

UNITY expands to 28 pages!

Starting with this issue, *UNITY* will now be publishing 28 pages in both the English/Spanish and English/Chinese editions.

This expansion marks an important step forward in *UNITY*'s work. It reflects the growth and advances in our editorial and production areas, as well as increased financial support from our readers.

Expanding the newspaper will enable us to take up many things that we've wanted toward improving *UNITY*. It will enable us to broaden the scope of our news coverage. We can run more features and analytical articles, such as the articles in this issue on the history and significance of affirmative action, and the practice of socialist democracy in China. With more pages we can also vary our contents more. In this issue, for example, we are featuring some poetry by Langston Hughes, the revolutionary Afro-American writer, on the anniversary of his death; and a review of Bertolt Brecht's play, the *Life of Galileo*, which is now playing in Beijing, China.

We'd like to make particular note of the Spanish and Chinese editions. *UNITY* publishes in three languages because we recognize that part of the oppression faced by many minority peoples is the suppression of their native languages. By upholding the equality of languages, the Marxist-Leninist press helps fight national oppression, and makes it possible for the masses and activists of the national movements to participate fully in the revolutionary movement.

The expanded *UNITY* will enable the Spanish and Chinese editions to expand their coverage of particular issues facing the Latino and Chinese nationalities, in addition to *UNITY*'s regular coverage. In this way, the language editions can also be used to help give particular leadership to these movements.

In the Spanish edition, we hope to highlight more ar-

ticles about the struggles of Chicanos, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and other Latino peoples in the U.S., and in Latin America. The bulk of these will also be run in the English edition.

In the English/Chinese edition, we will also be paying

attention to expanding our coverage of issues facing the Asian American nationalities. With this issue we are beginning a regular one-page Asian/Pacific Islander news supplement in English. The English edition has not been able to run many of the particular issues from the Chinese edition, due to limited space.

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We welcome our readers' comments and suggestions on the expanded *UNITY*.

Abolish the death penalty!

The execution of John Spenkelink has opened the floodgates for the execution of over 500 people — all poor and minority people — who are now sitting on death rows across the country, and represents an increase of state repression that must be opposed.

The death penalty has nothing to do with "justice" or a "high sense of moral value that one who takes a life must give his own," as stated by the governor of Utah; nor is it a "deterrent to crime."

What hypocrites! Racist police have license to kill Black youth like Melvin Black and Randolph Evans. U.S. imperialism sends its armies to slaughter whole peoples, as in the war of aggression against Viet Nam, but this is not considered murder. Dan White, an ex-San Francisco City Supervisor, is an admitted murderer, but he can be out on parole in five years.

The death penalty has nothing to do with "detering crime." Many people including workers and minorities are concerned about the rising crime rate, as they themselves are most often the victims of robberies, muggings and killings. As the capitalist crisis worsens, the bourgeoisie promotes harsher punishments to give the impression that they are dealing with crime and to shift the blame for the cause of crime to individuals.

However, the junkie who kills in desperation for

money to buy drugs; the man who kills in the course of robbing a store; even the many shootings that result after violent arguments between friends and family members — these crimes are all caused by the conditions of poverty and social frustration that permeate U.S. capitalist society. The death penalty and stiffer jail sentences will do nothing to change this situation.

Even the most heinous antisocial crimes, like the Indiana man who killed more than 30 young boys and buried them beneath his house, are caused by the degeneracy of monopoly capitalism. Such social decay is not to be found anywhere else in the world other than in the advanced industrial imperialist countries. Ironically, the capitalists hold up these crimes as the reason for the death penalty, but in reality these sick people are very seldom sentenced to death. Charles Manson is alive. The state of Georgia just recently released on parole a man who kidnapped and buried alive a young girl ten years ago.

As long as there is capitalism in the U.S. the death penalty will not be anything more than a weapon to help oppress and intimidate the poor, workers, oppressed nationalities, and all those who challenge capitalism's rule.

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