliation.

### 'We're ready'

President Daniel Ortega says, "We are prepared to face whatever type of U.S. escalation," adding that Melton's expulsion should teach the U.S. "to respect this country and its people."

The president spent the weekend

visiting relatives of the victims of the current wave of contra violence. Reports said the relatives told him to stop holding back and give a "hard hand" to the contras and the civilian counterrevolutionaries. But Ortega reaffirmed that the government's unilateral cease-fire will continue, adding that the army has precise instructions to repel all counterrevolutionary aggression.

While the breakdown of peace talks and the escalation of contra violence is hurting the country and especially the economy, Nicaraguans continue to see the revolution as the key to their future. People have not forgotten that more than 80,000 families won their own farmland through the revolution. Or that schools, universities, hospitals, healthcare and childcare centers — free or nearly free to all — are fruits of the revolution.

Current economic policies call for even more belt-tightening than before, which has been the goal of the U.S. and its contras. But the government has mobilized to explain the situation and rally the people. And in a measure to combat the suffering caused by war-related hyper-inflation, the government last week began distributing monthly allotments of 10 pounds each of rice and beans and one of sugar to workers in the state sector.

## — Cuban health

Continued from page 8

patients have built numerous additional buildings.

Patients who are able work in the hospital; some work in the beautiful flower gardens which are part of the complex. There are six levels of treatment. In some phases, patients work outside the hospital. Although sometimes drugs are part of treatment, nobody appeared drowsy or overmedicated. We visited various recreation and occupational therapy areas where patients were engaged in different activities and received individual care and encouragement.

I could not help but make comparisons with the United States, the richest industrial country in the world where health care, if accessible at all, is difficult and expensive to obtain and where facilities are often understaffed and undersupplied.

As a worker in a New York health care facility, I was also struck by the attention and care Cuban people received in all the medical facilities I visited. In the U.S., health care providers are often exhausted and frustrated by a for-profit industry which creates conditions beyond even the most able and caring practitioner's ability to provide adequate attention. I've seen many of my friends and co-workers in the field become stressed out and sick themselves trying to provide individual solutions to the problems of a system that puts profits before people.

Cuba is a developing Third World country which, besides overcoming the vestiges of imperialism and the material legacy of exploitation, has had to expend its limited resources on defense against constant ideological and material U.S. aggression — including over 20 years of a trade and travel blockade. Yet health care is accessible for all its people, and is free.

It is so difficult for us in this country to even imagine what a socialist country like Cuba, where society is organized on the basis of the needs of the people, looks and feels like. Well, it looks, feels and is truly fantastic. It's an inspiration to all who burn with the desire for a world based on equality where all people's basic human needs are met.



## Vets Convoy blocked again at U.S. border

### Mexicans support attempt to aid Nicaragua

By Joanne Gavin  
Laredo, Texas

Members of the Veterans' Peace Convoy continue to be blocked by U.S. Customs and Treasury agents from driving their pickups and buses, loaded with humanitarian supplies for the children of Nicaragua, across the Mexican-U.S. border here.

The sticking point is the vehicles, which were donated by people all over this country to be given to non-governmental relief agencies in Nicaragua. The Reagan administration claims that the small, old pickups and school buses will be used for "military purposes."

The latest in the month-long series of attempts to cross the international bridge into Mexico began Saturday, July 9. "Convoyistas," refusing to obey orders to vacate their impounded vehicles, were brutally maced, dragged out and arrested. Of about 150 supporters, perhaps a dozen began to sit down on the bridge to block it.

They were immediately and roughly grabbed by customs cops, which caused one of the supporters, veteran William Kelsy of Austin, to fall

against one of the cops who then threw him to the ground, brutally handcuffed him and forced Laredo police to arrest him on an "assault" charge.

Also arrested by Laredo police and charged with "obstruction of a roadway" and "resisting arrest" were convoyistas Bob Livesey of Boston, Raul Valdez of Austin, Louis Devendtte of Washington, D.C., Harry Meserve of Santa Cruz, Calif., Duncan Murphy, a WWII veteran from Walnut Creek, Calif., and Zeal Steffanoff of San Marcos, Texas. The last two were charged with "obstruction" only, and all were released on bond.

Another attempt at crossing was made at 1:30 a.m. Sunday night/Monday morning, July 11. This time there were four arrests and personal recognizance bonds were offered. One person, Louis Devendtte, refused to sign the personal bond and elected to remain in jail indefinitely, as a protest of the government's actions.

Laredo supporters planned a solidarity dinner Monday in front of the Webb County Enforcement Center where Devendtte is being held. Laredo and Webb County officials have complained that they are caught in the

middle; that they really don't want to arrest and hold Convoyistas and their supporters but, according to Gilberto Rivera, one of the Texas coordinators of the convoy, "The feds are being very careful that we never get cases into federal court, where we can put the embargo on trial."

Convoyistas plan future, unannounced attempts to cross the border.

Support from the community has been very strong in both Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, but Mexican officials are cooperating with their U.S. counterparts in an unsuccessful attempt to break it down. Saturday Mexican officials prevented supporters there from approaching the bridge, which they planned to block in solidarity with the convoy. Mexican officials are also preventing leaders of the Mexican support organization from walking across the bridge to meet with the convoy.

But the people formed a "bucket brigade" across the International Bridge and handed across about 500 pounds of food to be given to homeless people in Mexico homesteading public lands with makeshift structures. As is often chanted here: "In the peoples' struggle, there are no borders."

# EDITORIALS

## Seeing rightside up

The lens of the human eye, scientists have shown, actually sees things upside down. When babies are born they first see the world reversed. Only after time does the brain learn to interpret what the eyes see as being right-side up.

This has been confirmed by experiment. After wearing special lenses for a few days which invert everything, subjects will actually "see" upside down after taking off the lenses. It takes several hours without the lenses before the subject can see normally again.

The capitalist media work like a giant pair of these inversion glasses. They take the world, turn it upside down, and dish it out as "news." After years of being fed this upside-down diet, people start believing it — even though it's completely at odds with what they really know.

Take the most common theme of the media and press. Socialism, we are told, is in a state of crisis. The economy there is stagnating, people are miserable, everything is falling apart. Capitalism, on the other hand, is flourishing. Everything is growing, the economy is dynamic and people are happy.

Take a deep breath and look around you. Is this really what's going on? Where is this mythical capitalism that is doing so well?

Is it on the streets of New York, Chicago, Atlanta or Los Angeles where **hundreds of thousands** of people have no homes and wander in dire poverty begging for spare change? Is it in Kansas or Iowa where banks have foreclosed on countless family farms and where drought disaster will now translate into higher food prices because of the dictates of the capitalist market? Is it in the banks, those marbled institutions of financial stability, which are experiencing record failures at a rate unseen since the Great Depression?

True, this is probably the richest country on the planet. But what does that say for the system when there is 10% illiteracy, when 37 million people live below the official poverty line, when medical care is a national scandal for the tens of millions who can't afford it, when in-

ner-city schools are more like prisons than centers for learning and when infant mortality for Black children is higher than in Guatemala?

Capitalism does have its spurts of economic growth. But as last October 19 showed so dramatically, the system can go into a 1929-type tailspin at any moment and without any notice. And the devastating effects of capitalist depression have been shaking Third World countries, particularly Latin America, for years now.

There may be many serious problems in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. But for the population as a whole conditions of life have steadily improved. There have been no wild economic cycles of boom and bust, no depressions that have wiped out decades of economic gains.

There is no homelessness and rent is less than 5% of annual income. There are no ghettos or structural unemployment. The press says the USSR is economically backward. But just the other day they announced a mission to Mars and earlier they put up a new type of plane that doesn't use gasoline. These aren't exactly the work of a "backward" society.

Workers World has written extensively and will continue to analyze the enormous developments inside the Soviet Union. Many of the moves toward reintroducing market relations we feel are regressive. But it's impossible to understand the socialist world without seeing it in the context of what's happening in the imperialist world. And it is capitalism which, while still expanding, is also wracked with crisis and unable to solve any of its fundamental problems except by enormous military expenditures and an assault on the standard of living of the masses.

It's time to take off the glasses and see the world as it is. Capitalism is in historic decline. Socialism is the wave of the future.

## Two dates, two revolutions

Two dates, two nations, two revolutions. July 18 is the 70th birthday of Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress imprisoned now for over 25 years, whose name is itself a song of freedom for the people of South Africa. July 19 is the ninth anniversary of the day the Sandinistas ended their long guerrilla war by marching into Managua and slicing through the chain that bound Nic-

aragua to Wall Street and Washington.

These two revolutions have inspired and continue to inspire all those throughout the world who identify with the struggle for freedom. Work teams in socialist countries, student buildings on U.S. campuses and streets in Black communities bear the name Mandela. Visitors take a week to see Nicaragua, then stay for a year to work for the revolution, or come back home to march on the federal building to keep U.S. troops out, or storm the borders to take food and medicine in.

Behind the enthusiasm for these revolutions is not only the courage of individuals like Mandela or the first Sandinista guerrillas that took to the hills. It is also that both struggles deeply involved the masses of people. In Nicaragua the workers and peasants supported and then joined the guerrillas. They are now integrated by the hundreds of thousands in the militia defense of Nicaragua that makes Washington think twice, or maybe even three times, before giving invasion orders.

In South Africa, despite the latest laws banning the mass organizations, these groups have still been able to survive and to grow in the townships. The union movement has grown to a size not seen before on the African continent, and to an explosive political force seen almost nowhere else on the globe today. In fact, it is only this broad support that allows the liberation movement to hit back against the fascist police and army, whether with a small guerrilla action or a massive general strike.

Building this mass support for revolutionary goals was the work of individuals like Mandela who dedicated their lives to just that painstaking effort, whether in the jails, the townships, in exile, in the mines or in the bush.

For those unfamiliar with Mandela or with the Sandinista Revolution, the two anniversaries should provide the impetus and the opportunity to learn more about their history.

For those who already feel that it's important to honor Nelson Mandela on July 18 and to celebrate the embattled Nicaraguan Revolution July 19, consider the following: U.S. imperialism is the direct, main enemy of the Nicaraguan people, and is the key force in the imperialist world system that props up the apartheid state. Why not dedicate yourself to building the kind of mass movement here that can carry out a struggle against U.S. imperialism and make the work of the African and Central American revolutionaries much, much easier.

## Letters

### Retirees need health care

We are a group of retired steel workers circulating petitions for health care. Our goal is to create the Health Benefit Guarantee Corp. (HBGC), an agency that would provide transitional health care to unemployed workers and permanent health care for retirees, and hopefully for the 34 million people who now have no insurance at all.

As you know, because of bankruptcies, liquidations and many other methods, the companies are getting out of labor agreements and leave us stranded in our elderly years, unable to fund jobs as well as insurance.

We earned health coverage after putting in 30 or 40 years for a company. All Americans deserve and can demand that our government guarantee our health insurance as they have our basic pensions. We have a right to be protected through law.

Please let me know if you are able to help us with this petition campaign. Please run this letter in Workers World and hopefully some of your readers will circulate petitions for us.

B. G. Burns  
Co-Chairman of RAGE  
Retirees Against Greed  
and Exploitation  
11277 Louisville St., NE  
Louisville, Ohio 44641

### West Germany

A trial began in June in a political court in Dusseldorf against two women, Ingrid Strobl and Ulla Penseilin. Under a very repressive law, the two are accused of being members of the Red Cells and responsible for a series of bombings last year.

Both are critical radical journalists from the left. For the bosses here, that's sufficient evidence for accusing them and keeping them in detention in complete isolation for months.

In Cologne a demonstration supporting the two brought out around 3,000 people. It's hard to believe, but every demonstrator was accompanied by a cop. This was one of over 100 demonstrations, meetings and solidarity concerts held all over the Federal Republic.

Many of these anti-repression meetings also focused on opposition to nuclear research, genetic engineering and the discrimination against immigrants, and solidarity with the struggle against apartheid and Israeli imperialism.

Very unpopular here are the Adler textile factories and retail outlets. Adler set up the Flair Fashion factory in South Korea to make superprofits from the low wages and the skilled labor force there. When the 1,600 workers, almost all women between 18 and 25 years old, began struggling for higher wages and better conditions, many were fired.

As this was going on last summer,

the Korean workers in general exploded in strikes, sit-ins and other labor struggles. The Flair Fashion workers had no lack of solidarity in Korea.

Here in West Germany activists distributed informational leaflets exposing Adler and demonstrated at their offices, demanding that Adler meet the demands of the Korean workers. On Aug. 15, 1987, nine Adler buildings were bombed. No one was killed or injured in the bombings, which are said to have cost Adler 35 million deutschmarks. Ingrid and Ulla are charged with conspiracy in the bombings at

Adler and one at the Lufthansa offices. Lufthansa has forcibly sent immigrants and persons asking for asylum in West Germany back to their home countries, and is also under attack for promoting "prostitution tourism."

The law used against Ulla and Ingrid is also being used against Kurdish revolutionaries now living in West Germany.

Greetings of solidarity for both women can be sent to: Gen-Archiv, Fuehrichstr. 15, 43 Essen 1, FRG.

W. Jansen  
Cologne

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# Southern Africa briefs



**Namibia strike.** After staging the biggest general strike in the country's history, Namibian workers went back to their jobs in the latter part of last June.

The strike, which involved between 40,000 to 50,000 workers, was called by the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) and its affiliates, to support thousands of protesting Namibian students who have been boycotting classes.

The demands took the form of an ultimatum sent to the administrative body that has been set up by the racist apartheid regime to create the illusion of Namibian self-rule. In fact, it is the armed forces of South Africa that continue to occupy and run that mineral-rich country.

In addition to the general call for the withdrawal of the occupying forces of South Africa, the two-day strike demanded: the immediate closing of military bases located in close proximity to schools in Namibia's northern war

zone; an end to South Africa's "reign of terror" against the students of these and other schools—all of which have been militarized; the release of all political detainees, including NUNW official Chief Ankama and student leaders; the withdrawal of "colonial police" and Koevoet counter-insurgency units from the townships; and an end to the general terror against the Namibian people.

When the ultimatum was ignored, over one-third of the Namibian labor force went on strike for two days in solidarity with some 40,000 students who have been boycotting schools throughout Namibia.

According to a communique issued by the Namibia Communications Center, the South African regime has refused to move the bases, claiming they are there to "protect the children."

Secretary-General Ben Ulenga of the Namibian Union of Mineworkers, in summing up the impact of the strike commented that it was "an indication

that industrial workers are prepared to back the general demand that South African troops end their illegal occupation of our country."

• • •

**Soweto rent strike.** The racist apartheid regime seems prepared to go to all lengths to break a rent strike that has been occurring in the Black township of Soweto.

The strike was called two years ago initially in response to planned rent increases. However, it soon grew into a movement to protest against the nationwide state of emergency and the large presence of security forces in Soweto.

Electricity has now been shut off in four of Soweto's 17 townships and the regime is threatening that should the rent strike continue, further blackouts will be ordered, despite below-freezing temperatures. (It is now winter in the Southern Hemisphere.)

The South African regime has suffered a loss of more than \$200 million in rent and utilities payments due to the strike in which 75% of Soweto residents have participated.

• • •

**Angola victory.** A combined force of the Angolan and Cuban army and liberation guerrilla forces of SWAPO has been punishing the re-

pressive South African military near the Angola-Namibia border. Officers of the apartheid army were forced to admit that their troops took heavy casualties in a battle near the Calueque Dam in southern Angola on June 27, and say that at present the Cubans have the military advantage. (New York Times, July 12.)

The South African army tries to minimize its troop losses, especially among white, conscript soldiers. These troops' morale, as well as the morale of the settler population in general, depends on the myth that the racist forces are invincible.

These troops fight, after all, to defend privileges and comforts that they can hardly enjoy if they're blown up in the bush. And battles lost in Angola with heavy casualties give an extra push to those thinking of leaving the country.

The South African regime invaded Angola earlier this year to try and help the puppet UNITA forces overthrow the Luanda government. The racists were stopped when they attempted to seize Cuito Cuarnavale, then put on the run.

The war in Angola costs the Pretoria regime \$2 billion a year, besides the secret military and financial aid that Washington sends to the UNITA forces.

By Pat Chin

## —Holmes on Dukakis

*Continued from page 5*

undergoing a profound, progressive transformation. Why? Because the conditions for poor and working people in this country are rapidly deteriorating. The fact is that the rich are getting richer and not only are the poor getting poorer but everybody else is getting poorer.

The response Jackson has received from a broad cross section of working people in this country over the past five to six months has exposed a secret that the ruling class has tried to conceal: that for the past 15 years, ever since the post-Vietnam War recession, the wages, the standards of living, the incomes across the board for working people have gone down.

If there ever was a time when working people could expect their standard of living to increase as each year went by, those days are over. The combination of the deepening of the capitalist economic crisis, compounded by the introduction of high technology into industry which has the effect of pushing wages down further and destroying decent-paying union jobs, has begun to effect the political consciousness of the workers of this country.

And what we see from the response Jackson has gotten are the seeds of a new movement that is sure to flourish, that is bound to be led by larger numbers of Black, Latino, Asian, Native, gay and lesbian, women and undocumented workers, whose numbers in the work force are growing.

We see a real possibility on the horizon: a genuine, powerful resurgence of a militant, grassroots, poor and working class movement in the U.S., perhaps the greatest resurgence of the working class movement this country has seen since the struggles of the '30s. And preparing for, providing direction to, analyzing the development of this resurgence are the alternative that our Party offers.

The working class and progressive movement, and especially those who consider themselves a part of the socialist movement, should not be taken in by the "we all have to get behind Dukakis or Bush will win" fear.

An elderly Black woman in Atlanta said to a New York Times reporter recently when asked if she would support Dukakis over Bush, "I don't care who wins the next election. Black people in this country have survived 400 years of slavery, we certainly can survive four more years of Bush."

I would add that what we will gain from breaking with the Democrats

and their lesser evil alternative is a new powerful independent movement that can make the capitalist parties and their presidential candidates and their elections irrelevant.

From the point of view of our platform, Dukakis will not be calling for a new bill of rights for poor and working people, which is what we need to defend ourselves against the constant onslaught of the rich, the landlords and the ruling class in general.

Dukakis is not going to be calling for guaranteed full employment, for a ten-dollar minimum wage, a moratorium on plant closings or the reopening of shutdown plants, or a moratorium on farm foreclosures; for affordable housing for everyone, no evictions, free daycare, free quality health care for all, free and safe birth control and abortions, free education including college for everyone; for an end to racism and racist violence, affirmative action programs for oppressed peoples, for women and the disabled.

Dukakis will not be calling for an end to militarism or an end to U.S. intervention abroad, for taking the trillions of dollars that go towards war and using them instead to meet social needs. He won't be calling for an end to anti-lesbian and gay bigotry; for the dismantling of the Star Wars program and rechanneling those billions of dollars into an all-out war against AIDS.

This is a program that only advocates and representatives of poor and working people, that is, Workers World Party and its candidates, will be calling for.

People always say, we support your program and of course the Democrats are not going to fight for these things, but is there any realistic alternative to the Democrats? Obviously, your candidates are not going to be in the White House next year, so shouldn't we decide between the capitalist politicians? Our answer is no.

It isn't only a question of principle. Supporting our Party's program and independent perspective is not only a realistic alternative; it is the only alternative. What we offer the working class and progressive movement goes beyond the elections between the Democrats and Republicans.

The Jackson movement has shown the tremendous potential for the working class to carry out a revolutionary class struggle against the entire racist, ruling class. This is the orientation that our Party and the progressive movement should be prepared for and look forward to with great anticipation.

## East Germany to honor Nelson Mandela on birthday

By Holger Wenk  
Berlin, GDR

The citizens of the German Democratic Republic (GDR — East Germany) will honor the 70th birthday of Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, on July 18. They will hold meetings and solidarity events and reaffirm their unwavering solidarity with that patriotic fighter held in jail by the apartheid regime for more than 25 years.

While Mandela has received honors from the government of the GDR and from the leading Socialist Unity Party, active solidarity is also shown by the GDR's other four political parties, by the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions and other mass organizations and people of various religious beliefs.

For example, two work teams of factories in the county seats of Frankfurt on Oder and Neubrandenburg bear Mandela's name, earned through outstanding work in production and ma-

nor contributions to the solidarity movement. On Mandela's 70th birthday, another work team — this time in the district capital of Eberswalde — will be awarded with the "Nelson Mandela" name. A school in Ilmenau is also named after the South African liberation fighter.

The active assistance given by the GDR population to the liberation struggle in South Africa is coordinated by the GDR Solidarity Committee and financed with donations from the general public. It includes training at this time 120 people from the ANC and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia at institutions of higher learning in the GDR.

In addition, the GDR supplies materials for training and development centers as well as refugee camps run by the liberation organizations in Tanzania and Angola. Almost 200 wounded South African and Namibian children, women and men receive hospital treatment in the GDR every year.

## Disabled Koreans hit hypocrisy in Olympics

By G. Dunkel

Two hundred people protested in Seoul last week against the hypocrisy of having south Korea host the Special Olympics, along with the regular Summer Olympic Games, when it does next to nothing to help disabled people. The Special Olympics are athletic events structured for the participation of disabled people.

South Korea, strongly supported by the United States and Japan, wanted to host the summer games to celebrate its so-called "economic miracle," the vast growth of its economy in the past 20 years. But this economic development, as impressive as it seems, is based on a ferocious exploitation of

workers and a nearly complete disregard for providing social services. The going monthly wage for male industrial workers is \$70; women workers get about one-third of what men do — \$25 a month.

Disabled people in south Korea get none of the help they need to lead productive, satisfying lives, none of the state-provided physical training that would let them participate in the Special Olympics. They're on their own. What makes the hypocrisy of south Korea even more glaring is that north Korea, the socialist part of the Korean nation, has gone all out to provide disabled people with everything they need as part of a comprehensive package of social benefits for all working people.

## Acto terrorista norteamericano en contra de avión civil iraní

Por Carlos Vargas

**E**l vil derribamiento del avión de pasajeros de la línea comercial iraní "Iran Air" en el estrecho de Hormuz el pasado 3 de julio por el buque naval de guerra USS Vincennes, es el resultado de el involucrimiento bélico estadounidense en el golfo Pérsico.

Este "error comprensivo" como lo llama el presidente Reagan, le costó la vida a 290 personas, entre los cuales se encontraban 66 niños y personas de diferentes nacionalidades. Marcando con esto el recrudecimiento de la intervención norteamericana en la guerra que sostienen Irán e Irak y la actitud de claro intervencionismo en dicha área y el uso irracional del poderío militar estadounidense.

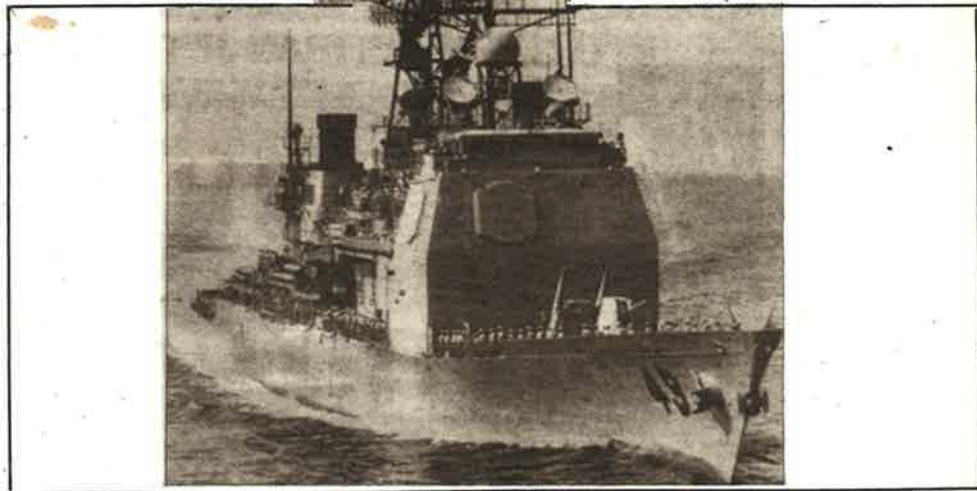
El comandante del buque de guerra USS Vincennes sostiene que el navío aéreo comercial se encontraba a 5 millas fuera de su curso habitual y que a la vez volaba en forma amenazadora sobre su nave y que por informaciones provenientes de su CIC (central de informaciones de combate), este no figuraba en las listas habituales de vuelos comerciales.

Otro navío de combate que se encontraba en el área, siendo este la fragata John H Siden, reportó que su radar detectó la explosión causada por el misil disparado en contra del Iran Air Flight 655, y declara que este (el avión comercial) se encontraba en la ruta normal de navegación aérea, vale decir en el corredor comprendido entre el aeropuerto iraní de Bandar Abbas a Dubai, este corredor tiene una anchura aproximada de 10 millas por lo tanto sería imposible que el

avión iraní se saliera de su ruta como lo declara el comandante del Vincennes y como a su vez lo sostiene el Pentágono.

¿Cuáles serían las causas que motivaron a los EEUU para realizar tan brutal ataque en contra de un indefenso avión comercial?, por un lado creemos que todo esto marca una abierta provocación por parte de esta administración (la norteamericana) para que irán reaccionara en forma violenta clamando venganza y para así justificar una abierta intervención militar en el Golfo Pérsico y poder recuperar la hegemonía perdida en dicha zona y controlar las rutas marítimas de abastecimientos de petróleo hacia occidente. Por lo tanto el involucramiento de los EEUU no es por la pretendida razón de proteger los navios petroleros y dichas rutas o la otra razón que esgrime y que es la de ayudar a terminar la guerra de Irán-Irak, sino la de controlar de una vez por todas las rutas petroleras y para así poder seguir monopolizando dicho producto.

Lo concreto de todo esto es que se ha cometido una brutal masacre en contra de civiles, violando todas las reglas en contra de los derechos humanos, cometiendo criminales actos de guerra sin estar involucrado en la que sostienen estos dos países islámicos, sino que usa su poderío bélico para incrementar sus fines expansionistas e imperialistas sin importarles si se encuentran vidas humanas de por medio y lo peor, que este país que se declara "defensor de los derechos humanos" es capaz de asesinar a sangre fría a 66 niños.



## México libera patriota independentista puertorriqueño

Por Octavio Vargas

**E**l 24 de junio el gobierno mexicano, en un acto catalogado por la administración Reagan como una violación de los tratados antiterroristas internacionales, puso en libertad al patriota independentista puertorriqueño William Morales.

William Morales fue sentenciado a 12 años y 6 meses de prisión después de un enfrentamiento armado contra el FBI y la policía mexicana en la ciudad de Puebla. En este enfrentamiento cayó abatido un funcionario policial y otro quedó herido.

Morales con una alta trayectoria como incansable luchador por la independencia de Puerto Rico del yugo imperialista de EEUU perdió sus manos en una explosión, lo que causó su

primer arresto en este país. Donde se le encontró culpable de posesión de explosivos y material bélico lo que le acarreó una sentencia de 99 años de prisión en las cárceles norteamericanas, escapándose posteriormente hasta su captura en México en 1983.

Aunque el gobierno de EEUU señala a Morales como terrorista, y ha utilizado todos los medios de presión y chantaje en contra del gobierno mexicano para que este lo extraditara a suelo norteamericano no pudo conseguir sus objetivos.

La liberación de William Morales por parte del gobierno mejicano demuestra al mundo entero la legitimidad de la lucha que sostiene el pueblo puertorriqueño por sacudirse el pesado yugo intervencionista y colonizador que le impone EEUU.



## Primer aniversario de "Mundo Obrero"

**C**on este número se cumple nuestro primer aniversario del "Mundo Obrero". Nuestra meta primordial ha sido la de llevar a nuestros lectores hispano-parlantes noticias y análisis de un modo objetivo, claro y revolucionario de los acontecimientos más relevantes en América Latina, Africa, Asia y de todos los lugares donde el pueblo oprimido se levanta contra la represión y el yugo capital-imperialista.

El primer ejemplar de Mundo Obrero, se publicó el 16 de julio de 1987, fue un paso de gran importancia, tanto por el periodico como por el Partido Mundo Obrero.

Nosotros reconocemos el valor de la comunidad latina en su totalidad desde los nacidos en este país hasta los indocumentados como parte integral de la clase obrera de Estados Unidos. Sabemos que la lucha de esta comunidad en contra

de la opresión y discriminación que viven en este aquí junto con las justas luchas de los pueblos latinoamericanos por su liberación, juegan un papel preponderante el desarrollo de la lucha de clases en este país.

"El Mundo Obrero" ha mantenido una perspectiva proletaria en sus análisis de los acontecimientos más sobresalientes, tanto a nivel nacional como el internacional. Nuestro énfasis se ha enfocado en las históricas luchas de nuestra clase, su capacidad de desarrollo y su demanda por la autodeterminación. Lo mismo que su lucha en contra del racismo, la injusticia, por la liberación de la mujer, contra de la intervención imperialista y demás.

Invitamos a nuestros lectores ayudarnos en este trabajo con la contribución de informes, sugerencias y ayuda financiera.