Unorganized workers may take lead

by Felix Martin, Labor Editor

In Los Angeles I have been walking the picket line at a strike of garment workers that has continued for seven months at the Village Mill in Baldwin Park. These workers were making five dollars an hour, and the company demanded that they take them down to minimum wage. They walked out, and the company hired in scabs. The workers say “we can’t live on five dollars an hour, how are we supposed to live on minimum wage.”

The simple truth is that the lower-paid and unorganized workers can’t accept concessions because they will starve if they do. One worker told me, “I have to work ten hours a day, five days a week, and I still have trouble finding enough to eat to feed my kids $25 and had a good job in auto until I was laid off. I don’t see how people are going to be able to take it. No wonder the police here act like they are stormtroopers.”

When the UAW union leadership argues over whether workers “should” or “shouldn’t” accept more concessions in the next contract, they are speaking only to a small minority of the American work force. The fact is that most workers either have to accept concessions, or they do they will starve. And like the workers at Davis Pleasing that is why they fight.

More and more auto workers are feeling the same way. They have seen their living standards come closer and closer to the level of the non-unionized worker. Instead of listening to union leadership’s call for “unanimity” and “compromise” with management, workers inside and outside auto would do better listening to the words and deeds of the rank-and-file workers resisting concessions. It is the workers resisting these give-backs that spells the direction for what to do next.

Already GM is saying that in order to maintain its huge profits — over $17.1 billion in 1983 — even more concessions will be needed from the workers. They are talking about

(Continued on page 3)

Miami and Black America

by Lou Turner

Miami is no longer a place, it has become a condition. Even more, it has become the exposed nerve ending of the American Black condition.

What happened in the second week of March in Miami was simple, and by now commonplace: an all-white jury in less than two hours, including the time it took them to eat dinner, decided that policeman Luis Alvarez was not guilty of manslaughter charges when he walked into a video arcade in the Black Overtown area of Miami and with an already cocked gun shot 30-year-old Nevell Johnson Jr. in the head at point blank range on Dec. 25, 1982.

FOUR YEARS OF REVOLT

On the evening of March 15 Alvarez was found not guilty of manslaughter after one of the longest trials in Miami history and for the next two days, Black Miami in Liberty City, Overtown, Carroll City and Coconut Grove put Alvarez and the system that found him innocent on trial and found them guilty.

For the fourth continuous year, Black revolt has spontaneously erupted in Miami, with the demand for justice on everyone’s lips. In these four years since the 1980 Miami rebellion, following the acquittal, by an all-white jury, of four white cops who participated in the killing of Black insurance salesman, Arthur McDuffie, police killings have increased.

The cold-blooded facts of Alvarez’s case were so glaring even that the Dade County Justice Department was compelled to go through with yet another “show trial” in which the outcome was as pathetic as it was predictable.

“They talk about justice — what kind of justice do we have? All of our Black people are getting killed and none of them get convicted.” That, coming from an angry Black Miami, could have come from any inner-city Black resident who has to deal with the justice/“just-us” system of legalized hypocrisy in Black America.

(Continued on page 9)

Battles over coal mine safety show stakes are high for labor in 1984

by Andy Phillips

Morgantown, W. Va. — “We’ve just got to get stronger safety provisions in the next contract,” the Pennsylvania coal miner declared.

“There are more men getting killed and hurt than there have been for a long time now.” Just how shocking safety conditions are in the mines under President Reagan’s pro-management policies was further disclosed during my recent visit to Morgantown, W. Va., where the daily paper carried a front-page report on a recent court decision upholding the United Mine Workers Union in a mine safety suit brought against Consolidation Coal Company’s Blacks­ville mine in northern West Virginia.

The shock wing stemmed from the fact that there had been a court case at all. The Blacks­ville mine is one of the gassiest in the nation. When a fan breaks down, the gas cannot be blown out of the mine. Explosive quantities accumulate, and a single spark can blow up the mine, killing everyone. The company had insisted that when fans went down, the miners ride out of the mine in man-trip cars that are powered by electric motors hooked to overhead lines by trolley poles that are always throwing sparks.

CHEAPER TO RISK MINERS’ LIVES

During the many years I had worked in the mines in the area, the first order given when a fan went down was to shut off all electric power to make sure no electric spark could set off a disaster. And we always walked out of the mine to the safety outside. There was never any question about it, and no one ever dared to do anything other.

The fact that Consol today can show such open disregard for the lives of the miners is possible only because of Reagan’s total reliance on the corporatist groupthink for the best behavior at the completely pro-management orientation of his administration. This anti­labor policy is now needed by the labor leaders to reverse the broken series of working class defeats orchestrated so effectively by the Reagan administra­tion.

This year will be crucial for workers and their families, and especially those whose contracts expire during 1984.

(Continued on page 10)

Contracts covering nearly three million workers will be up for negotiations, including the auto, coal, oil, construction, railroad, maritime and food industries and the U.S. Postal Service. What happens will determine if the long conces­sionary trend, began by former UAW President Fraser with his Chrysler give­aways, will continue or be halted and reversed.

The record of the labor leaders is not promising, and any return to Reagan’s first action upon taking office: his direct, conscious and well-calculated destruction of the PATCO union. The abject capitulation of the labor leaders to this direct attack opened the Administration anti-labor floodgates.

Every appointment, especially to the National Labor Rela­tions Board (NLRB), every labor bill introduced by the Administra­tion has been designed to roll back gains made by labor in the great upsurge of the CIO in the 1930’s.

(Continued on page 10)

El Salvador’s election

The first round of the El Salvadoran presidential election, bought and paid for by the United States government, has taken place. No sooner were the polls closed than Ronald Reagan and his henchmen got up on their soap boxes to proclaim democracy was alive and well in El Salvador. Reagan was joined by the U.S. observers of the election who quickly jumped on the plane home and into Reagan’s arms at the White House to proclaim their support for the U.S. arms being sent to the Salvadoran military.

Thereby was revealed the truth of this election. It was not for the people of El Salvador, though they fared lines and intimidation for not voting, but for Ronald Reagan in his campaign to get tens of millions of dollars worth of military hardware approved by Congress and sent to El Salvador’s dic­tatorial rulers.

In El Salvador the days after the election are like the days before, with death squads of the right continuing their kidnappings and torture murders. A half million Salvadorans have fled from the military’s terror, and still more are seeking a refuge.

So brazen has been Reagan’s drive toward war in Central America that in the most recent days we have been witness to:

• the landing of new U.S. troops in Honduras, some deployed on the border with El Salvador, the others on the Nicaraguan border
• U.S.-sponsored Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries mining of Nicaraguan ports which have already caused damage to several ships from other countries

Far from El Salvador’s election being any move toward peace, it is only part of Reagan’s war upon the peoples of Central America.
Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from correspondence with a woman activist in India who began writing to Women's Liberation — News & Letters after reading about us in the Indian feminist journal, Manushi.

Maki Bui, whose case challenging the validity of the law declaring women of the inheriting family land is before the Indian Supreme Court, sits with her daughter.

**Court suit on land rights**

In the course of the last decade, women in India have taken up the issue of property land. This land is currently held jointly in the name of all male members of the family. However, in Bui's case, she was given as an inheritance the land of her late husband's family. Information also from Maki Bui, a tribal woman from the Ho tribe with the Supreme Court of India.

Bui's case is one of many women's cases of this kind. Bui was awarded $390,000 by a Tulsa, Okla. jury, March 15, in her lawsuit against the Wall Drug Co., a South Dakota tourist attraction named for a man who died from a heart attack while fighting against so-called "suicidal burning" where a young woman is burned to death by her in-laws because of heresy, jealousy, or other "witches," the practice of "Dvadasini" — women who are dedicated to the temple of God for the sexual pleasure of men — as well as issues of rape, war, battery, pornography and women's right to land.

Many in the tribal movement are realizing that instead of making the movement a "women's liberation" movement, they are taking place today and function as religious "or communal" troubles. In many cases, women's rights are being suppressed under the guise of religion. Religion in India is also playing a crucial role. Many of the cases today are taking place today and function as religious "or communal" troubles. In many cases, women's rights are being suppressed under the guise of religion. Religion in India is also playing a crucial role.

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-like a new worker who had rank-and-file experience in the Teamsters said, "I thought having a union meant every job gets a certain rate, whether you've been there ten years or ten days. What kind of union or strength can you have like that? There's why there are so many rats here, and why the others don't even dare speak up at a union meeting." How did this shop get to this situation, being under union control since the late 1940s? First, the minimum rates on the contract have been kept so ridiculously low you have to hope for merit raises and overtime if you are going to survive.

Favoritism in Shop
Then when the last contract was negotiated in October, 1981, the organizer not only joined the company in its scorching attacks on consumerism and unemployment for workers, higher priced cars for consumers, and fewer cars coming off the assembly line for Americans and small farmers and consumers.
The employers want to change the health and pension. I hope for merit raises and overtime if you are going to survive.

W. Europe unemployment
Today in Western Europe there is massive unemployment. Of almost 24 million Europeans, there are 2.5 million unemployed with an unemployment rate of 9% while for that West Europe is 11.5%, Holland's rate is 13%, France has in 1981, Italy's at 12.7% and Britain's at 12.3%.
The government, whether Social Democrat or openly conservative, is taking Reagan-style cutbacks and austerity. The labor bureaucracy, led by West Germany's DGB (the German Trade Union Confederation) has called for the 35-hour work week. 40 hours pay to create jobs, and they plan a European-wide demonstrator this spring.
But so far this movement has generated little mass support. Neither the labor bureaucracy with its social democratic members, nor the sheep-like workers, are able to relate to the question of unemployment, which is found dis-proportionately among the young. Reagan-style new missiles and war threats are the stuff of which revolutionary youth movements have grown in the past.

CTA drivers' perilous job
Chicago, Ill. — A fellow worker was a few minutes late picking up his bus and missed his run. Now he has to sit and wait for two hours, and if they don't get anything for him, hell go home and lose his pay for the day. I just can't see it. If I get up and go to work, why should I lose the whole day?
In a factory if you are five or ten minutes late, they dock you for fifteen minutes, but if you are late for the Chicago Transit Authority, it means you lose your run for the day. Why wouldn't you be late if you are a snow storm. Then it would be a different matter.

Yes, we make more than some workers. But we are suspended so easily — for not being on schedule or in uniform — for doing the same job over and over again.

A lot of drivers have been talking about the fellow who was killed by a college student trying to get a reduced fare. The kid didn't know the bus didn't have a window, so he hit the deal. Union officials didn't even try to end the strike the officials lost no time in arranging a new contract.

British Leyland workers strike over transfers
Oxford, England — As many as 220 workers, mainly women, in the trim shop at the British Leyland (B.L.) car factory in Oxford had decided their right to remain on their existing job, when production of the Acclaim and Rover cars was moved to the frigid new premises of a new model, the LM11, was started in Cowley.

The LM11 will have the workers to other jobs in the factory, without consulting them or the union. The workers took unofficial strike action on their own initiative. The local shop stewards asked the workers to work and take the matter through procedure, but if they had done this the changeover would have been completed.

Over 1,000 other workers were laid off because of the strike. Only the workers on the assembly line and production department, D.I. put forward a new incentive document, which management said would be the basis of the workers' increase. Earnings will rise to a maximum of 30 pounds. Under this scheme, workers would have to work "bell to bell," losing washing up time (as Leyland plants already have), and management would have the right to move workers around the plant at will, without consultation.

The plan also offers the workers (British Standard Incentives), but the company reserved to itself the right to define what merit raises and overtime if you are going to survive.

A WEDGE BETWEEN WORKERS
The fact is that the two-tier wage system already exists through the short-handled hoe. It is not where their problems end. It is just where it begins.

This has workers angry. In Oklahoma, when workers heard that growers have employed them to break strikes, Indeed, the law outlawing the hoe is not being enforced. Farmworkers have it banned. They must work bent over all day to cultivate crops. Indeed, the use of the short-handled hoe "optional," growers will not hire men with it. Women are chosen this very concession to fight so hard.

Favoritism in Shop
When the company called in the full-time union officials to try to end the strike the officials lost no time in arranging a new contract. In this way, two-tier wage workers want to see them to deal with important problems; the officials keep their own members waiting.

NYC furriers on strike
New York, N.Y. — Almost 2,000 furriers have been on strike for four weeks here in New York City. We were working without a contract for two days. Then came the lockout. The bosses aren’t talking. They are in Las Vegas right now for a fur show.
The employer wants 12 months of the year for subcontracting. But they only got three months during which they could subcontract work. That means we would be out on the, The union wants 2½% of the profits for the health fund. The employers say the union wants to get 50 cents an hour. which means 4.5% of the profits, and they want the full amount. The union has its own demands and one is that everyone should vote on every point separately. That would be real democracy.

The company’s argument is that they will settle just before seven weeks come, to avoid paying any unemployment benefits. For us this strike is not for wages but to save the union. Without it we’ll have a contract they had twice before rejected after striking 117 days.

This was one of the most sought after tier wage system on them. Last year, workers at GM's tier wage system they so bitterly opposed. New hires in the contract negotiations in auto and elsewhere will be a period of decision than by what the rank-and-file do.

A WEDGE BETWEEN WORKERS
The present suit, which took five years to get to court, and just use high school passes. I feel really bad by using a high school student pass. I feel really bad about the death. I think they should eliminate those passes and just use high school I.D.s. Whenever I drive near a college, I feel terrible. There are reduced fares. I never checked like that before, but since the driver was a college student, I don't go flying to college.

We workers should be treated as employees, not animals. The company wants to cooperate with the workers, but only on their terms, their time, to the benefit of me is important.

Our contract will be up in November, and I am afraid what will happen with the new contract. They are talking about taking a week of vacation from me. I want to know where the union stands. If you work 25 years, you get a pension. I feel I should have a good pension based on 80%.
Marx's philosophy of “revolution vs. non-Marxist scholar-careerists in “Marxism”

by Raya Dunayevskaya

author of Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution.

The writings of non-Marxist scholars who are Marxists — that the mature Marx was the Introduction to the Grundrisse which had first seemed most impressive and objective in that regard. One not at all whether the subject under discussion was Hegelian dialectic which had created a revolution in the field, published his first, quite promising study, Karl Marx on Method, in 1975. His latest work, The Intellectual Relationship, will be followed (in a soon-to-be-published 1984 symposium. After Marx) with an article entitled “Marxism as Method,” a little very similar to the first book he published. But the recent works appear to be totally the opposite of what Carver first seemed to be saying. The reader had every right to read into that 1975 work, which focused on Marx's methodology, that the author meant dialectic methodology as Marx had transformed the Hegelian dialectic into a dialectics of revolution. That principle had permeated Marx's entire adult life, so that it mattered not at all whether the subject under discussion was philosophy or political economy; whether it was a matter of working out in theory a dialectics of revolution or of inventing a new methodology for an organization that called for revolution, or actual participation in an ongoing revolution and even after that the revolution was a fait accompli. Therefore, it did not seem to matter at all whether a study of Marx was undertaken by a Marxist or a non-Marxist who had defined Hegel's dialectic as the Hegelian synthesis of the thesis and antithesis, and that of the Grundrisse, but there was no way of missing Marx's multi-dimensionality, his sweep of human development as something formed by the past, but as being animated by a spirit. It is absurd to consider that Marx would have followed an Oxford English dictionary definition after a full quarter of a century of labor studying the commodity — at the end of which he was still so dissatisfied that, following the Paris Commune, he returned to his masterpiece, Capital, to introduce the concept of commodity as fetish, or as being animated by a spirit. It is true that Carver was presenting a new translation and commentary on only the Introduction of the Grundrisse, but the problem is one of missing Marx's multi-dimensionality, his sweep of human development as something formed by the past, but as being animated by a spirit. The truth is that Carver totally rejects Marx's dialectic, and therefore the reader familiar with the original edition to nevertheless read that 1872-75 French edition.


3. After Marx, edited by T. Ball and J. Farr, is soon to be published by Cambridge University Press.


7. Over the years, I have traced not only Marx's concept of the fetish as he described it in 1867 and in the 1872-75 French edition, but also Chapter 1, especially its concluding section on fetishism, has become central to all the debates over Marx the dialectician and Marx the “economist” at every single critical turning point in the subjective situation. These debates begin with the call by the first revisionist, A. W. Guinzburg, for the removal of the “dialectical scaffolding”; achieve a Great Divide in Marxism with Lenin's Abstract of Hegel's Science of Logic; and reach the post-WWII period with Sartre on one side and Althusser on the other. See Marx-Engels Chronology at the end of the book useful in following my account of two complicated careers... The Chronology illuminates not so much the Marx-Engels relationship as the pragmatic, non-revolutionary pre-suppositions that underlie the period with Sartre on one side and Althusser on the other. See Marx-Engels Chronology at the end of the book useful in following my account of two complicated careers...
Malathion poisoning

Los Angeles, Calif. — Nearly 1,000 residents of the Echo Park neighborhood, a predominantly Latin community, took to the streets on March 19 to protest the aerial spraying of the pesticide malathion. For two hours the protesting residents, expecting to see "tak[ing] over the street, passing trains to residents, warning them of the poisoning and asking all to join the vigil.

According to researchers, malathion is found in this multiethnic, low-income neighborhood, prompting officials to pro- pose immediate spraying. The spraying had already begun weeks earlier when the city announced plans to deal with the spread of fruit flies in the area. The residents, however, felt that the spraying was not necessary and that it was being done primarily to protect the affluent San Fernando Valley area. They believed that the spraying was a form of economic discrimination, as the spraying of the pesticide was taking place in an area where the majority of the population is of Latino descent.

In Echo Park, reaction to the announcement of spraying was spontaneous and intense. A demonstration was held the next day, at a meeting with 60 participants, one resident summed it up best: "Agribusiness is using spraying to control flies in a neighborhood filled with poor and extremely difficult — lack of water, lack of electricity, and poor housing conditions."

For instance, workshops, the word is talleres in Spanish, have become an important form of solidarity in the community. Organizations, like the Talleres de Solidaridad, have organized around different sectors of the population. In the case of the Talleres, they focus on education and cultural activities, providing a space for community members to come together and engage in meaningful discussions.

The Talleres de Solidaridad have also been able to organize against the spraying because they have a strong network of support and are able to mobilize their members effectively. They have been able to use their platform to raise awareness about the dangers of malathion and to demand a safer solution to the fruit fly problem. The Talleres de Solidaridad have also worked closely with other community organizations to coordinate their efforts and to amplify their voices.

In conclusion, the spraying of malathion in Echo Park is a clear example of how environmental justice issues intersect with social justice issues. The use of pesticides in poor and marginalized communities is a form of environmental racism, and it is urgent that we work towards solutions that prioritize the health and well-being of all communities, especially those that are most vulnerable.
BLACK THOUGHT TODAY AND YESTERDAY: MIAMI REBELLION, GARVEY'S RELEVANCE

Black leaders tried to keep the lid on any revolt in Miami when Alvarez was ac­ quit­ted. People were demanding a city-wide strike, from throwing rocks, bottles, and gunfire at any who represented a threat to their community. One young Black student told us, "I can't go out of my house without protection. I've been told to finish school or I'll be killed." He explained that this was the way life was for many who were growing up in the Black neighborhood.

Lou Turner's articles on the hidden di­ mensions of the Garvey: The Black leader's relationship to the Russian Revolution and his roots in the West Indian peasantry — were a pivotal moment for our understanding of the historical context of Garvey. His articles were personal to me, and I was touched by his honest portrayal of the struggles and triumphs of the Garvey movement. He also discussed the importance of education and leadership in the fight against Black oppression.

BRITISH MINERS, AUTOWORKERS

The movement is on the defensive here but making a poor showing. The split among the miners is the key to the situation. The miners' strike has happened here over many years. All of the establishment is attacking all sections of the miners' movement and we are endeavoring to cripple the parliamentary Labour party. This is to be directly associated with the use of the police against the pickets. We are feeling the full pressure of reaction and the miners are being forced to retreat. As the British Tories. The Labour bureaucr­ ates are not fighting back.

Correspondent

Scotland

A friend at British Leyland's Cowley plant has been studying Charles Denby's Indignant Heart, while in the factory he is involved in his speech on the "need for honesty." He has been asked to stop talking about it and to focus on his job. The worker is feeling that the combination of the two is destroying his trust in the company.

And Labor Historians

Recently I took a trip to West Virginia which made me more anxious than ever to read the forthcoming NALC pamphlet on "The Black Experience in West Virginia". The current battles of miners are light years removed from the struggles of even sympathetic academics. In the WVU library I read about the "Kerr-Siegel theory of the miner's fight," but it was unclear to me what the theory was. I turned out to be based on a concept that I did not understand. The coal miners are building strong coalitions in their local communities with their own "codes and myths." This Kerr is the very first to discuss this issue with them. It's fascinating attacking the Free Speech Movement in California in the 1960s. That thinking about Viewpoint has nothing at all to do with what the miners have been doing here. It's a mistake to make generalizations about the academic community and their need to learn how to listen to what the miners are actually saying before they make up their minds.

Richard Bunting

Oxford, England

LABORING PEOPLE

Reagan's plan is to break all the unions. But it is only because we have had un­ ions in this country that so many people enjoy decent wages and working condi­ tions. Just the thought of Reagan brings to mind a lot of things. As Big Business that has created this wealth for the people that I want to know is: If the government is giving money to big business, why don't they give me money not to make airplanes?"

McDonald Douglas worker

Long Beach, Cal.

It will be a real tough fight in July when our contract comes up. The last contract was right after the PATCO firings and we got a lousy contract. You really don't have a union when you can't strike. We have so many problems. Health and safety viola­ tions by OSHA are getting even in­ spect. The recent postal union elections were a force. Only one out of three workers voted. The opposition had never been in opposition. They supported the last contract.

Postal Worker

New York

I recently saw an article in Time magazine about the New York Times and the fastest shrinking jobs in America. I was a little surprised to see that janitors are the second fastest growing category of all. But I wasn't surprised to see that fewer jobs are available for women in my area than anything else. Hell, everybody I know is feeling the pinch. They are losing their jobs and fin­ der homes for— in 1940, it was 12,000. The people are looking at reality more because it is really doing a number on them. They don't want to bother dropping nickels in the preacher's bucket anymore — they want some kind of human change. No wonder the clergy are going out of business.

Unemployed Black worker

Los Angeles
DISCUSSIONS ON A MARXIST-HUMANIST BODY OF IDEAS

Participating in the classes on Marxist-Humanism, I have been coming back to the question of the modern humanist who is called upon to develop for the past 200 years? Why was this question of humanism at this point in time? Why is it so important in the current context? Depression, when it transformed into state-capitalism, both here and in Russia? I think the answer is that it is a question of social dynamics, of the dynamics of history is such that history either moves forward or turns back. Instead of a forward movement to the development of men and women, we fall back. These classes are about people getting together to transform this system that turns half the people into parasites and the other half into objects of production.

Worker Los Angeles

What has been most exciting to me in the classes here on the "Marxist-Humanist Body of Ideas" is the participation of Middle Easterners. One young participant in the revolution said that he rediscovered the atmosphere of what he was fighting for in Middle Eastern conditions. Chapter 4 of Marxism and Freedom on the 1849 revolution was especially exciting because the Middle Easterners related Marx and Lassalle to tendencies in the Iranian revolution.

The readings for the class made me appreciate how much Raya Dunayevskaya was articulating back in 1957 in M&F a philosophy of "revolution in permanence." When viewed with Chapter 3 of Philosophy and Revolution on Lenin, I felt a new appreciation of what "Lenin was a Lassallean" meant concretely. While Lenin certainly experienced a philosophic breakthrough in 1904, he was projecting philosophy as the mediation to a new society resulted in organization just settling into the old one. From this perspective it isn't so great that there isn't a word about the vanguard party to lead in State and Revolution.

Re-thinking thingsOakland, Calif.

It is time that we destroyed the rubbish component attached to that tag. That other will never live down her boast for Victorian values. We are living at a time when our enemies are preparing to destroy any vestige of human thought to further the most atrocious of crude materialist ends. They are determined to destroy Europe — and not only Europe — into a vast cemetery.

With the vision of Marx as expressed in his criticism of the Goffa Programme, in the 1844 Manuscripts and in the Civil War in France, we are better armed than Marxists of the present generation, because it is not the last word. We need a book to take the place of Anti-Dühring in the present day.

Harry McShane
Glasson, Scotland

We all read your paper at our house and try to spread the word also. It still maintains its stimulating quality and I feel it is successful in what it claims to do — uniting the working man and the intellectual. That is something thinkers are trying to do since Marx's earliest socialist experiences in Europe.

I wish you had a News and Letters Committee in the house, as you do in other urban areas. I think you would “catch on” here very well. I also including money to your Colley Denby's Indignant Heart as present for an auto-worker friend. It is a masterpiece of its genre (if it has any genre).

Subscriber Yardley, Pa.

I was in the park with a group of friends, discussing Marxist-Humanist ideas. There was a group of young Blacks at the next table talking about unemployment and we asked them to come and join our discussion. (They told us later that they had heard us!) They were all unemployed, but they didn't want to go into the army. “I thought the whole world should have a general strike”, one said. It was so exciting for us to have that sort of discussion. We almost felt like the revolution was starting, right then.

High school student Los Angeles

When we came to discuss Marx's last decade in the classes, he probably moved to Afro-Asian revolutions came up very naturally. Marx's point that other path to world revolution could be followed, the technologically underdeveloped countries seems even clearer. But the Black and Iranian experience has been trying out work since the end of the WWII. The ending of the Grenadian revolution with the murder of Maurice Bishop seems to suggest that we have a lot more studying of Marx, and practicing of his methods, to go through before we successfully find those other paths to freedom he wrote about.

CISPES activist San Francisco

When I heard of the death of Guinean president Sekou Toure, I thought that an era has just about ended for those African Revolutions. After all, who is left of that first generation of leaders except Nkrumah and Kaunda? But in a very different way I had been thinking about the whole era in the last few years since I read Raya Dunayevskaya’s introduction to the new edition of Afro-Asian Revolutions (March N&L).

It was especially striking when she singled out “the problem of how to industrialize non-capitalistically, private or state; of how at the same time to expand political liberties and maintain worker control of the state” as the key to the division between the leaders and the masses. I noted that the Colley & Hawke paper in the first few articles of the new edition he ended up saying that he was “not opposed to forced labor for industrialization.” I guess it shows that if you don’t have a philosophy of liberation based on “human power”, human creativity, sooner or later you end up putting yourself on technology and seeking control over workers, instead of workers’ control.

African liberation supporter New York

The GAMBIA: APPEAL FOR DIXON COLLEY

I was very concerned to read in your paper about the arrest of Dixon Colley, the editor of the Gambian newspaper, The Nation. I have always read his contributions in N&L, with great interest. I am sure there is some way we can express our concern and solidarity with Colley and try to put pressure on the Dawda regime to stop his harassment of him.

Ed. Note: The campaign of action on the work of Dixon Colley by the government continues. As of Jan. 25, 1984 he was in court on separate charges. The decision in that case has not yet been handed down. The Nation is in need of political support and financial assistance in its fight for African freedom. Please send your assistance to V. Dixon Colley, People’s Press, 3, BoxBar Road, Banjul, The Gambia, West Africa.
President McKinley's invasion of Grenada on April 9, 1898, which was primarily aimed at controlling the Caribbean islands, was so well synchronized with his brazen assault on the Cuban Revolution, and the ideas of freedom that the revolution invigorated, were so totally the opposite of the yellow journals that had seized upon the occasion to denounce the Black army as a menace to the United States, that the idea of Black liberation was not merely economic advancement and political power but also a protest against the white ruled by the Black press. The meeting with McKinley she told him: “For nearly twenty years lynching crimes, which stand side by side with Armenian and Cuban outrages, have been permitted by your government, now it is in Spain. They have given the signal to the world that there are no international laws and that the world is safe only for the rich and powerful. And now we see that the Cuban Revolution is Black newspapers.” (Cleveland Gazette, Apr. 9, 1898.)

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Iida B. Wells

President McKinley and Congress decided to intervene into the Cuban revolution, and it was soon obvious that the war was for “milk and honey” for the White-led American new line that prevailed in American civil society. At first most of the states and the Federal Government refused to accept Black volunteers. When a great deal of Black political pressure overcame this policy it was decided that Blacks could volunteer and served, but did not segregated in any regiment controlled by all white officers. Black response was to insist that if they were to be segregated the entire regiment must be Black.

The Black press was the hub and the measure of the extent of Black opposition to U.S. imperialism at the end of the 19th Century. The Black press was the hub and the measure of the extent of Black opposition to U.S. imperialism at the end of the 19th Century. The Black press was the hub and the measure of the extent of Black opposition to U.S. imperialism at the end of the 19th Century. The Black press was the hub and the measure of the extent of Black opposition to U.S. imperialism at the end of the 19th Century.

"NO OFFICERS, NO FIGHT!" became the focus of a national campaign. The outrage of lynching in the U.S. the paramount issue in the Afro-American community. Black American opinion was that, “since the flag of race prejudice has been raised”, and they were he her abstraction, why then would be from white regiments, then it would be adding insult to injury if, in their segregated status, they would have to accept white officers. There was vociferous applause.” (from the N.Y. Herald and reprinted in The Richmond Planet, June 25, 1898.)

The refusal to accept these terms was very concrete - Black volunteers were ordered to fill the gaps of the various “immense regiments”, reserved for Black recruits, enforcing Colonel Lee, the white officer who was supposed to lead one of these regiments. The Black press “excoriated” McKinley’s Administration and denounced the action of the government, which it controlled openly and unabashedly. It was the first time that such a powerful Black organization and mounted a significant anti-imperialist campaign that was inseparable from the fight against lynching, disenfranchisement and Jim Crow.

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MSS rejection of White-led Jim Crow army

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Miami and Black America

(Continued from page 1)

The occupation of Miami's Black communities by, at times, as many as 1,000 riot-trained cops occurred several weeks before the Alvarez verdict was brought in. It required how the police department, city manager Howard Gary and the court worked in concert not only to violate the civil rights of an individual — the slain young man, Nevell Johnson — but the Black community of Miami.

They surrounded the young man's house in the middle of the night of the verdict, and just started grabbing people. They just started charging. They had Black guys in front. Like we ain't gonna let you fight unless you fight a club. That's the way they just started indiscriminately grabbing people, even bag ladies and old folks.

"It's just like the storm troopers," said the brother of one young Black man who wasn't home when the police rushed into his home with guns drawn, brutalized his brother and arrested him for being on the street several minutes before.

"The police came up behind me. They grabbed me off the porch, pulled me inside and said, 'What are you doing?'" complained another Black victim, arrested as he was putting his key into the front door of his house.

By the end of the two days in which the Miami police rioted against Black Miami nearly 500 people had been detained without charges. For their part the Black youth of Miami revived the "liberated zones" of past rebellions against unprece­dented police repression.

In Liberty City, a suburb of Miami where Black youth pelted passing cars, set trash dumpsters on fire and burned dis­carded furniture, there were only the heavy doses of tear gas. Black youth in Coconut Grove defiantly taunted police, dispersed and regrouped in other areas of the neigh­borhood.

OVERTOWN YOUTH

And in the tight 65-block area of Over­town, surrounded by heavy construction and through which two interstate highways opened up, the police and the police and the police and the police. In Over­town where the blight of urban renewal spells out urban ex­clusion and an apathy on the part of the courts.

The fatal shooting of Nevell Johnson in December of 1982 touched off three days of rebellion that left another Black youth dead — in Over­town. There these streets were transformed into new beginnings of Black consciousness.

On the first night when it was clear from the mass police

assault that Alvarez had been released before the verdict had been announced, Blacks poured into the streets shouting "Alvarez, Alvarez!" The police attack on the youth, spraying them with tear gas, was countered by rock-throwing youth and a barrage of bottles thrown from windows and balconies by other residents of Over­town. In other parts of Over­town those who fled were informed that the drivers had no business being in the neighborhood. And on the days following the rebellion Black stu­dents continued to stage "die-ins" of their community through their permanent state of rebel­lion.

 chapter in New England. That Blacks functioned primarily in the abstract, moral and constitutional premises of the white intellectuals.

The occupation of the Treaty of Paris, December 10, 1898, ceded the Philippine Islands to the United States. For the next six years, from 1899 to 1905, U.S. troops were used to brutalize and to subdue the Filipino youth who rebelled against his forthcoming arranged marriage and who developed with a sense of community. Over­town, as it was to be called, was to emerge.

Jaibal is a Pakistan youth to British schooling meant daily fights with white youth. He finds only two part­time jobs that pay $3 per week. In Jaibal and Mozambique, and the ANC likewise denounced the pact.

Gola. A pact was signed by Botha and Machel on March 16

The story of the young woman, Shaheen, is one of the most moving sub-plots, because it shows how profoundly the Black movement in Britain, the uneven pace of our history should contribute to an understanding of this novel, now poetic, now sketchy, with abrupt transi­tions between scenes, is a vivid expression of the move­ments' real salt as a Black youth.

Asian youth in Britain


This novel is about young Asian men and women who realize their identity as they participate in the growing Black British youth movement. The author participated in the Summer of 1981 rebellions and was arrested as one of the "Braddock Twelve." He conducted his own defense and was ultimately acquitted.

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**Youth in Revolt**

Several hundred people held protests in a number of locations in Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington along the route of the "Death Train," which makes a 3000-mile journey to a submarine base. In Portland, Ore., alone, 35 of about 200 protesters who had stopped the train for two and a half hours were arrested. The train is scheduled to arrive at Bangor, Wash., over 1,000 squatters and their sympathizers demonstrated in Amsterdam Feb. 14 and battled police after being evicted. While over 10,000 Dutch youths have had to become squatters due to a severe housing shortage, many office buildings and luxury apartments lie vacant in this land of 18% unemployment. Major clashes have followed previous squatter evictions (see this column, December, 1982).

One of the largest demonstrations in the history of East Germany took place in Dresden on the anniversary of the 1945 Allied firebombing of the city, which is commemorated every year with anti-war demonstrations. This year, thousands of young people took to the streets, demonstrating both against war and against the recent wave of arrests of anti-war youth there.

Thousands of students rose in revolt in Lesaka, Zambia, Feb. 14, protesting the arrests at dawn of student union leaders. The uprising followed weeks of tension between the students and administrators of the University of Zambia.

Youth resist Khomeini

Berkeley, Cal. — Youth in Iran are struggling against the war with Iraq. Eight thousand have not registered for the draft. If you don't register, you lose all basic services. You can't find a place to live. You can't even get food coupons, so you can't get food if you aren't registered. If you do register, they take you right off to war. Some people try to give themselves ulcers by purposely drinking too much alcohol, so they'll fail the medical examinations. You used to have to take the exam once, but now you have to reiterate it every year.

One soldier friend I talked to when I was in Iran last summer told me that many youth are shooting themselves in the foot so they can get sent back from the front. Youth are also changing their birthdates to seem younger. Thousands are tired of lies and know that this isn't the way human beings should live. We all want truth, love and concern. To get it, we need to fight against this system, which has brought us to this great war that Reaganism. Resistance to his retrogression begins with youth thinking and acting for themselves.
**Philipine elections**

The opposition to dictator Marcos continues in mass demonstrations. Differences are emerging within the opposition and political parties over the immediate question of whether or not to participate in May elections. In late January 1984, 50,000 rallied in Manila.

**British miners on strike**

Striking British coal miners have shut down 80% of the government-run industry. The strike is over a government decision to close 29 mines, eliminating 29,000 jobs.

**Peruvian general strike**

Three million Peruvian workers shut down businesses, factories, public transportation and cut off telephone service in a 24-hour general strike on March 22. On the same day, the strikers demonstrated against the government's proposed food price increases. The government has been sharply criticized from within and abroad on the issue of food prices.

**Bangladesh's opposition**

Workers, students and political parties opposed to the military rule of Gen. Ershad went out on an eight-hour general strike in the beginning of March. Hundreds were injured and arrested as the military forces met the demonstrators with force. The next week, the two main opposition alliances grouped around the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Awami League called for another nationwide strike for the same cause.

In February, Ershad suddenly called for local elections in late March to precede national elections in May. A demand of the opposition is demanding that the military step down so that elections can be held under a civilian government. Ershad, who seized power last August, has announced that he will seek re-election and now wants to be duly elected. As a political base, he recently established by fiat 470 new upazillas (councils) outside the province of Dhaka to win more seats in the parliamentary election on deposit at the Labor History Archives of Wayne State University.

**Who We Are and What We Stand For**

The rasengan of one oil company by another, integral to the corporate process, is already underway, but will not add a drop of oil to the reserves of the nation. Instead, it will add millions in profits to the giants of oil. Texaco is trying to dump 2,300 Getty stations and several refineries. With the refinery capacity of the nation being used up, the fund, which is used to buy oil, will have to be increased. Texaco has bought out Getty and Mobil bought out Superior Oil. In each case, the net worth of the new owners is huge, involving billions of dollars, that is estimated that it will use up 30% of the capital available for home and car loans.

**Oil mergers**

The reconcentration of power in the oil industry has cut out thousands of service stations and many refineries. Since 1977, some of the largest mergers have beenTexaco, which bought Getty and Mobil bought out Superior Oil. Texaco has bought out Getty and Mobil bought out Superior Oil. In each case, the net worth of the new owners is huge, involving billions of dollars, that is estimated that it will use up 30% of the capital available for home and car loans.