

# Maoists reaffirm antibusing stand

## Which way will RU march on Dec. 14?

By WENDY LYONS

The Maoist Revolutionary Union (RU) has come under sharp attack from many in the radical movement for its opposition to busing to desegregate Boston's public schools. By refusing to side with the Black community and its allies in the fight to defeat the racist opponents of the federally ordered busing plan, RU has come down on the side of the reactionaries in Boston.

In addition to *The Militant*, groups in the Maoist camp, such as the October League (OL) and the *Guardian*, have scored RU for its rotten line.

Even some members of the RU student group, the Revolutionary Student Brigade, have had a hard time swallowing the arguments RU has used to defend its line.

Under this pressure, RU has now undertaken a "self-criticism." However, while retreating on some of their most blatant formulations, their line remains fundamentally the same. They contend that busing is a ruling-class tool whose aim is to divide Black and white workers. And they reaffirm their opposition to the struggle of Blacks to end segregation by any means necessary, including busing. This struggle, RU argues, is divisive.

In the Oct. 25 issue of *The Militant*, we reprinted part of a leaflet showing that the RU had gone so far in its adaptation to the whiteracists that it even used the stop sign, which has become the symbol of the antibusing movement. The leaflet demanded, "Stop the busing plan."

In their self-criticism, the editors of RU's monthly newspaper, *Revolution*, concede that they were wrong to use the stop-sign symbol. "The RU comrades responsible for the symbol being put on the leaflet," the editors claim, "were not aware then that it was being used by the reactionaries"! If this is

true, the RU leaflet writers must have been the only people in Boston ignorant of this fact, since the symbol was plastered all over town. Certainly none of the Black students would have had any difficulty identifying that symbol with the racists who organized the mobs to hurl stones at the school buses.

*The Militant* also reprinted the front-page headline from the October issue of *Revolution*, which read: "People Must Unite to Smash Boston Busing Plan." *Revolution* now regrets this headline also. It reflected, the editors self-critically point out, a tendency "to overemphasize the question of opposing the busing plan."

"While it is correct to oppose this particular busing plan," they wrote, "communists, as we said in that article, do not support or oppose busing in the abstract, though we *are* in principle for integration of the schools, housing, etc. . . ."

In other words, RU doesn't oppose busing "in the abstract," only in the concrete! RU thus joins the ranks of the Supreme Court, the Congress, and the president of the United States—all of whom are against segregation "in principle," but oppose specific plans, like the busing of schoolchildren in Boston, designed to end desegregation.

RU now says, "The demand we should be focusing more around in the Boston struggle is the question of equal and decent education, while, within that, opposing this particular busing plan, and at the same time making clear our general stand in favor of integration and equality between nationalities."

A neat trick. RU says it's for integration, but it fails to explain how the schools can be desegregated without busing. Since housing is segregated in Boston the only way to desegregate



Militant/Evelyn Clark

Will Revolutionary Union join Boston Freedom March, or will it support racists like these?

the schools is to bus students to different neighborhoods.

The Black community in Boston understands this. So do the racists.

The antibusing forces have made a big hue and cry about preserving "neighborhood schools," howling about how terrible it is that some of their children have to go to school at the formerly all-Black Roxbury High.

But they are also boycotting their own "neighborhood school"—"Southie"—because Blacks are now going to school there. The slogan of "neighborhood schools" is a transparent cover for racist resistance to any moves toward desegregation.

Unfortunately, RU continues its efforts to provide "left" arguments for opponents of desegregation.

RU is particularly defensive over the criticisms they have gotten for their demand to "end police attacks on whites." Defenders of the right of Black

children to attend desegregated schools should be demanding that the government act to enforce the law on civil rights. This includes the use of police power, and federal troops if the police can't or won't do it, to protect the school buses and Black people in general from the racist violence in Boston.

The RUers, however, put out a leaflet that says: "Stop the Racist Attacks on Black People: Stop Police Attacks on Black, Latin and White People and People of all Nationalities. . . ."

How evenhanded! Perhaps the RU will take the next logical step and set up defense committees for the white "victims" who got arrested after the cops felt compelled to forcibly stop a mob from murdering Jean-Louis Yvon, a Black man who was nearly lynched while driving his car through South Boston.

RU tries to defend its position by

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# Calendar

## ATLANTA

**WHAT'S AT STAKE IN BOSTON.** Speakers: Vince Eagan, 1974 Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Georgia, who recently returned from Boston; others. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 68 Peachtree St., Third Floor. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (404) 523-0610.

## BOSTON

**THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE TODAY: WHY WE MARCH ON BOSTON.** Speakers: Rexford Weng, executive board member, state labor council; Maceo Dixon, cochairperson, 1974 Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 655 Atlantic Ave. (opp. South Sta.). Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 482-8050.

## LOS ANGELES: CENTRAL-EAST

**THE SCHOOL DESEGREGATION CRISIS IN BOSTON AND PASADENA.** Speakers: Fred Halstead, eyewitness reporter in Boston for *The Militant*; Michael Zinzin, Pasadena Community Information Center; others. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 710 S. Westlake Ave (near 7th and Alvarado). Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 483-1512.

## NEW YORK CITY

**RACIST VIOLENCE IN BOSTON: HOW TO FIGHT IT.** Speakers: Dennis Serrette, president of New York State Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, vice-president of Communications Workers of America Local 1100, and leader of Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization against Racism; Peter Camejo, member of national committee, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Eisner-Lubin Aud., Loeb Student Center, NYU (Washington Sq. S. & LaGuardia). Donation: \$1. Ausp: New York City Militant Forums and NYU Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (212) 982-4966.

## ST. LOUIS

**SOCIALISM AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY—GRAND OPENING FORUM.** Speaker: Harry Ring, Southwest Bureau editor, *The Militant*. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 4660 Maryland, Suite 17. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (314) 367-2520.

## SAN DIEGO

**ISRAEL, THE U.S., AND THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE.** Speaker to be announced. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 4635 El Cajon Blvd. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (714) 280-1292.

## SAN FRANCISCO

**EYEWITNESS REPORT: HOW TO FIGHT RACISM IN BOSTON.** Speaker: Andrew Pulley, national chairperson, Young Socialist Alliance. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 1519 Mission St. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 864-9174.

## TWIN CITIES

**BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN: FILM BY SERGEI EISENSTEIN.** Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 25 University Ave. S.E., Mpls. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 332-7781.

# ...Maoists

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accusing its critics of being enemies of the working class. They say, "... the SWP, like OL, insists that white

people in South Boston are just racists—backward clods who we should call on the ruling class to suppress."

RU argues that the rulers, not the white workers, are responsible for racism. This is true. But when workers adopt the ruling-class ideology of racism, it is the duty of revolutionaries to combat it, not pander to it. White workers have to be told that it is not in their interests to be used as a tool in the oppression of Black workers.

RU fails to see that by uniting with white workers on a program of opposing desegregation, they are fighting to defend the special privileges that go with being white in this society.

RU says that all Boston schools are bad and that this won't be solved by desegregation. But as bad as *all* the schools are, the formerly all-white schools were superior. The reactionaries want to maintain that inequality.

In Boston, Black and white workers have an interest in uniting with each other to fight to improve all of the schools. But this unity can never come about while Blacks are being beaten up by white workers for merely trying to get an equal education under the present system. It can only come about when white workers support the demands of the Black community for an end to racist discrimination in education.

Two demonstrations will take place in Boston on the weekend of Dec. 14. One is the national Freedom March, initiated by Blacks and trade unionists who support the Black community's right to desegregated schools. The racists have called a counterdemonstration for the next day. In the next two weeks, many people will be asking members of RU a straightforward question: Which of the two demonstrations will RU support?

# ...auto

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iodic crises of overproduction, declining sales, and mass layoffs are a built-in feature of the capitalist economy. The auto industry is especially susceptible to the swings of the business cycle.

Although the auto barons are complaining about falling profits, they reap billions out of every business cycle.

There is no way the auto workers can resolve these crises by trying to solve the problems of the company or the capitalist economy as a whole.