May 30, 1985 Vol 27, No. 22 25¢

workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Star Wars profiteers rake in billions while economy falters

Reagan plans forced removal of Native peoples from lands —p. 10

Radio Batista —p. 8

Protests greet Duarte's U.S. trip —p. 7

By Robert Dobrow

MAY 21—The military-industrial complex is gearing up for one of its wildest spending sprees ever as the Pentagon's Star Wars system gets off the ground.

With research and development alone costing $26 billion (that's more than the gross national product of Portugal!) and the final tab for the project estimated at **one trillion dollars,** some are already calling Star Wars "the greatest federal pork-barrel project in history."

And the pigs are lining up at the trough.

Lockheed, General Electric, Boeing and dozens of war profiteers have set up special divisions to muscle in on Star Wars contracts. Consulting firms that advise companies on how to get Star Wars money are being set up in Washington. A literal army of hard-sell lobbyists are descending upon Capitol Hill to "persuade" legislators that Star Wars is in the "best interest" of the nation.

Forget the fact that most scientists regard Star Wars as unfeasible and will only bring the nuclear arms race to outer space. Of what good are rational arguments to the giant weapons makers when such astronomical profits are at stake?

Researching the unresearchable

None of the military corporations or the Pentagon really know where Star Wars will lead. The researchers don't know what they're researching.

A new pistol can be test-fired. You can test-fly a new plane. But how do you research and test a vast complex of satellites, lasers and death rays to repel a full-scale nuclear attack, which *must be 100% effective or else* it's totally worthless? If it's just 95% effective, against 1,000 warheads that means that 50 warheads get through the "shield." Not a pleasant thought.

It's obviously impossible to really test such a system. The billions being poured into "research and development" are a

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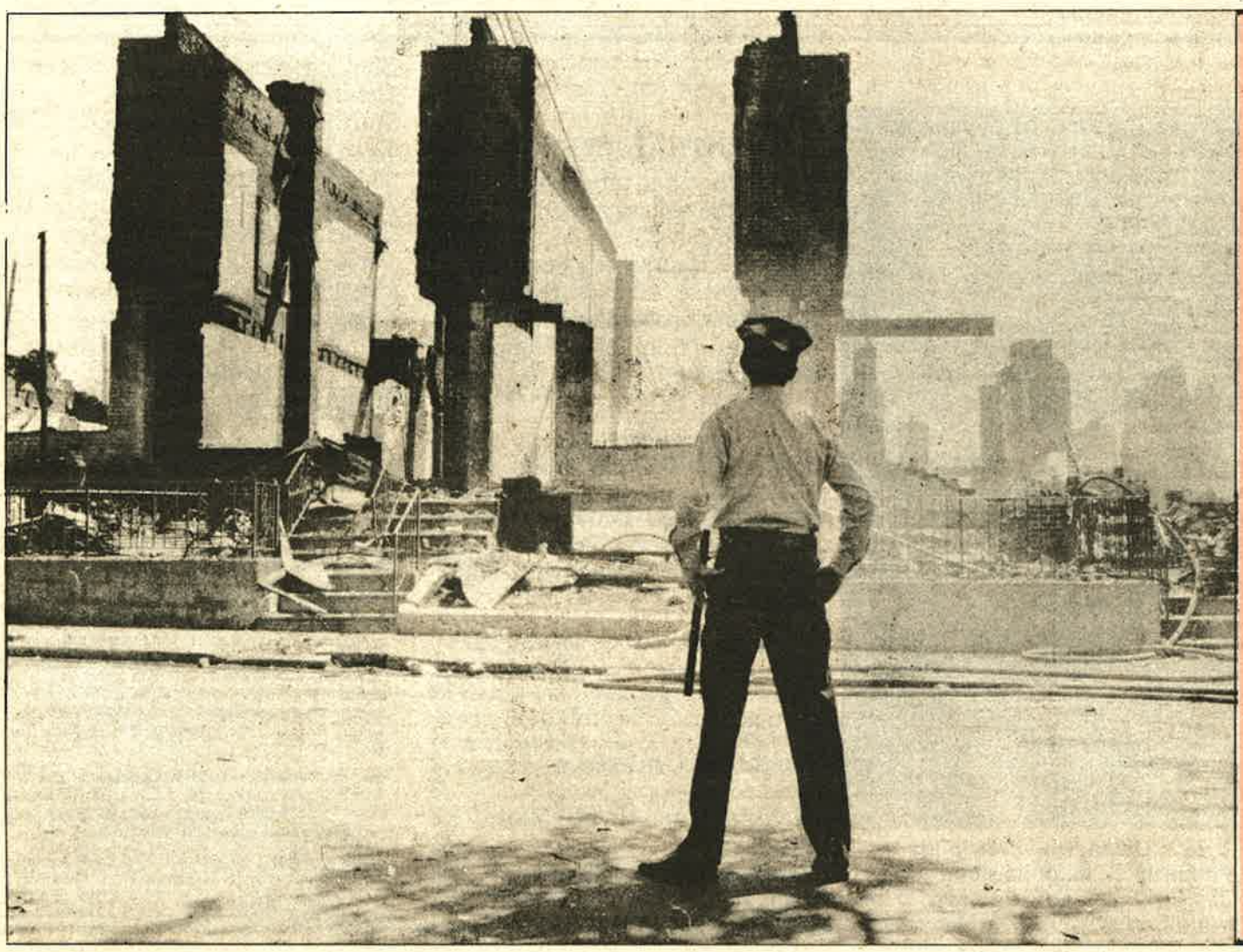

Philadelphia:

Profile of a police city

Lessons of the massacre by Sam Marcy

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'Get involved in anti-Reagan struggle!'

Fight Back Conference organizers spread word among workers, oppressed

By Jerry Rosen

BALTIMORE, May 21—Organizing for the National People's Fight Back Conference continues at a brisk pace here. Most significant is the involvement of community organizers who are working daily to make sure the working and oppressed peoples are represented and heard.

Alberta Johnson from the Seniors Fight Back Committee of the All-Peoples Congress goes out every day at lunch time, speaking to seniors and the disabled at "Eating Together" sites throughout the city. At her first engagement she was greeted by the assistant director who had already purchased two tickets for the conference at a table downtown. He helped Johnson register nine more people at that site alone.

Activists have been working hard getting the word out about the conference in the Murphy Homes project. As a result of these efforts and with the help of the People's Fight Back sound car, nearly 40 people have already preregistered for the conference from this project alone.

Despite the tremendous poverty in this project, many people dug deep and donated up to $2 to preregister. It appears likely that a bus will be filled with people from this project to attend the Fight Back Conference.

After having received a leaflet, another organizer called the office on Friday asking what he could do to help. Saturday he was out organizing and Monday brought in $30 for 20 preregistrations.

One woman told how she had just been threatened with eviction when she got a conference leaflet from Darnell Miller, chairperson of the Outreach Committee of the Fight Back Conference. The woman called the office later for advice on how to deal with her landlord. The next night she came to the office to help work on a large mailing. On Saturday she went out in the sound car and did an excellent job spreading the fight back message throughout Baltimore.

Last Friday night, Darnell Miller led an army of organizers through the crowds at the Preakness parade. In addition to distributing hundreds of leaflets, they carried buckets which said, "Donate a dime to fight Reagan." Over $40 was collected that night alone to build the movement.

'Guarantee workers' deposits!'

Leaflets on the Maryland banking crisis as well as the Conference focusing on the APC demand that the federal government must guarantee all deposits of the workers, just as they guaranteed the deposits of the millionaires whose uninsured deposits were threatened by the collapse of Continental Illinois last year, were distributed at bank lines in Towson, Pikesville and Randallstown as well as in Baltimore.

The Conference will focus on demands for money for jobs and human needs, not war, free South Africa, U.S. out of Central America and fight back against Reaganism.

In speaking of future plans to build the Fight Back Conference, Darnell Miller told Workers World, "Next week there will be a special community meeting at the Park Heights Multi-Purpose Center. This is the community where the APC led a successful fight against the Transit Authority. Other than that, we are continuing our daily tables at the Lexington Market downtown, our daily sound cars and every evening we are making phone calls and dispatching postering crews. Our message to the people of Baltimore is—Don't just agree with us that something needs to be done about Reaganism, get involved and come to the Conference."

For more information, contact the All-Peoples Congress and the People's Anti-War Mobilization national office: 19 W. 21 St., Room 703B, New York, N.Y. 10010. In New York call (212) 741-0633. In Baltimore call (301) 235-7040.

On The Picketline

United pilots strike. All 5,300 pilots at United Airlines walked off the job on May 17, in a strike to hold the line against the airline industry in its relentless drive for takebacks from its unionized workers. The strikers, members of the Air Line Pilots Association, are refusing United's demand that they accept a new two-tiered wage structure which would pay newly-hired pilots much less than current workers, and would maintain that disparity until the new pilots achieve 20 years seniority. The strike against the country's biggest private airline has decimated service in the first week, with United claiming it is flying about 200 flights a day and the union estimating the number at closer to 100. The few flights going are being piloted by management; the pilots are united and none are crossing the picket lines. And the Association of Flight Attendants, representing flight attendants at United, urged its members to honor the pilots' lines. As the strike entered its third day, United spokespeople began making public threats about plans to hire replacement scab pilots if the strike continues, and strikers reported receiving phone calls at home warning them they'll lose their job if they don't return to work. United ran advertisements in newspapers around the country offering immediate employment for pilots willing to scab. But Don Skiados of the pilots' union called United's move a try to intimidate the strikers and a "hollow threat." He said United cannot train enough pilots to replace the strikers and the strike will not crumble.

• • •

Yosemite park strike. One hundred twenty bus drivers, mechanics, maintenance workers and service station attendants walked off the job May 17, in Yosemite National Park's first strike in its 95-year history. Teamsters Local 386 rejected the offer of Curry Company, the park's main concessionaire, of a three-year contract with only 2-3% annual raises and a reduction of employer contributions to medical insurance from 100% to 50%. Local 386 is picketing Curry Company's facilities, which include tourist lodging and shuttle bus service. Their previous contract expired May 11. Management personnel are attempting to handle the strikers' jobs. The rest of the park's 1,600 workers remain on the job at present.

• • •

Teamsters' contract. Despite a fight by militant rank-and-filers, a new three-year master agreement between the Teamsters and the trucking industry has gone into effect. The contract implements a two-tiered wage structure designed to divide high- and low-seniority workers, and a pay cut of over $2 an hour for part-time workers. Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), a long-time opposition force within the Teamsters, fought against the new contract, which covers about 200,000 truckers. TDU charged in federal district court that the contract ratification vote was invalid, because some 40,000 part-time workers had not been allowed to vote, even though a major issue in the contract was a pay cut for them.

Union officials released figures indicating that, without the votes of the 40,000 part-timers, the contract passed by a vote of just 62,296 to 54,873.

• • •

Sexual harassment. By a split 7-to-3 decision, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia recently upheld a lower court ruling in favor of a woman worker who took her boss to court on a charge of sexual harassment. The three dissenters in the ruling, all Reagan appointees, argued that the defendant (the boss) should have been allowed to defend himself by introducing evidence concerning the worker's dress, deportment, and personal fantasies, and argued that the court decision "denied the defendant's rights." The dissenting judges included Judge Robert H. Bork, a right-wing favorite and frequent mention as a potential Supreme Court nominee. Bork, writing the dissent, termed the ruling against the boss "astonishing."

—Shelley Ettinger

In This Issue. . .

PHILADELPHIA

The cruel and barbarous violence that destroyed a Black Philadelphia neighborhood and killed 11 people, is a textbook exposition of the operation of the capitalist state. City cops, the FBI, and Pentagon personnel all worked hand in glove in the criminal assault, holding captive vital civil organizations and integrating them into the repressive forces. (News report, page 3; analysis by Sam Marcy, page 9.)

GUILTY IN CHICAGO

In acquitting eight protesters charged with "criminal trespass" at the South African consulate, a Chicago grand jury found apartheid the real crime. (Page 8.)

RADIO BATISTA

A new counter-revolutionary radio station has begun broadcasting against Cuba, usurping for itself the name of a famous Cuban revolutionary. (Page 8.)

Tyra Jackson, who lives in the Philadelphia neighborhood destroyed in a police attack.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Reagan has had a busy week, rolling out the red carpet for El Salvador's "president," while offering to "defend" Honduras against Nicaragua. Other voices were heard as well, denouncing the bloody Duarte regime as a front for U.S. imperialism. (Pages 6-7.)

BUS DRIVERS

"The union drives the buses or the buses don't roll," USWA Local 8751 members told the Boston School Committee in a tumultous meeting. (Page 4.)

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Vol. 27, No. 22/May 30, 1985
Closing news date: May 22, 1985

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Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) published by World View Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Editorial office (212) 206-8222. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Published weekly except first week in Sept.

Subscriptions: One year: $10.00; 6 months: $6.00. Address requests for bundles to World View Pub.

Second Class Postage Paid at N.Y., N.Y.

Philadelphia: Profile of a police city

By Carmen Roundtree

MAY 20—In the remnants of what used to be a flourishing Black community in West Philadelphia, on the 6200 block of Osage Avenue, were found 11 charred bodies. They were victims of the bomb the racist Philadelphia police dropped on that community May 13, under the pretense of evicting the members of MOVE who occupied a two-story house on the block.

Sixty Black families, over 250 residents, have lost everything they had worked for and built in the last three and a half decades.

The big business press has virtually ignored the suffering of those who lost their loved ones as a result of this genocidal act by the Philadelphia cops. The media have preferred to condemn the victims themselves, instead of exposing the real terrorists, the cops. In the pages of the bourgeois dailies and over the radio and TV, in fact, there hasn't been a mention of the long and bloody history of the Philadelphia police department.

The recent show of blatant racism, reaction and police brutality by the Philadelphia police may be the most devastating event in recent memory, but it is by no means the first time that the Philadelphia police have demonstrated their utmost contempt for the Black community.

History of racist violence seen in lawsuit

In 1979 the so-called U.S. Justice Department brought a lawsuit against the notorious Philadelphia police department, the former police chief Frank Rizzo (who at the time of the suit was mayor of Philadelphia) and 19 other high municipal and police officials. The suit was virtually forced on the U.S. government after years of outrage by the Black and Latin communities regarding the murderous nature of the Philadelphia police.

This suit was supposed to bring an inkling of justice to the thousands of victims of Rizzo's Nazi-like police force. Yet, true to the bourgeois justice system, the judge presiding over the suit overruled 9,000 victims of murder and police brutality. He stated that the suit was "just naked allegations" and that it presented "an enormous potential for causing public officials and policemen unfounded notoriety"!

Facts upon facts and documents upon documents showed that the Philadelphia police department could be considered among the most brutal and racist offenders in the country, even when compared with others like Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

Between the years 1971 and 1979, 600 people had been killed by the police under "suspicious circumstances," and according to affidavits, 9,000 more had been brutalized. Handcuffed prisoners were reported beaten senseless and even killed by the police.

Leading this gang of fascist thugs in blue was none other than former police chief Frank Rizzo, who never lost any time in praising his boys for "a job well done."

Frank Rizzo, who started out as a cop, quickly climbed his way up the "ladder of success" through beating, killing and terrorizing the Black and Latin communities. He was awarded the title of Police Commissioner in 1964.

In July of 1967, 107 Black people were arrested and a "limited emergency" declared that banned groups of 12 people or more from gathering in public. "Offenders" could be sentenced to two years in prison for violation of the "limited emergency" measures.

Rizzo was quite successful in turning Philadelphia into a police state. He ran the city with courts tied to organized crime and spent $5,000 a day spying on progressive organizations.

In August of 1970, Rizzo led 250 sharpshooters, FBI agents and storm troopers in a raid against the Black Panther Party headquarters in North Philadelphia. The police kicked down the door and fired without warning, just missing a young child. The Panthers retaliated in self-defense and a 20-minute gun battle ensued.

Once the Panthers were in police custody, Rizzo ordered them strip-

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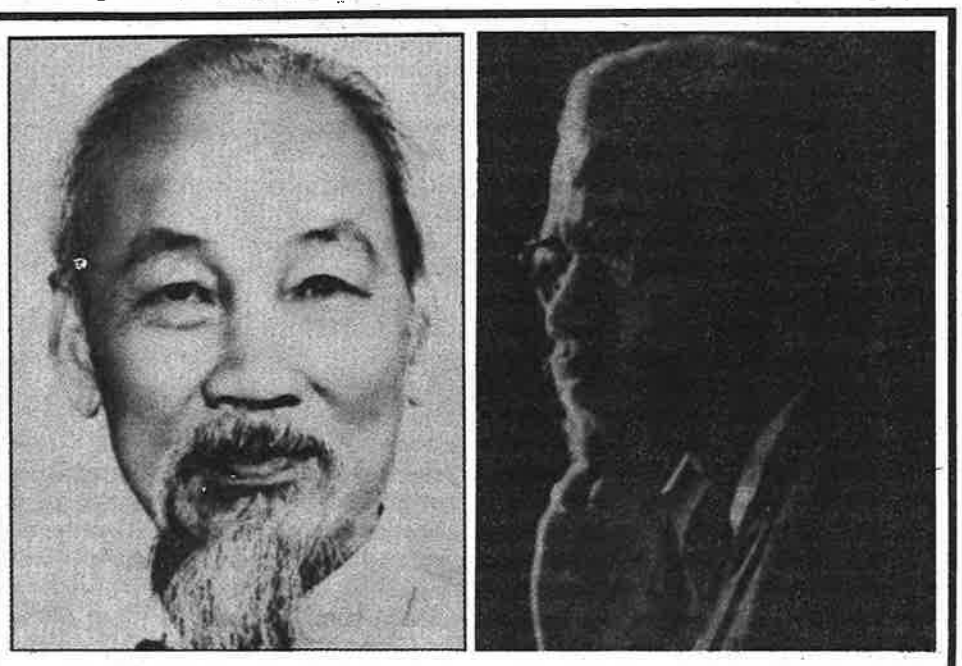

Ho Chi Minh and Malcolm X. Ho Chi Minh and Malcolm X shared the same birthdate—May 19. And, despite being born on opposite sides of the earth some 35 years apart, they had other things in common, too. Both became leaders in the struggle of oppressed people for their liberation. Both came to the conclusion that their people were justified in fighting for liberation by whatever means necessary. Ho and Malcolm knew of one another because they both were fighting the U.S. imperialist ruling class at the same time. And both were internationalists who understood how important the struggles of the oppressed are—even when they're on the other side of the earth.

Military giant shuts Aliquippa, Pa., steel plant

By Gary Wilson

MAY 21—On Friday, May 17, LTV Steel Company gave notice to steel workers at the Aliquippa Works in Aliquippa, Pa., that the plant will be shut down "indefinitely." In 1981, the plant had 10,000 workers; today it has fewer than 2,000.

The Aliquippa plant is one of the most modern steel operations in the U.S. The company says that it has spent over $600 million in the last 10 years to modernize the facilities.

LTV is one of the notorious conglomerates that make up the military-industrial complex. It is number 48 in the Fortune 500 list of the largest industrial firms in the U.S.

Despite its great riches and ill-gotten gains, LTV has not formally shut the Aliquippa Works, but is calling it an "indefinite idling." This little piece of legal trickery allows this $7 billion company to avoid its contracted obligation to pay severance compensation and pension benefits to those workers who are losing their jobs.

Pete Eritano, president of the Aliquippa United Steel Workers local, says that the union will file grievances to try to win pensions and severance payments for those workers who were laid off May 17.

Before even considering the excuses the giant conglomerate is offering for the shutdown of this historic steel plant, it is instructive to look at exactly what LTV is.

Got rich on Pentagon contracts

The Dallas-based LTV Corporation describes itself as an "aerospace/defense-energy-steel" corporation. It is one of those giant companies that has become big and powerful through Pentagon contracts. As it has grown, it has gobbled up many other companies, including Jones & Laughlin and Republic Steel, which are now both known as LTV Steel.

LTV was most recently in the news because its former chairman, W. Paul Thayer, was sentenced to five years in prison on May 8 for his actions in gaining Pentagon contracts for LTV through bribery and other corrupt practices. The trial was for only a portion of all the charges he possibly faced and covered only "$5 million in profits" he illegally obtained.

The mild sentence for this self-described "great patriot" will mean a maximum of one year in jail. That's considered to be "appropriate punishment" for a ruling class crook who has stolen more in his one career than all the people currently in Attica prison for burglary put together.

Until his conviction this month, Thayer was the number-two man in the Pentagon for the Reagan administration, just under the Bechtel Corporation's Caspar Weinberger who holds the number-one Pentagon post. Thayer has also held the post of president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

LTV is a rich and powerful company that has gotten that way by stealing from the tax dollars of U.S. workers. The entire military-industrial complex is a criminal clique that has been stealing billions for decades under the lie that they are somehow providing "defense" for the people of this country.

Their only god is profits

But the steel workers and their families as well as the community in Aliquippa, Pa., can testify first hand the kind of "defense" their tax dollars have bought. LTV says that the steel works must be shut down because it is not profitable enough.

That's the way of the capitalist system of ownership. A corporation such as LTV can make profit margins as high as 25% with Pentagon contracts. So, when a civilian division has a profit margin of say only 8%, the big stockholders consider this to be a loss and therefore demand that the division get the axe. That's part of what is happening to LTV Steel.

The steel market is not dead. Steel is still used in everything from the basic structures of the cities and factories to the millions of autos that are built annually, not to mention the huge quantities of steel consumed annually by the military.

The problem in the steel industry is not unions or imports or ancient plants and equipment, as the steel bosses and

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'The union drives the buses or the buses won't roll!'

By a shop steward
USWA Local 8751

BOSTON, May 15—While live action TV cameras, radio, and newspapers recorded the scene, over 350 Boston school bus drivers, members of United the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh. Four hundred gathered outside the ceremonies chanting, "Either we drive the buses, or the buses won't roll!"

In a nearly unanimous vote, the drivers authorized a strike should the Boston School Committee fail to guarantee their jobs and union rights if a new bus company takes over the system's transportation contract.

Last night the School Committee in a 7-to-5 vote refused their guarantee, thus provoking the crisis for the children's safety and the drivers' rights. The School Committee is currently in the process of deciding which bus company will manage transportation for the 30,000 Boston school children. Awarding this contract every two or three years, the city administration uses this as an opportunity to bust out the drivers' union, a local known in this city for its pace-setting militancy.

While bus companies, school superintendents and committee members have come and gone, the drivers have remained, many for 11 years or more. But despite all the years of safe, on-time, professional service, the drivers again face losing their jobs and hard-won union rights.

The union has in the past fought for and won their job guarantee. In 1979, and again in the spring of 1983, they organized a successful campaign which included support from parents, community leaders, unions, clergy and elected officials.

On April 16, 125 drivers and their supporters picketed the headquarters of the Boston School Committee. Last night a multinational demonstration of over 250 drivers again descended

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Irish vote shows popular support for IRA

By Robert Dobrow

MAY 20—The Irish Republican Army has just delivered another stunning blow to British imperialism and torn to shreds British-U.S. claims that the armed struggle in northern Ireland has no support among the population.

On May 15, in local elections throughout the six northern counties of Ireland, Sinn Fein, the political arm of the IRA, won almost 12% of the popular vote and gained 58 seats in 17 of the 26 district councils. The results were a shock to the Thatcher regime in London and their supporters in Washington which had predicted a poor showing for the Irish revolutionaries.

In major centers like Belfast, Fermanagh, Cookstown, Omagh, Magherafelt, Dungannon and Strabane, Sinn Fein even outpolled the moderate Social Democratic and Labor Party. One of Sinn Fein's victorious candidates was Gerry Doherty, an Irish Republican since the age of 16 who served eight years in prison after being convicted by a British court for "terrorism."

Almost immediately after the vote, the Rev. Ian Paisley, a British stooge committed to preventing Irish self-determination by fascist violence, threatened to block Sinn Fein representatives in every way possible. "We will treat these people like the dirt they are," said a spokesman of the Official Unionist Party. In London, a Thatcherite official said they would not meet with any council delegation having a representative of Sinn Fein.

Defying elections, especially when they reflect the true wishes of an oppressed people, isn't anything new for British imperialism, which likes to parade as the world's "oldest democracy." In 1918, Sinn Fein candidates overwhelmingly carried a general election and declared Ireland independent. Britain's response was to rush troops into Ireland and organize the notorious Black and Tans to assassinate leaders, burn villages and terrorize the population. The Irish people were finally forced to accept partition of their country and to this day tens of thousands of British troops are still needed to keep the north enslaved.

Sinn Fein candidates and their supporters in the recent local elections were subjected to a constant campaign of harassment and intimidation. Two candidates and two election directors were arrested and held under "emergency" legislation. Candidates were subjected to surveillance and held at road blocks for lengthy periods.

This year a new British law, which applies only to northern Ireland, requires that identification papers be produced before a vote can be registered at a polling station. But the list of admissible papers does not include unemployment cards, a move which could disenfranchise many unemployed youth, or medical papers issued before 1972, an attack on many other potential voters.

In An Phoblacht, Sinn Fein's newspaper, the party described its election strategy and explained that it has "no illusions" about the state in northern Ireland. "There is no question," the newspaper said, "of reforming a state which was built on injustice and has survived on injustice. Only the destruction of that state can form the basis for true justice and that is why Sinn Fein supports the absolute necessity of armed struggle to remove the British presence."

In participating in the elections, the newspaper continued, "Sinn Fein recognizes the limitations of such activity, but recognizes also that it is important not just to quantify but to consolidate the base on which the political and military struggle is waged.

"Within the councils of the six counties, Sinn Fein-elected representatives will challenge the basis of the state itself. . . The basic rights of people to proper housing, jobs, health care and all the social services will be fought for as never before because they **are** *people's rights.*"

Meanwhile, the armed struggle to liberate northern Ireland is continuing at a high pace. Today, five days after the election, a police car was blown up near the Irish border and four members of the hated Royal Ulster Constabulary were killed. The IRA issued a statement which invited police wishing to quit the force "to contact us through a neutral intermediary if that person does not wish to be considered a target."

State Dept. threats can't halt Lebanese struggle

By Joyce Chediac

MAY 20—In a show of utter contempt for the lives of Middle Eastern people, this week the State Department threatened to bomb Iran unless U.S. hostages held by Shiite fundamentalists in Beirut are released.

This threat, made by a senior State Department official on May 16, followed by only days a revelation that a massive car bombing in Beirut that killed more than 80 people and wounded 200 on March 8 was carried out by people working for the CIA. The close proximity of the two announcements shows that U.S. genocidal practices against Middle Eastern civilians are not an accident or a mistake, but a *matter of policy.*

But not even the horrors inflicted on the oppressed people of this area by the huge U.S. and the Israeli military machines have been able to stop the Lebanese resistance. Just yesterday, the Lebanese Forces, Lebanon's main Christian militia, announced that it was recalling its forces from the Christian town of Jezzin near Sidon and the border area in southern Lebanon and recalling them to Beirut. This is a direct result of the humiliating military defeat inflicted on the Lebanese fascists last month by the National Resistance Front.

This Phalange-dominated group of thugs, in an attempt to save itself from internal disintegration, also announced that it was closing its office in Jerusalem and ending ten years of collaboration with Israel. The breaking of the Lebanese fascist-Israeli alliance is an important victory. What is left of the fascist strength is now bottled up in a small 17-mile area extending from east Beirut to Jubail.

Sidon area liberated

Christian civilians in the Sidon area who fled there during the fighting are returning to the liberated areas formerly dominated by the Phalange. The goal of the freedom fighters in this area is to re-establish the situation as it was before the Israeli invasion three years ago, when all religious groups coexisted. The fighting began under the Israeli occupation when Tel Aviv gave the fascists a foot-hold in strategic Christian villages overlooking Sidon. By getting the fascists to shell Sidon in the spring, Tel Aviv hoped to force the Christian villagers to flee and be the cannon fodder in a fascist-dominated, pro-Israeli buffer zone on their border. These plans are now foiled.

Christian opposition to Phalange

In east Beirut, for the very first time, there is opposition arising to Gemayel and to the Phalange, according to supporters of the Lebanese National Resistance Front. The Phalange exert fascist control over the Christians in east Beirut, oppressing them and speaking in their name. In the past, those who disagree have left. Currently there are approximately 100,000 Lebanese youth of college age living in Europe and the U.S. and Cyprus in order to avoid compulsory draft into the private fascist militias. Now, however, a current is developing within the fascist-controlled areas which blames the Phalange for the constant fighting and calls their policies "suicidal."

The Lebanese people, and especially the Lebanese workers, have also been organizing on the economic front. Recently a National Conference to Combat Inflation was held in Lebanon to organize opposition to government economic policies which pass the problems of the war shattered economy and the high inflation rate onto the backs of the workers and peasants. As a result of the conference there was a one-day general strike, effective throughout Lebanon, opposing the government's economic policies, demanding wage increases, protesting unemployment, which is very high, and demanding that the government safeguard the rights of trade unions. Several weeks later demonstrations in major Lebanese cities raised these same demands. Some 50,000 participated in the west Beirut protest alone.

Women fighters

Meanwhile, the guerrilla attacks against the Israelis and their Lebanese

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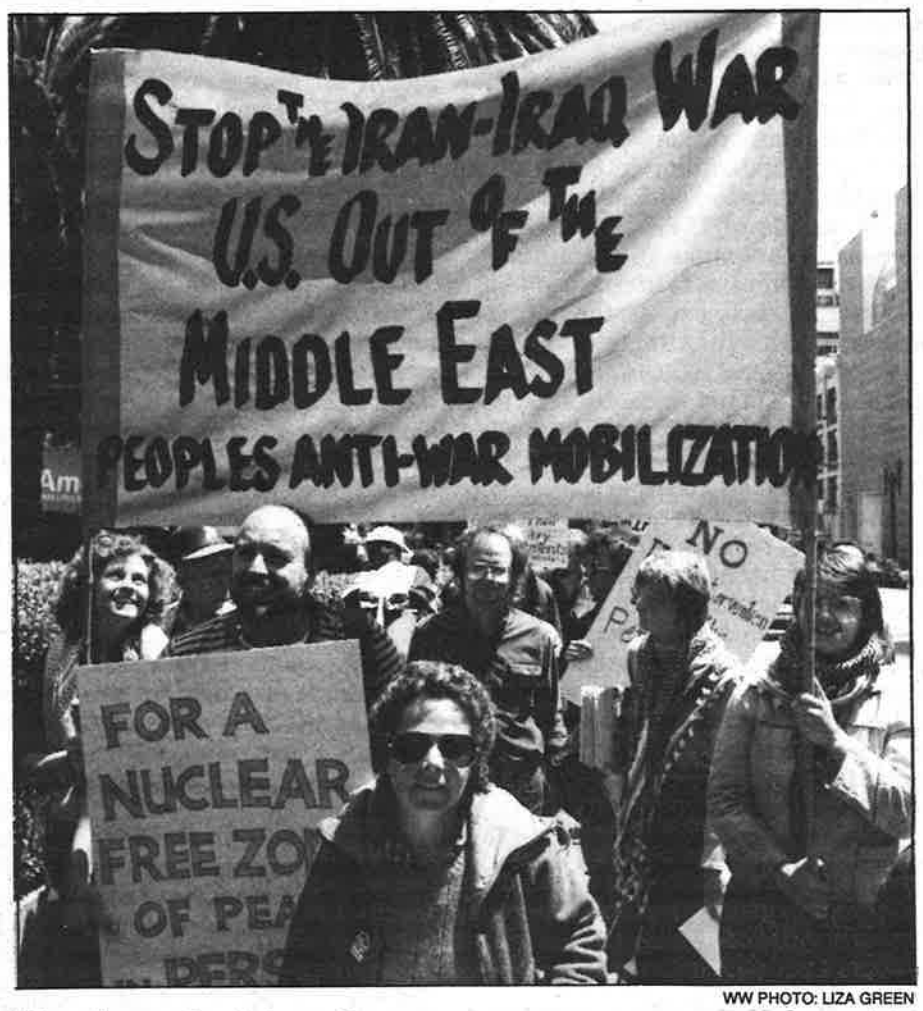
Kwangju anniversary. Five years ago this week, South Korean dictator Chon Du Hwan sent 10,000 paratroopers into the city of Kwangju to suppress a week-long rebellion there against his regime. Over 2,000 people were killed in the ensuing bloodbath. This May 20, angry demonstrators massed in both Kwangju and Seoul to commemorate the massacre and demand the ouster of Chon. When Chon recently visited Washington, Reagan characterized his friendship with the dictator as "especially warm."



WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

March against Iran-Iraq war. On May 18, over 100 progressive Iranians, Iraqis and their supporters marched through the downtown area of San Francisco to demand an end to the Iran-Iraq war, and for U.S. imperialism to get out of the Middle East.

SOUTH AFRICA BRIEFS

Anti-apartheid struggle

MAY 21—The desperate attempts by the South African fascists to continue to "soften" apartheid laws have not contained the flames of rage and fightback among the super-oppressed Black majority throughout the country.

The ruling white supremacist National Party introduced legislation yesterday in parliament that would "allow" Black workers to relocate from one segregated area to another without "jeopardizing" their permission to live near jobs in the white industrialized areas. Another bill introduced states that "coloureds and Asians" will no longer need pass books to enter Black areas.

However, these attempts to beautify the ugly, monstrous face of apartheid expose the fact that millions of Black people are carrying out the perspective of the African National Congress by making the apartheid regime's laws ungovernable.

Duduza, a Black township east of Johannesburg, became the latest focus of a massive outpouring against apartheid. Black residents battled the U.S.-backed South African police with gasoline bombs, rocks and bottles. A Black man was reportedly fatally injured by rubber bullets and birdshot fired into the angry Black crowd.

Black miners walk out

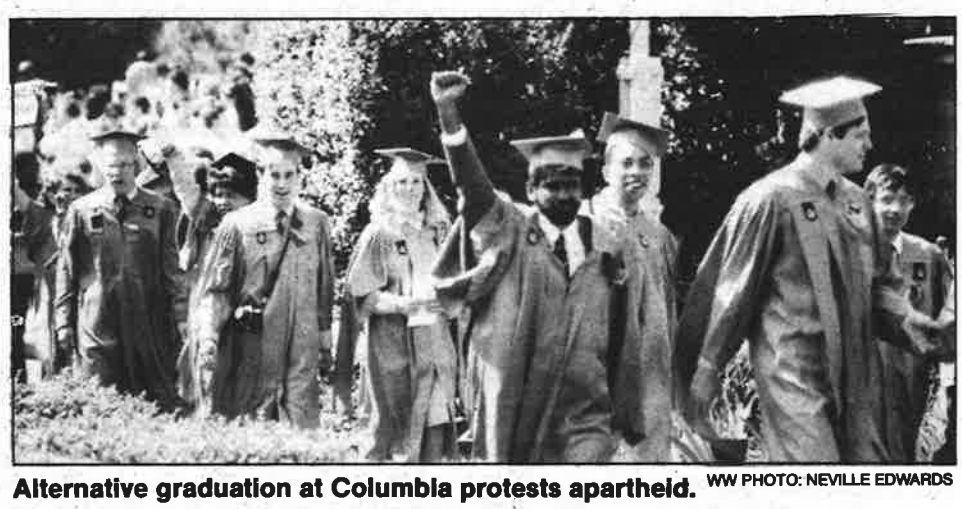
MAY 20—A one-day strike was carried out by 9,000 Black miners yesterday at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine, west of Johannesburg. A spokesperson for the owner of the mine, Rand Mines, stated that full operations would resume on Sunday. The walkout occurred over the firing of two Black miners who allegedly intimidated supervisors. The Black miners' union stated that because management had ignored the grievances, the underpaid and super-exploited workers conducted the wildcat strike.

UDF trials postponed

MAY 21—Two treason trials began on May 20 in Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg, but cases for most of the 27 being charged were postponed.

The trial in Pietermaritzburg of 16 leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the largest multinational mass anti-apartheid organization inside South Africa, lasted 30 minutes. The government did not specify why the 16 were accused of treason, and the trial was postponed until July 11. Anyone convicted of treason could receive the death sentence by hanging. The police arrested at least 12 supporters of the UDF defendants who were outside the courtroom, singing anti-apartheid songs. The fate of these supporters is unknown at this moment.

—Monica Moorehead



Alternative graduation at Columbia protests apartheid. WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Chicago jury acquits anti-apartheid protesters

By P. Kimball

CHICAGO, May 17—Eight anti-apartheid protesters, including a Chicago alderman, a union vice-president, two ministers, the son of a Black congressman, and three prominent community activists, were acquitted today of charges of criminal trespass at the South African consulate.

The jury, composed of two Blacks, one Latin, and nine whites, accepted the argument of the defense that the sit-in was necessary in order to prevent greater harm from being done. They reached this conclusion after hearing expert witnesses testify about the evils of apartheid, U.S. government and corporate complicity with South Africa and the importance of such demonstrations.

The defendants in this case had welcomed going to trial because of the opportunity it provided to publicize the struggle against apartheid through the use of this "necessity defense." Several weeks ago, seven anti-war activists successfully used the same strategy to expose U.S. crimes against Central America and to defeat charges of "mob action" stemming from a demonstration at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in the suburb of Waukegan.

Since January, the Free South Africa Movement has sponsored weekly demonstrations at the South African Consulate here, at several of which selected participants have been arrested for entering the building and refusing to leave without speaking with the consul.

Defense attorneys charged in their legal briefs and in their speeches to the jury that "the U.S. government, while aiding and abetting the horrendous crimes of the South African government through 'constructive engagement,' has breached national and international law and the U.S. Constitution."

The first defense witness was exiled South African poet and activist Dennis Brutus, who told the jury the story of his own shooting under apartheid, imprisonment on Robben Island and his subsequent escape. Since his exile, Brutus has been active on an international level organizing opposition to South African participation in international sports.

Brutus told the jury that 3.5 million South African Blacks had been forcibly removed from their farms and resettled in arid wastelands called "Bantustans." He called this a "policy of genocide," and declared that continuing protests in the U.S. were "absolutely vital" for the South African struggle.

Other witnesses called in support of the defense included Prexy Nesbitt, veteran anti-apartheid activist, union organizer, and co-chair of the Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa; Marjorie Benton, a former U.S. representative to UNICEF and Representative Charles Hayes. The defendants also took the stand in their own defense.

Columbia graduates walk out

By Neville Edwards

NEW YORK, May 16—Immediately as Columbia University's President Michael Sovern began his presentation at the graduation ceremony here yesterday, over 150 undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff members disrupted the ceremony and walked out. They received such an ovation from supporters that Sovern had to interrupt his speech until all the protesters had left.

Carrying placards saying, "Divest now" and wearing black, green and gold streamers (colors of the African National Congress), the students marched to Mandela Hall, the site of the recent three-week-long student blockade protesting Columbia's ties to apartheid. Students, staff and faculty members denounced Columbia's graduation ceremony as a farce. While university officials had nothing but high praises for Columbia as a "fine institution," the school's Board of Trustees' hands ran red with the blood of Black South African masses.

Columbia invests in major corporations such as Mobil Oil which fuels the fascist South African military and the police who murder the Black South African workers. Danisa Baloy, a Black South African student and one of the leaders of Columbia's student blockade, stated "We will not end our struggle against Columbia until it pulls out every dollar it invests in the murdering of my Black sisters and brothers in South Africa."

As part of its ongoing intimidation against the students, the university decided not to issue diplomas to 15 students who had initiated the blockade. *At the rally, called the Alternative* Graduation, the graduating students received the African National Congress Freedom Charters as diplomas—a diploma showing education in the international struggle against apartheid.

As one student put it, "How can Columbia punish us for exercising our moral duties in rejecting the fascist policies of the apartheid government of South Africa and at the same time characterize itself as an institution based on high moral ethics?"

The students made it clear that the struggle against Columbia's Board of Trustees doesn't end with the departure of the graduating seniors. Several hundred students who had participated in the blockade stated that they would be back next semester to continue the struggle on campus.

'Northwestern profits off suffering in South Africa'

By Bill Massey

EVANSTON, Ill., May 13—Led by the Anti-Apartheid Alliance, over 400 students of Northwestern University held a noon rally here on May 9 and then staged a five hour sit-in in the Rebecca Crown Center, which the students renamed for African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

University police, in cooperation with Evanston city cops, arrested 95 students. The students' action was to protest the investments made by the University in the racist apartheid government of South Africa.

Speaking at the student rally, South African activist and poet Dennis Brutus said "It is a shame that Northwestern University is profiting from the blood, the suffering and the broken bodies in South Africa. It is time for Northwestern to clean up its act and get out of that bloody mess."

Since the May 9 sit-in the Anti-Apartheid Alliance at Northwestern has maintained a constant protest vigil at the renamed Mandela Center and has held several other demonstrations calling on the University to disclose its investments in the apartheid regime, stop those investments and increase the number of Black, Latin, Native, Asian and other students from oppressed communities to the University. Added to these original demands is that the 95 students arrested at the May 9 sit-in receive amnesty.

2,000 rally in Berkeley against apartheid investments

By Gloria La Riva

BERKELEY, May 17—The University of California Board of Regents met yesterday and today to discuss their $6.3 billion endowment and pension funds. They chose to meet in the remotely situated Lawrence Hall on Berkeley's campus in order to avoid the militant statewide student demands for full U.C. divestiture of $2.2 billion in stocks and bonds that help prop up South African apartheid. Some 40% of the university's assets are invested in South Africa-related firms.

But 2,000 protesters marched two miles up the steep Berkeley hills to confront the Regents, anyway. At the rally, several union representatives strongly denounced the use of the workers' pension funds for corporate investments in South Africa.

Immediately before yesterday's demonstration, 75 faculty members marched to the hall with a petition containing signatures of 2,000 faculty and 2,000 staff members, calling for full divestiture.

Employing the traditional tactic of waiting until June to make anti-education and pro-corporate decisions, the Regents postponed their decision on divestiture from May 16 until June 21, when the campuses are in summer recess. But students have vowed to keep up the pressure anyway.

In recent months, the demand for U.C. divestiture has been raised at militant building occupations, demonstrations and arrests throughout the university system, including the U.C. campuses in Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Davis, San Diego, Irvine and Riverside. A six-week sit-in at Stephen Biko Hall (formerly Sproul Hall) in Berkeley continues.

Honduran, Nicaraguan border skirmish Reaganite pretext for intervention

By Andy Stapp

MAY 20—In all the long history of war, no government has ever admitted being the aggressor.

This includes Hitler, who claimed that World War II began with a Polish attack on Germany.

The same scenario is now beginning to unfold in Central America. In an ominous move which could signal a new pretext to carry out a military adventure against Nicaragua, the Reaganites are now claiming that the Nicaraguan troops are committing aggression against Honduras!

A front-page story in the May 19 New York Times reports that, "Hostilities along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border have widened dramatically in recent weeks, according to American military and diplomatic officials."

The problem, the officials say, is caused by "Nicaraguan troops crossing the border."

Statements from U.S. government spokesmen about Nicaragua should be accompanied by a sound track of canned laughter.

Everyone in the world who pays any attention to international news events knows who is attacking whom, knows that thousands of contra fascists have been invading Nicaragua across the Honduran border for nearly five years now. It is hardly a secret that the CIA contra battalions have their headquarters in Honduras, that they coordinate their predatory assaults against Sandinista Nicaragua with the commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, General Walter Lopez Reyes. Hasn't even the bourgeois press reported on many occasions that the Honduran military was laying down mortar barrages to cover contra incursions over the border? Hasn't the U.S. Congress often confirmed all this, and passed legislation, which Reagan ignores, ordering it stopped?

Where did the contras come from who recently killed 39 workers in the Nicaraguan coffee harvest and burned 17 farms to the ground? From the moon? They came from Honduras, a country so under the thumb of the Pentagon that U.S. reporters in that country refer to it as "The U.S.S. Honduras."

Honduras occupied

Nicaragua, the target of unremitting imperialist aggression by air, land and sea, has not invaded Honduras. But Honduras is indeed under the heel of foreign troops. They have not come from under the southern border, however, but from the north, where they always come from.

Eighty times in this century, the U.S. military has directly intervened in Latin America. Today, their convoys are rolling across the Honduran countryside, fanning out in every direction from the Pentagon's command center at Palmerola.

Honduras has lost the last vestige of national sovereignty, the culmination of a process that began long ago, back during the dictatorship of General Tiburcio Carias Andino. He ruled from 1933 to 1949, wielding the whip for big U.S. agribusiness firms. And once these giants got their hooks into Honduras, nothing ever changed for the better. In 1976 the CBS News Almanac described Honduras this way: "Its politics are frequently subject to military intervention; its economy bows to the wishes of United Fruit and Standard Fruit." Seventy-six of every hundred children in Honduras suffer from malnutrition.

General Carias had done his job well. And now the current stooge, Suazo Cordova, is coming to Washington to get further instructions, to say the things Reagan tells him to say about "Nicaraguan border attacks."

The bunch of gangsters calling themselves the Honduran government do not speak for the Honduran people, however. That county's majority, the impoverished peasants, have begun occupying the land on the vast estates of the privileged elite. Just as the poor farmers in Nicaragua did with the support of the Sandinistas after the overthrow of General Somoza. And today, 400 trade unions, demanding an end to Suazo Cordova's autocratic methods of rule, voted unanimously for a general strike next week.

Duarte targeted a

By Dave Sole

SOUTH BEND, Ind., May 19—Hundreds of people from all across the Midwest crowded outside graduation ceremonies at Notre Dame University here tonight. Chanting, singing, holding signs and banners, they came to protest El Salvador's "President" Jose Napoleon Duarte, who spoke to the graduates and received an honorary degree. As graduates and relatives walked by the demonstrators, the crowd would

New York City protesters turn out to expose D

Report on Cuba trip. A Workers World Forum in Detroit on May 18 heard Cheryl LaBash, AFSCME Local 457 Executive Board Member, report on her recent trip to Cuba. LaBash was part of an international trade union delegation that joined the Cubans in their May Day celebrations. Her remarks about progress for poor people since the 1959 Revolution, often citing life histories told to her by ordinary Cubans, struck a response in tonight's audience of union and community activists. She also gave an extensive and extremely graphic account of the Latin American debt crisis—and the solution based on cancelling the debt proposed by Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro.

WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Large turnout greets Nicaraguan leader

By Bill Massey

CHICAGO, May 9—Over 2,000 people turned out to a reception here tonight for Father Ernesto Cardenal, the Minister of Culture of the Revolutionary Government of Nicaragua. The reception, which was arranged by Comite Latino, a broad coalition of Latino organizations, was by invitation only and thus made the turnout that much more impressive.

The large crowd filling the parish hall of St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Chicago's northside, gave Cardenal a long standing ovation when he entered the hall. Chants of "No Pasaran" roared through the church building into the streets where less than a dozen anti-Sandinista and pro-contra supporters protested Cardenal's presence.

The fact that a leader of the Nicaraguan Revolution could receive such a warm welcome in the Chicago area right after a leader of the counter-revolution, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, was chased from the hall at Northwestern University when he tried to speak, gives graphic evidence of the people's opposition to the policies of the Reagan administration in Central America.

Many of the speakers at the meeting were from the Latin religious community and were loud in their praise of the Sandinista Minister of Culture, thereby refuting the attempts by the Pope to isolate the spokespersons of liberation theology who fight arms in hand in defense of the Nicaraguan Revolution.

Cardenal denounces U.S. aggression

In a brief talk, Cardenal denounced the attempts of the U.S. government to overturn the Nicaraguan people's government and replace it with a Somoza-like tyranny. Thanking the largely Latino audience, he called for their continued support.

Cardenal, who shared the platform with Chicago's Mayor Harold Washington, received the Comite Latino award for his contributions to culture. Mayor Washington was given an award for his defense of the undocumented and his refusal to allow the City of Chicago to cooperate with the U.S. Immigration Service in their harassment and persecution of the undocumented.

Washington, who embraced Cardenal to the loud cheers of the 2,000 people in attendance, greeted the Nicaraguan as "one of Central America's most respected artists." Cardenal on his behalf told the audience that he considered it a great honor to be greeted by the Mayor "among the people rather than at City Hall." Attempts by the capitalist press and supporters of the Vrdolyak-Burke reactionary forces to redbait Washington for his appearance with Cardenal have failed to pick up any measure of support.

—LTV shutting dov

Continued from page 3

their spokesmen in the media tell us. The problem is corporate greed.

A company like LTV can abandon the people of Aliquippa, Pa., and destroy the lives of thousands without shedding so much as a tear because they are guaranteed their quarterly profits by the government. Their greedy, union-busting actions are financed by the Pentagon, which insures their profits no matter what happens to their steel plants.

For the workers and the communities and the unions that represent them in these towns that are being destroyed or face destruction, there is one lesson that must be learned, and quickly. Their struggle is not an individual, economic struggle of one plant or one community against one company.

To stop these greedy capitalist giants, a political struggle must be launched that unites all—young and old, employed and unemployed, Black, Latin, Native, Asian and white, women and men, gay and straight, able and disabled—in a fight that targets not just one company, but is broader. It must challenge the government and the system that pays

WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

l at Notre Dame

call out the names of some of the 50,000 victims of Duarte's death squads. Many protesters carried wooden crosses to commemorate those killed in El Salvador. The role of the United States government in arming and supporting the Duarte regime was also targeted by the protesters. Many of the demonstrators, obviously too young to remember the Viet Nam War, nevertheless have clearly learned its lesson and chanted "Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Viet Nam!"

Protests, arrests accompany Duarte's U.S. trip

By Andy Stapp

NEW YORK, May 20—The U.S. government gives Jose Napoleon Duarte his marching orders, but he doesn't appear to be any more popular with the people of this country than he is with the people of El Salvador.

Seven hundred turned out in midtown Manhattan early this evening to protest his visit. Forty were arrested.

Yesterday it was more of the same in South Bend, Ind., when Duarte got his honorary degree from Notre Dame University, from Kissinger's buddy, the Rev. Theodore Hesburg. Four hundred gathered outside the ceremonies chanting, "Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Viet Nam!"

The media tried to ignore the graduates and relatives walking out when Duarte began to speak. The capitalist news media, after all, doesn't want anything to spoil the carefully cultivated image they have crafted of El Salvador's "President" as a man of peace, a true democrat, a moderate and even an anti-fascist! They don't want to remind people that when Napoleon Duarte headed the Salvadoran junta from 1980 to 1982, more than 30,000 civilians were summarily executed by police and right-wing death squads.

Of course, when this unpleasant subject comes up, Duarte's imperialist backers say, "He was powerless to stop these things."

So what has changed since then? Nothing except that now 60,000 Salvadorans have been killed. The 14-family oligarchy is still intact. Only 2% of El Salvador's people own 60% of the land. The U.S. "trainers" are still running the government's side of the civil war. And the war strategy has become more brutal than ever. Now the peasants in the rural communities are subjected to what they call the "flying death squads," Pentagon-supplied C-47 gunships which sweep over villages firing 5,000 rounds per minute.

This is how a Salvadoran refugee described it to a reporter from the Christian Science Monitor: "At first the Air Force dropped bombs that knocked down trees and houses, killed people and made a three-meter crater. Then they began to drop bombs that exploded before hitting the ground and others that made craters eight meters deep to kill us as we hid in our shelters. Now they use the worst bombs of all—the flaming liquid." Two-hundred-fifty-pound bombs, anti-personnel bombs, 500-pound "blockbusters," napalm and white phosphorous. Houses and clinics destroyed and burned, crops damaged, thousands killed all over Guazapa and San Vicente provinces.

That is what the hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. military "aid" to El Salvador has bought, and that is what Jose Napoleon Duarte stands for.

The 'other' El Salvador

There is another side in El Salvador, a side that doesn't take instructions from Reagan, doesn't send squadrons of aircraft to bomb the campesinos, doesn't get elected with CIA funds, doesn't front for a brutal oligarchy. That "other" El Salvador, under the protection of the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation, today encompasses a third of the country's territory. It is in solidarity with them that the demonstrators came out in this city tonight against Duarte.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

se Duarte and his U.S. imperialist backers.

World debt crisis boils over

By Bill Del Vecchio

MAY 20—While the leaders of the major imperialist countries were busy in Bonn congratulating themselves over how they had managed to keep the lid on the debt crisis of the poor countries, the crisis was boiling over once again in Argentina.

Eight private banks have been shut down within the past two months, and the government's closing of the Banco de Italia y Rio de la Plata last week set off a wholesale run, threatening the entire Argentine banking system, the International Monetary Fund "rescue" of Argentina, and the very stability of the world imperialist banking system.

With a 910% rate of inflation thanks to currency devaluations forced on the Argentinians by the IMF, thousands of people who have savings have used their pesos to buy dollars and deposit them in dollar accounts. Although these dollar accounts are uninsured, they were considered less of a risk than peso accounts.

Many lose savings

But the whole house of cards began collapsing with the bank failures, which meant total losses for everyone who had their money held in dollar accounts in those banks.

When the government dragged its feet over what to do with the Banco de Italia, depositors panicked and started withdrawing their dollar accounts from the private banks.

To keep the run from causing a group collapse of Argentina's banks, the government stepped in and froze all dollar accounts for the next 120 days. Up to $1 billion is affected by the freeze.

The freeze buys the government time but offers no solution to the crisis. U.S. bankers are now balking at participating in the IMF's new $4.2 billion loan, for fear that their money will be lost in default.

The IMF loan is aimed at keeping Argentina from completely and openly defaulting on its $48 billion debt to U.S. and other imperialist banks. Argentina has missed many interest and principal payments over the past two years, and for a time refused the IMF's harsh terms for new credit.

Effect on U.S. banks

Giant U.S. banks such as Citibank, BankAmerica and Chase Manhattan would face such staggering losses if they had to officially write off their loans to Argentina as losses that their continued existence would be threatened, and so they arranged this new $4.2 billion loan to paper over the crisis.

This has been the approach of the U.S. and other imperialist bankers to the mind-boggling debt crisis of Latin America, Africa and Asia. The countries of Latin America alone owe $360 billion, an amount that is simply impossible for these poor countries to pay back even looking decades ahead. All the imperialist countries can offer is more loans as a solution, making the debt even bigger and more impossible.

Chase, Citibank, Manufacturers Hanover, BankAmerica, all these giants still claim that they have that $360 billion, that they're still getting their money back. But the truth is that billions of their money is tied up, that many countries have in fact defaulted, many more will default and much of the debt will be losses. The financial health of these powerful banks is depending on funny money, on a lie. They have closed their eyes and said, "I don't see a world debt crisis anymore."

But it's still there, and it's growing. It has broken back out in Argentina, and tomorrow it could well reignite in Brazil or Mexico, just as it has in Ohio and Maryland.

own Aliquippa steel

anti-union giants billions of dollars every year while destroying the living standards for the majority of working and poor people across the U.S.

—Lebanon

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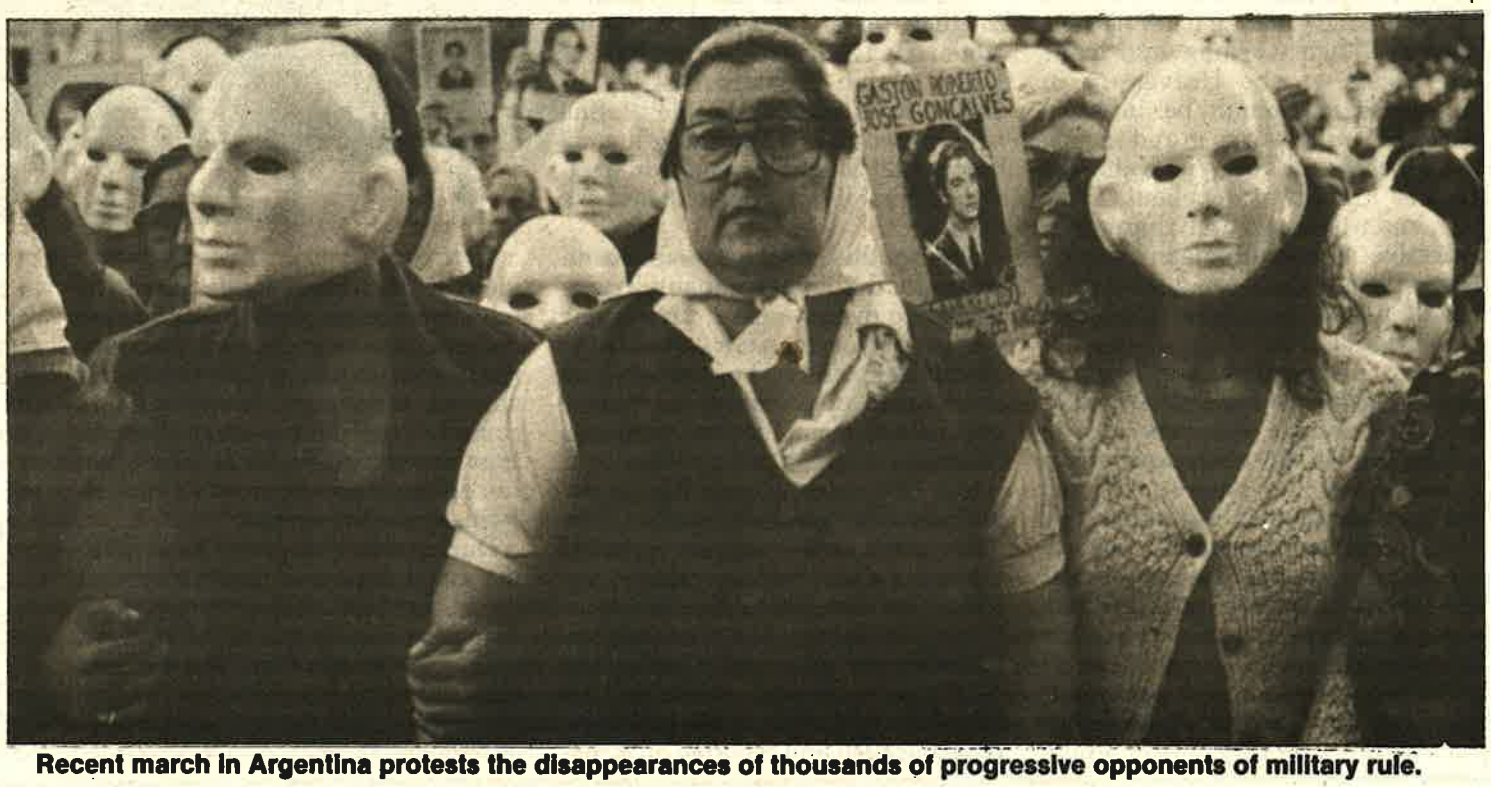
puppets continue, with the Lebanese secular groups constituting the backbone of the freedom fighters. When Lola Elias-Aboud, a member of the Communist Party from a Christian background, was killed last month while fighting Israeli forces, 25,000 people came to the west Bakaa village of Karoun to attend her funeral, which was addressed by CP head George Howi. So far, four women fighters have given their lives to make Lebanon free.

Early this month, when another woman fighter, Wafaa Noureddein, was killed in a daring attack within the Israeli security zone itself, the Supporters of the National Resistance Front issued a statement expressing "the determination of the Lebanese people and the Lebanese National Resistance Front to liberate every inch of Lebanese territory."



Recent march in Argentina protests the disappearances of thousands of progressive opponents of military rule.

EDITORIAL

Radio Batista

AT 5:30 a.m. on the morning of May 20, a 50,000-watt radio transmitter located in the Florida Keys began the first broadcast of what promises to be a 14-hour-a-day propaganda barrage aimed at the people of Cuba.

"Buenos dias, Cuba!" said a soothing voice. Next came a statement from President Reagan saying he hoped that this new radio service would "help defuse the war hysteria" coming from Havana!

The station, a wholly controlled branch of the government-owned Voice of America, is called Radio Jose Marti.

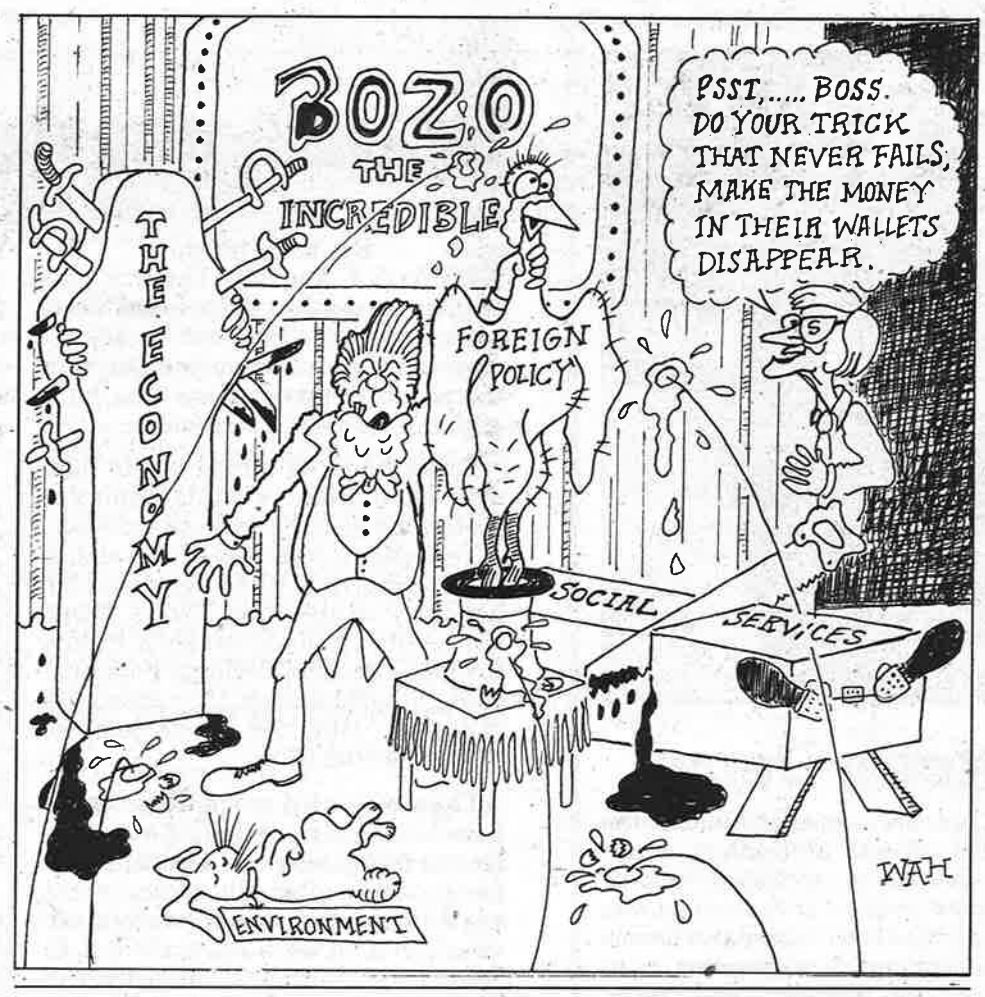
This alone has evoked both derision and anger among the Cuban people. They know all about the real Jose Marti, how he gave his life in the struggle against imperialism, shot down on May 19, 1985, by Spanish colonial troops waiting for him in ambush.

The Cuban people also know exactly what Jose Marti thought about the U.S. capitalist government. Marti lived many years here in the U.S., a labor organizer "inside the entrails of the beast," as he put it.

The economic system in the United States, said Marti, is both "plutocratic and imperialistic." Marti honored the great socialist leader Karl Marx for "the way he put himself on the side of the weak ones," and excoriated the U.S. as a land where "there are too many millionaires and too many paupers," where "the rich capitalist forces the poor worker to work for the lowest wages."

Marti also warned it would be a struggle "to prevent the annexation of Cuba to the United States," asking, "Once the United States is in Cuba, who will get her out?"

The Cuban Revolution of 1959 got U.S. big business out of Cuba for good, and Reagan's new and misnamed radio station cannot reverse this history.



—Philadelphia police

Continued from page 3

searched in the street. He boasted, "Imagine the big Black Panthers with their pants down." He justified the raid as retaliation for the shooting of a policeman (which he later admitted the Panthers had nothing to do with).

This attack was actually a terror tactic to stop the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention that was to open in the city. But Rizzo was unable to stop the Convention that had been initiated by the Panthers.

Frank Rizzo stood for "law and order." But whose law, and whose order? "Simple," Rizzo would say. "There are the good guys and the bad guys." Of course, the blood-sucking bosses, bankers and big business were all in the category of good guys. And the bad guys were Black, Latin, the unemployed and other oppressed peoples.

Big business in Philly was pleased with Frank Rizzo because at last the bosses had found a "real political cop." And Rizzo believed he had been ordained to "save Philly from the 'bad guys'."

Today in Philadelphia, despite its Black mayor, the basics remain the same. The same bosses, the same big business, the same bankers and, most prevalent, the same fascist police force.

The monied rulers of Philadelphia, who call their home the "City of Brotherly Love," throughout their history have shown no love for the masses of poor and working people, especially Black and Latin people.

Last week's bombing of Osage Avenue by the police was meant to send a message of terror to the poor and oppressed—not just in Philadelphia, but around the country.

Yet the unleashing of racists, be they Rizzo, the KKK, the Nazi party or the fascist police against the Black and Latin communities has not kept poor and working people from rebelling against their oppressors. Big business, the banks and the landlords try to intimidate and terrorize the people in an effort to hold on to what they have stolen from the working class and the poor, especially Black, Latin and other oppressed peoples: the wealth which rightfully belongs to those who have created it.

Susan Steinman

1950-1985

By Deirdre Griswold

SUSAN STEINMAN, a loved and respected member of Workers World Party, died May 17 of cancer. Susan was 35 years old and the mother of two small children. Her death is a deeply felt loss for her family and all who knew her, for she was a generous and thoughtful woman whose personal conduct, courage and optimism were consistent with her enlightened social views.

While still in her teens, Susan took the path of struggle for a better world that she would adhere to all her life. She was a student of languages in the late 1960s at the University of Hawaii, which brought her into contact with U.S. servicemen and women in transit to and from Viet Nam. She became a militant opponent of the war, and was an early civilian representative of the American Servicemen's Union, which organized GIs to fight the brass for their political and union rights.

Susan always saw the working class struggle as the primary force for social change. She was only 13 during the 114-day newspaper strike in New York City, but she attended union meetings with her father, one of many deaf printers hired to operate the noisy newspaper presses, so that she could translate the speeches into sign language for him and his co-workers.

Her recognition of the great importance of the class struggle led her back to New York City in 1970, where she plunged into union work as a telephone operator. She became a leader in the struggle for affirmative action that finally led to an historic $50 million agreement between AT&T and Black, Latin and women workers who had been discriminated against in hiring and promotion. Some of the phone operators were still in a company union at that time. She spearheaded a campaign to organize them into the Communications Workers of America (CWA).

Sue Steinman became well known to other women labor activists, with whom she launched the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) on both a state and national level. She was responsible for forming a committee that fought for and won pregnancy disability rights in New York State.

During this whole period, Susan worked at the phone company. Transferring to draftswoman, then frame worker, Susan was a CWA steward in both jobs for the rest of the 14 years she worked at the phone company, and helped form the first women's committee in Local 1101, CWA.

Sue Steinman shared her experience and her progressive spirit with other workers through the pages of United Labor Action, which she edited for ten years beginning in 1971. This paper, put out by the Center for United labor Action (which she also helped found), stretched the boundaries of trade union activism. It encouraged and reported on struggles that combined the forces of the labor movement and the oppressed communities on such issues as utility rate increases and police brutality. It showed innovative ways workers could help each other, as in the militant boycott of Farah slacks when the Farah workers, mostly Chicana women, went on strike.

During this rich career as a working class organizer fighting one of the world's biggest multinational corporations, Sue Steinman, a dedicated cadre of Workers World Party, was always highly conscious of international political and ideological developments. She took organizational responsibility in all the national mobilizations against war and racism of the period, and wrote on varied subjects from affirmative action to the gains of women in the Chinese Revolution. (Susan had studied Chinese and Russian, in addition to signing for the deaf.)

Her special talents and charm can never be duplicated. But her fighting spirit and good-hearted determination will be emulated by those proud to have been her comrades.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis Serrette, and their two sons, Kyle and Desmond.

Lessons of the Philadelphia massacre

The role of the state

By Sam Marcy

MAY 21—What can we learn from the barbarous police assault in Philadelphia?

Should a working class organization engage in the type of bourgeois criticism of the police and the mayor with which the capitalist press is filled? Should we too indulge in berating the "mistakes" of the police, the "lack of consultation" between the different arms of the government, debating whether there should have been a longer waiting period before the dropping of the bomb, whether the bomb should have been tested, whether some other type of device should have been used, whether there were adequate negotiations?

This is what the capitalist media and press give their attention to and what they call criticism. They always deal with the most superficial and inane aspects of the development, dwelling on secondary points that can be made even by the police themselves and their accomplices.

But never, never do the capitalist press and media reach deep down to the source of the cruel and barbarous violence–the capitalist state itself.

Federal government involved

First it should be noted—and this is either completely overlooked or glossed over in the ruling class press and media—that this mass devastation of the oppressed community was not carried out as a purely local operation, divorced from the other arms of the federal and state authorities. This highly significant element does more to illuminate the nature of the assault than the torrent of harmless criticism from the ruling class.

It has been admitted by both the police chief and the fire commissioner that two days prior to the assault they consulted with the FBI. This consultation takes on a new dimension when one considers that a 1979 court decision barred federal authorities from intervening in local police matters.

That case concerned the so-called benevolent intervention by the federal government's Attorney General into the conduct of a local police department. The attorney general's office was armed with an indictment giving specific, numerous incidents of police brutality, assault and the use of weapons by the police to harass, intimidate and in every other way conduct themselves in such a way as to deprive the people, Black people in particular, of their civil rights.

The case, then, was one in which the federal government intervened benevolently, so to speak, on behalf of the people. But what happened?

The case was thrown out by the court, not on its merits but on the grounds that the federal government had no jurisdiction in local police matters. That should have meant the end of collaboration between the local repressive forces of the cities and the federal government. It should have meant no more consultation or conspiracy.

But, of course, as the murderous attack on the people of Philadelphia shows now, while the courts deprived the federal authorities of jurisdiction in local police matters when it came to giving a so-called helping hand to the masses, this is totally reversed when it comes to collaboration and conspiracy in the use of wanton violence and most flagrant illegality against the people.

However, that only covers the involvement of one arm of the federal government. There is still another arm to consider, although most observers in the bourgeois camp would see no relevance to it.

> The capitalist state wouldn't be able to function effectively as a terrorist apparatus if it were confined to being only a "body of armed men." It needs to draw in and hold captive vital civil organizations like the firefighters, whose legitimate functions have, under monopoly capitalism, been coopted into an auxiliary of the repressive forces.

Pentagon connections

Thus we find out that Philadelphia City Director Leo Brooks is also a retired major general in the U.S. Army. Now, why would a major general of the U.S Army be interested in what amounts to, at least in the formal legal sense, an administrative post which could be filled by any one of dozens upon dozens of managerial aides familiar with the administration of the city?

The answer to this question lies in the enormous tentacles of the Pentagon which reach out to every important city, not just through purchasing and procurement agents, for example, but through personnel placed in the metropolitan areas of the country with an eye toward quelling "civil disorders" and controling the labor force. An anti-union and anti-labor bias is a built-in aspect of Pentagon operations.

Isn't the carnage in Philadelphia a domestic version of what the Pentagon perpetrates internationally, as witness most recently in Lebanon?

In their assault on the MOVE headquarters, the police shot up some 10,000 rounds of ammunition and directed that more than half a million gallons of water be used against the small, two-story dwelling. It's another real interconnection between domestic and international aspects of U.S. state-supported terrorism.

Yet the most important lesson one can learn from the Philadelphia atrocity regards the relation of the state to the people. The larger truth that should emanate from the massacre is that it illustrates a classical, virtually textbook exposition of the operation of the capitalist state—its role as a repressive organ of class domination and as an oppressor of the super-exploited people.

As Karl Marx put it long ago with regard to such struggles, "the repressive character of the state stands out in bolder and bolder relief." Its bloody hand symbolizes the very essence of its makeup.

State coopts civil functions

Perhaps the most striking feature of this particular military assault by the police is the coordination between the various coercive and repressive elements of the capitalist state and the subordination, the takeover, the sucking in of vital civilian institutions which are made an integral part of the repressive state apparatus.

The state is not exclusively "a body of armed men," as Engels made clear in his "Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State." It would not be able to function as a terrorist apparatus if its functions were confined merely to the bare-bones skeletal infrastructure of the capitalist state. It needs to draw in, to hold captive vital civil organizations.

Take, for example, the role of the fire department and its vital function in fighting fires. Under the old common law and under the statutory obligations and duties of the fire department, its function is to put out fires with the swiftest and most expedient means, reaching the location of a fire by the speediest vehicles and expeditiously putting the fire out.

Isn't that what we have always understood to be the duties and obligations of the fire department?

Now let us look at Philadelphia and ask ourselves: Why were the fire fighters restrained from intervening until almost an hour and forty minutes after a virtual inferno was engulfing the neighborhood? Was this sheer negligence, was it the result of disobedience of orders?

No. Orders were given—by the police department. It was Police Commissioner Gregore Sambor who gave the orders to Fire Commissioner William C. Richmond. In different interviews given out at various times to the media and to the press, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the New York Times and the Washington Post, the police commissioner is quoted as saying, "I gave the order." Or, as the Washington Post on Sunday, May 19, put it, "I made the recommendation (only recommendation?!—S.M.) and it was concurred in by the fire commissioner."

Fire departments subordinate to police

How could a police commissioner make such a recommendation? And how could a fire commissioner, in defiance of his duty, follow such an order? How could a civil institution of the highest importance to the community allow itself to be ordered by the police department to abstain from doing what the department was set up to do?

Astonishing though this may look, it is not an isolated example. The Philadelphia police assault is not a local phenomenon alone. The truth of the matter is that the fire departments in many cities, particularly the large metropolitan areas, have become auxiliaries of the police in the struggle against the people.

This has been made manifestly clear in dozens if not hundreds of cases, particularly during the momentous struggles of the 1960s, but continuing to this day. The fire departments are used by the police to "quell," as they put it, rebellions whose roots are in the intolerable oppression and exploitation of the mass of the people.

Gone are the days in the early stages of capitalist development in this country when the fire departments were based on volunteer labor and effort from the communities. Who hasn't read in their textbooks about how, when a fire occurred in the old days when there was no sophisticated equipment, the people passed buckets of water from hand to hand to quell the blaze. It wasn't the police who did it.

With the development of monopoly capitalism, particularly in the last few decades, the ordinary, legitimate functions of the firefighters have been coopted into an auxiliary of the repressive forces. The devastation in Philadelphia shows the magnitude of their integration into the repressive forces, but it is not a new phenomenon.

It should be clear that of the three central figures who carried out the murderous assault—Police Commissioner Gregore Sambor, City Director Leo Brooks and Fire Commissioner William C. Richmond—at least the first two dealt on a national level. The fire commissioner was presented with their recommendations and was made to collaborate.

Where was Mayor Goode?

One may ask, where was the mayor?

Legally, the mayor has all the authority over each and every one of the city's departments, especially those concerned with vital services and safety. There can be no doubt about his legal authority over all his subordinates, including the police commissioner, the city director, and the fire commissioner. Yet Mayor Goode was merely informed of the planned assault and was not a participant in the plans. He was not the architect of the murderous assault, but he certainly was an accomplice.

Of course, the capitalist establishment in Philadelphia has fashioned the governmental structure in such a way that the ruling class, not the Black and oppressed people, holds all the levers of power. Nevertheless, the mayor could have stood on his legal authority. He could have directly appealed to the people, if he had been disposed to do so.

He could have been at the site of the criminal assault on the people. He could have rallied the people. Instead, he chose to play the role of an accomplice, even to the extent of saying he would do it all over again under the same circumstances. Mass pressure forced him to retract that remark.

The Reagan administration recognized this criminal plot as a development which it could sanction and applaud. It sent Housing and Urban Development administrator Samuel Pierce to Philadelphia to give his blessing to the slaughter on behalf of the Reagan administration. And even the far-right, notorious Attorney General Ed Meese found it appropriate to send a congratulatory message.

No amount of restitution by the city and federal governments can cover up the genocidal character of the assault.

Their efforts at reconstruction and rehabilitation are of the same pattern that the Pentagon employs on an international scale after each one of its counter-revolutionary adventures, like in Grenada. It offers reconstruction and restitution, but only to more firmly get control over the people for the purpose of intensifying their exploitation and oppression.

U.S. plots forced removal of Native peoples from lands

Monopoly corporations eye Hopi-Navajo Joint Use Area

By Hachett

MAY 21—U.S. imperialism has given both the Hopi and Dene (Navajo) till July 1986 to remove themselves from their homeland. If they refuse, the more than 10,000 people will be **forcibly** relocated.

According to the federal government this mandatory relocation program, the largest removal here in this country since the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, is for the purpose of solving a so-called land dispute between these two Native Nations.

Mandatory removal is supposed to be completed by this July deadline. Of course, Congressional orders such as these are no light matters, especially when they concern land rich and abundant with minerals, namely oil, coal and uranium.

The land in question is 1.8 million acres in northeastern Arizona popularly known as the Navajo-Hopi Joint Use Area (JUA) or Big Mountain area. Big oil has long had its eyes on both these nations' land for many, many years. In fact, Standard Oil Company, after finding oil on the reservation in 1923 requested from the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), five men of Navajo descent for the signing of a lease for oil exploration. The BIA then appointed these men as the Navajo Tribal Council, the governing body that makes all the decisions on the reservation. The Navajo is the largest reservation in the U.S. with a population of more than 160,000, spread out over 14 million acres or 25,000 square miles (larger than the state of West Virginia).

Uranium mining

Oil production grew, and valuable land once used for sheepherding is now producing oil. The U.S. then imposed a sheepherding reduction program and encouraged wage economy on the reservation. In 1949, Kerr McGee Corporation discovered uranium deposits near Shiprock, Navajo Nation, in northwestern New Mexico. There, according to a 1981 March of Dimes study, the rate of birth defects are as much as eight times higher than that of the rest of the country.

Under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission, Kerr McGee talked to the BIA about uranium deposits' development. The corrupt tribal council and the BIA signed a lease with Kerr McGee "for as long as the ore is producing in payable quantities." By 1979 the Navajo and adjoining area contained: 33 uranium mines including the Anaconda-Arco mine at Laguna, the largest uranium strip mine in the world; three uranium mills located at Grants, New Mexico, referred to by the people there as the uranium capital of the world"; three coal stripmines; four coal fired power plants; seven abandoned uranium and vandium mill sites.

And by the year 2000 the BIA has signed into effect plans for six coal gasification plants, ten uranium mills and 100 uranium mines. In addition, the National Nuclear Waste disposal site company has also leased an area of land near Carlsbad, N.M.

Oil, coal and uranium corporations are bidding against each other for use of the land, especially the JUA. One company wants this area for an oil pipeline, but the Navajo and Hopi say that the land will be leased to Peabody Coal Company which already operates a large mine on Black Mesa on both Hopi and Navajo lands.

Reagan's bigoted policies

In 1975 the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act was signed into law, requiring the federal government to foster and encourage tribal self government. Reagan in his 1983 Indian policy claimed he would honor this 1975 commitment to strengthen tribal government and lessen federal control over tribal government affairs. But what he really meant was eliminating all the vital social services and educational monies and planning the ultimate takeover of indigenous lands to exploit their abundant resources.

Through a treaty obligation signed in 1868, the U.S. has made several attempts to take the JUA. The U.S. claims there is a dispute between these two nations on the question of this land so they created the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974, which is just another imperialist trick to whip up dissent and confusion aimed at insuring the displacement of the Navajo and Hopi Nations.

The intent is to remove the people from the JUA and with the establishment of such an act, also known as Public Law 93-531, the government is allowed to partition the land. As a result, resistance began building, forcing a stoppage in the fencing and partitioning efforts. In one instance, a sheepherder and local activist fired a warning shot in the direction of the crew stringing a fence along a partition line.

In 1979, the Big Mountain Navajo (which is located in the JUA) issued a public notice declaring total resistance to any effort or influence to be removed from the land in Big Mountain.

To insure that the corporations do not sneak onto the area to begin their mining and to let the federal government know that the people will not be forced from their homes, an encampment of Navajo-Hopi and their supporters are holding steadfastly to this countryside to protect what belongs to the people. They will not be moved. Already the federal government and the Congressional lackeys are being forced to postpone the removal date, though this is yet to be seen.

The people at Big Mountain are requesting people to join with them to face off any attempt by the federal government to forcibly remove them from their homeland in July of 1986. For the people there, one year goes by very quickly, especially when everything they own may be taken away.

—Star Wars

Continued from page 1

swindle, a giveaway to the rich and a ripoff of everyone else.

But the biggest swindle of all is Reagan's claim that Star Wars will put people back to work, stimulate industry and revive the economy. Reagan would like us to think that this is 1939 all over again when military spending and preparations for war temporarily solved the unemployment crisis and brought the country out of the Depression.

Back then, military spending was a stimulant. Today, however, it's a depressant.

Why does military spending act like a drug which can first stimulate but eventually is guaranteed to destroy the user?

Because military goods have no real social use. Steel plants, shoes, bridges, houses have use to people. They get used up and wear away. Eventually new steel plants. shoes, etc., are needed and produced.

But the only way missiles or bombs get "used" is by being blown up, getting destroyed and in the process destroying other people's steel plants, bridges, houses, etc.

In 1939, the military-industrial complex was in its infant stage. The economy didn't suffer from inflation, but deflation, and prices were at rock bottom. Military production did temporarily stimulate the economy.

Today there is a vast weapons complex. Prices rise every year. **There is no room for military expansion except by contracting civilian, that is useful, production.**

For all Reagan's talk about "booming recovery," there are over 10 million unemployed and many millions more underemployed. Poverty and homelessness have never been higher since the Depression. Dozens of banks are collapsing every week. And the latest economic news point to a fall in the index of leading economic indicators.

As the military drains away all the monies for research and development, the basic industries of the U.S.—steel, rubber, glass, machine tools—are being left to rot. Once booming industrial centers are now virtual ghosttowns.

Five years of Reagan's unprecedented military buildup haven't put a dent on this economic stagnation. And the Star Wars bonanza won't either. It will only complicate and deepen the basic problem even more.

Over 60 years ago, the Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin observed that in the interests of profit, the capitalists would produce the rope to hang themselves. Military weaponry is becoming that rope.

All of history teaches that a social system whose economic foundation rests upon war, militarism and building ever-larger and more ghoulish weapons is doomed to extinction.

—Boston

Continued from page 3

upon the School Committee.

Ed Dougnerty, President of the Boston Teachers Union, representatives of the Citywide Parents Council, Minister Donal Mohammed, Nation of Islam, the All-Peoples Congress and United Labor Action were among supporters present. Mel King, whose Rainbow campaign to become Boston's first Black mayor in the last election made history in this city, gave an impassioned speech in support of the drivers. The drivers picketed in front of the building until their place on the School Committee agenda came up. At this point, they marched en masse into the chambers packing the room to capacity and spilling out into the hallway.

Union President Tess Ewing explained to the committee the need to vote in favor of the job guarantee to "right the longstanding wrong" and to provide safety and stability to the school bus system. She condemned the smear campaign against the drivers being waged by the media and some city officials. This has been a well-orchestrated campaign, designed to divert attention from the real issues.

Black school committe members, Jean McGuire, John O'Bryant and Shirley Owens-Hick spoke out in favor of the drivers. The opposition was led by Committeeman Joe Caspar, a known racist who would like nothing better than to disrupt desegregation.

Just prior to the vote, a shop steward reminded the school committee that the drivers have a history of four wildcat strikes in the last eight years. "We have had to defy court back-to-work injunctions, hired goons, cops and jail to win our union rights. Our members present in this chamber should demonstrate that we are determined to fight. If the School Committee votes against us, they will in essence be taking our strike vote for us."

In a 7-to-5 vote, reflecting anti-unionism and disregard for the safety of the children, the committee rejected the job guarantee. As the clerk read off the vote results, the committee chambers filled with the thunderous chants of angered drivers, "Strike! Strike!" The committee recessed, more police were brought in to add to those already strategically placed around certain committee members and the drivers marched out and began to immediately plan to escalate their plan for job security.

At tonight's strike authorization meeting, plans were made to distribute 30,000 leaflets to the children on the buses to alert parents and get their support. An emergency staff was set up to organize union and community support, petitions made up for every district, a fightback fund approved and a demonstration called for the May 28 school committee meeting.

Dozens of drivers were interviewed by the large battery of press after the meeting tonight. They spoke in one voice: "The union drives the buses or the buses won't roll."

Join us in the struggle

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, Latin, Asian 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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Texas prisoners battle repressive conditions

By Gloria Rubac

HOUSTON, May 21—As the ink is drying on the proposed settlement in the historic prison reform case, Ruiz v. Estelle, following a signing ceremony attended by top Texas officials, Texas inmates are protesting conditions and the repression in the prisons is escalating.

After several suits, filed by inmates incarcerated by the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC), were consolidated in the early 1970s into Ruiz v. Estelle, Federal Judge William Wayne Justice ruled the TDC unconstitutional and in 1981 issued the landmark prison reform order.

Since then various hearings have been held and agreements negotiated on proposals to bring TDC into compliance with the court order.

What may now be a final settlement has been signed by the attorneys representing the prisoners, William Bennett Turner and Donna Brorby, and by the Texas Attorney General and TDC officials.

The judge is now notifying the prisoners themselves and any objections from them will be heard at a hearing tentatively set for mid-July.

The prisoners' victory in the Ruiz case was made possible because of the courage and determination of the hundreds of Texas prisoners who literally risked their lives by filing suits and testifying in the trial.

Conditions have changed somewhat since the Ruiz case because of the diligence of the prisoners in forcing TDC to comply with rulings, and it will be up to the prisoners and their supporters to see that the final ruling is implemented.

Hunger strike

Meanwhile, a month-long hunger strike was just ended on the Eastham Unit of TDC where five men have been protesting the new "super-segregation" confinement and treatment. Some concessions were won by these inmates.

The inmates involved in the Eastham hunger strike were Domingo Rangel, David Rushing, Norwood Bonner, Paul Guerra and Wesley Johnson.

The new "super-segregation" involves the closing of segregation cells with a heavy metal screen that has only a half inch opening for inmates to see out of. There are severe restrictions on property and no reading materials are allowed. Inmates receive a shower and a change of clothes only once a week and virtually no time out of the cell.

According to prisoner Alberto Aranda, "The new super-segregation cells have a deep psychological effect because the men are made to feel like an animal in a cage. The cells are designed to strip us of our dignity and they are also illegal under Ruiz."

Inmate Attorney Brorby also claims the super-segregation cells are illegal. "They are in violation of the specific terms in the administrative segregation plans agreed to by both sides in Ruiz and which is a court order. The plan specifies that administrative segregation is not to be punitive."

TDC officials claim the super-segregation cells will be used only for troublesome prisoners and are "really nothing." But prison rights activists in Texas know that TDC has a history of confining prison activists and jailhouse lawyers in segregated cells for long periods of time to keep their contact with the general prison population minimal.

Two inmate activists with the Committee for Prison Reform and in Defense of Human Rights, Aranda and Alvaro Hernandez, have been in segregation for years. Both have been involved in many lawsuits, and Hernandez, who was a spokesperson for the inmates on the Ellis Unit in 1978 during the strike in solidarity with the opening of the Ruiz case, recently exposed the murder of another segregation inmate, Barry Wayne Edwards, whose family is now suing TDC.

Racist Jersey City mayor forced into run-off election

By Rachel Duell

JERSEY CITY, May 20—There has been a truly remarkable and unexpected upset in the recent mayoral election here.

Reactionary incumbent Mayor Gerald McCann, a man who has come to symbolize the most rabid racism and callous insensitivity to all tenants, working and poor people, had expected an easy first ballot victory with as much as 70% of the vote. Instead, he almost lost the election outright.

McCann's opponent, Anthony Cucci, who ran as a supporter of rent control, received 49.69% of the vote, just three-tenths of one percent less than needed to win. There will be a run-off on June 11.

Of the nine council seats which also came up for election only one was won decisively. Jaime Vasquez, a tenant advocate, won Ward E downtown. This is a Latino ward, where largely Puerto Rican tenants have suffered indescribably from four years of "development." In the eight other seats, McCann's people did not fare so well either, with an important lead for the progressive Black city councilman, Glen Cunningham. No other candidate, however, made the 50% plus one vote necessary, forcing a run-off for all these seats on June 11.

Big money liked McCann's record

Why was the election such an upset? McCann after all had big money behind the office of mayor. The big money men liked his record as mayor. He had weakened rent control and forced thousands of low and moderate income tenants from their apartments. He had blighted whole neighborhoods and forced workers to sell their hard earned homes at below market value to the city through eminent domain so that the area could be "redeveloped."

His administration had bragged it was "glad" that the Colgate Palmolive factory was going to close and lay off 1,200 workers so that its valuable waterfront property could be used for real estate. McCann had begun converting the once much acclaimed Jersey City Medical Center, a public hospital serving one million residents of Hudson County, into the country's largest condominium. And his friendship with the Reagan administration had won Jersey City the largest grant nationwide in urban development for his development projects on the waterfront overlooking New York.

McCann had attacked and dismantled affirmative action hiring. And as a result the coffers opened up and the money poured in for his campaign.

McCann ads glared from every bus and train in the city. City employees were threatened with the loss of their jobs if they didn't help in the campaign. Street money flowed freely, $20 for a vote for McCann. Daily, beer parties were thrown on the block. There were groundbreaking ceremonies at the newest luxury condominiums with plenty of pictures and an endorsement from the local papers. McCann ran on the slogan "I brought development to Jersey City and development is good for everyone." But the displaced, the tenant, the unemployed, the small homeowner didn't buy it.

On the eve of his defeat, a stunned and bewildered McCann had this to say: "I lost the Hispanic and Black vote" and "You know I lost every housing project." Black, Latin and other oppressed people comprise the majority of the population. A full 70% of the population of this city are renters. Unemployment is 14%. Infant mortality has recently doubled, and children here are far below the national average in reading and math skills.

Progressives oppose McCann

For the local chapter of the All-Peoples Congress and for the tenant groups and Black and Latin organizations, the past four years of McCann's term as mayor have represented one militant struggle after another. Four days after McCann first got into office a 14-hour take-over of city hall and a mass referendum drive stopped vacancy decontrol of housing.

This election was a referendum on the issues, a rebellion at the polls against all the landlord propaganda. The election showed that the people have developed an awareness of themselves as an oppressed and exploited mass. But it will take more than an election to stop the massive displacement, unemployment and growing hunger in this city.

Cucci, a liberal capitalist politician seized on the issue of rent control, and the people responded. But a politician alone, even if he's sincere, cannot force the banks to change their fundamental interest in speculative profit from luxury housing. Plans are already in blueprint for the building of 9,000 luxury units on the waterfront, and buildings all over the city are being constructed or rehabilitated for the rich. Not a capitalist election, but a movement of all the poor and oppressed, working and middle income people, can stop the onslaught of the real estate sharks.

McCann has announced that in the next month he will run a "dirty campaign" to win his mayoral seat. On June 1 a fightback rally for jobs and housing has been initiated by the All-Peoples Congress. The rally will be a speak-out of tenant and community leaders and will launch an initiative to strengthen the rent control laws.

Buffalo's new Metro Rail links bankers' homes to the banks

By V. Colangelo

BUFFALO, May 9—Two dollars for a 6.4 mile subway ride?

This exorbitant cost is a real possibility for the people of Buffalo, when the new "Metro Rapid Rail" system is open to the public in the next few weeks. However, the high fare is only one of the many reasons why the subway will not benefit working and poor people.

The idea for the transit system was conceived in the 1970s during a period of campus rebellions across the U.S.—a highly significant one occurring at the University of Buffalo (UB) in 1971. At that time, the main campus was located on Main St. in a residential area, and student protests were having an impact on working class neighborhoods. After it was decided to relocate the UB campus away from the busy, highly visible downtown area to the more isolated suburb of Amherst, long a home for area bankers and businessmen, the idea of the Metro Rail system was born.

Metro Rail could guarantee Amherst businessmen access to their downtown corporate offices; the new subway would also make it possible to isolate the campus while still giving the students a way to easily get downtown to spend their money to benefit these same businessmen.

The bankers benefited in other ways by the subway project. Since the federal government pledged 80% of the financing, the state of New York had to cover the cost of the remaining 20%. This was accomplished by the State's sale of municipal bonds to the banks—in reality a loan to the state. Under this scheme, the banks receive repayment from the state at a high interest rate and don't have to pay taxes on the interest. However, the banks get a guaranteed rate of return, that is, they get their loan paid back no matter how successful the transit system is. If it is not successful, state taxes will be raised in order to pay back the banks. Originally, the design plans called for destruction of many workers' homes, many in the Black community. It was only after years of protest that this and other anti-people plans were changed.

As it is, oppressed and working class communities have been burdened by lack of access to the subway, cutbacks in the city bus system to help finance the subways, construction cost overruns and structural deficiencies.

But the people of Buffalo face still more expense for the "bankers' boondoggle." Reagan's $2.8 billion budget cuts for transit subsidies mean that the system may never be fully completed. Buffalo, as an economically depressed area, is not a priority to get federal transit subsidies. This is the reason for projected fare costs of $1 to $2 for this 6.4 mile ride. And already the transit system has announced a $250 fine for fare evaders!

Mass transit should be an affordable, convenient way for people to travel, free of the disadvantages of individually owned cars. However, the system's profit motive serves to negate the real potential of an effective mass transit system. There is no doubt that protests will continue against this "rapid-rail" roading of the people!

workers world

Students struggling to save ethnic studies at SF State

Partial victory won in battle over education requirements

By Jane Cutter

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19—Student activists claimed a partial victory on May 14 when the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University (SFSU) voted 41-4 to rescind revisions in the general education requirements, which would have lowered the enrollment of the School of Ethnic Studies.

The School of Ethnic Studies, the first and only such school in the U.S., was won through the struggle of students, faculty, workers and community activists in the SFSU strike of 1968.

The general education revisions, passed by the predominantly white academic Senate in May of 1983, were clearly racist. Under the original requirements, students could take all nine of their Segment II units in Ethnic Studies. Under the revision, they would have only been able to take three units. The other units would have had to come from so-called "lead" schools.

The revision thus implied that the history and culture of Third World peoples are not valid subjects of study, that the School of Ethnic Studies was not a "lead" school! Needless to say, ethnic studies is important in countering the racist indoctrination all youth are bombarded with daily.

Students carry out militant struggle

Ever since this outrageously racist revision was introduced on campus, students have organized against it. The struggle for Ethnic Studies gained impetus from the recent upturn in anti-apartheid actions, since both are anti-racist struggles.

On April 30, the Educational Rights Commission, a group working around Ethnic Studies, organized 100 students to attend an Academic Senate meeting where a resolution opposing the "lead" school concept was being introduced. The 100 students were locked out of the meeting, which by law is public! The students set up a militant picket line. Instead of dampening spirit, this outrageous action of the Academic Senate and campus police increased students' determination to fight back.

The next Academic Senate meeting was held in the Student Union, in response to student demands that the meeting be accessible to them. Three-hundred students—Black, white, Latin, Asian, Native—were in attendance. However, before a vote could be taken on the resolution on the lead school, the chair, Bernice Biggs, gavelled the meeting to a close over the objections of a student senator.

Furious student activists infiltrated the administration building, setting up a picket line in the hall in front of the University President's office. Bernice Biggs was forced to come and hear the activists and sign a statement promising that the next Academic Senate meeting would not end before a vote could be taken. Biggs and other administrators present were visibly shaken as militant students called them on their racism.

Although the last Academic Senate meeting was held in the last week of classes, when many students are preoccupied, 300 students again came out to pack the meeting. There was a lot of anger over the discovery that morning in an Ethnic Studies classroom of a pipe bomb which was found before it could cause any damage. Although no group claimed responsibility, the School of Ethnic Studies had earlier in the semester been the target of a bomb threat, called in by a Klan-type group, "White American Resistance." Both attacks took place early in the morning.

Facing the students' anger, the Academic Senate voted to disavow the lead school concept. However, they amended the resolution to take the teeth out of it, to leave the schedule for next fall with loose ends and making no guarantees that the lead school won't be introduced again. Student activists vowed to continue the struggle by any means necessary, and to also press on for resolutions favoring divestment of University funds from corporations doing business with South Africa.

Anti-apartheid protests —p. 5

May 16 protest at Berkeley demands divestiture.

WW PHOTO: ANNE SEAMAN

Outrage grows in Portland, Ore., over racist murder by cops

Black man killed after use of 'sleeper hold'

By Lyn Neeley

MAY 20—Community anger has erupted in Portland, Ore., in the wake of the brutal killing of a Black man by a racist cop using what is called the "sleeper hold."

Thirty-one-year-old Lloyd D. "Tony" Stevenson died in Northeast Portland as a result of the controversial hold, a neck hold which cuts circulation to the brain and causes unconsciousness after only six seconds of application.

The incident occurred in the parking lot of a 7-11 store where a crowd had gathered as store clerks tried to recapture an alleged shoplifter. After police arrived and arrested the suspect, they approached the crowd, where Stevenson and another man were arguing. Stevenson, a Black father of five, was attacked by the cops.

Although the cops have claimed Stevenson resisted arrest and assaulted an officer, eyewitnesses at the scene say that at no time did he resist or strike a cop.

One witness who lives across the street from the parking lot said that police had almost immediately grabbed Stevenson and pulled him to the ground, using the sleeper hold.

Although Portland's Black population is only 8% of the total population, 41% of the sleeper holds have been used on Black people, showing the deep racism of the Portland cops.

After the killing, two bigoted Portland police officers began selling T-shirts, reading "Don't choke 'em, smoke 'em," on the day of Stevenson's funeral.

A 1982 study by the Seattle, King County, medical examiner, pointed out that the sleep-hold is potentially lethal. The hold is designed to cut the blood flow to the brain by the pincer effect of an arm crooked around the victim's neck.

Following the killing, Portland's Mayor Bud Clark and Police Chief Penny Hornington have temporarily suspended the use of the hold.

Recently, hundreds of people marched around Portland's police headquarters and held a rally on the steps of City Hall, demanding a permanent ban on the use of the sleeper hold and the immediate suspension of the two cops involved in the murder.

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