Farmworkers used up and thrown away

by Felix Martin, Labor Editor

On New Year’s Eve, after working a full eight-hour day, 200 onion field workers at Boskovitch Farms in the Santa Clara Valley in California were suddenly fired, without any warning. These workers were stunned, as many of them had been with the company from 15 to 30 years. New Year’s Eve these workers were given their last paycheck, and were told that they would not be rehired or relocated to another Boskovitch property.

The Boskovitch family, which had grown rich from the horticulture of those workers in the Santa Clara Valley, is moving much of its farming operation to Mexico, where, according to them, they can get field workers for a whole day for what they pay a worker here to work for one hour.

30 YEARS AND OUT

Themens workers worked from sunrise to sunset, sometimes two weeks without a day off, sometimes by the lights of their cars, when the company had large orders to fill. In every generation workers have seen themselves a supply of cheap labor, no matter how else immigration policy in this country changes. But what is never guaranteed is the worker’s right to a job.

What kind of system is capitalism, when one person can own a farm and another person is taken away or his or her means to live?

I went to Newhall in the Santa Clara Valley to try to meet some of these workers to hear their story. I went to what they call the “outdoor unemployment office” — the lot outside a market on San Fernando Road where workers were gathering.

I met one worker who had been working for Boskovitch (continued on page 3)

Black World

America’s Black touchstone

by Lou Turner

Two recent accounts—one appearing in the Feb. 13 issue of News & Letters by Lucius Outlaw on the mass civil rights march in Forsyth County, Georgia, and the other, Jesse Jackson’s Op-Ed article in the Jan. 28 Los Angeles Times—represent compelling responses to distinct and ongoing struggles of Black America. Jesse Jackson reminds us that Ronald Reagan openly supports in metaphor as it is a problem of cheap labor, no matter how else immigration policy in this country changes. But what is never guaranteed is the worker’s right to a job.

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When Black History Is More Than Roots... Visit The Chicago News & Letters Library and Archives, Experience The Revolutionary Black Dimension As Ongoing

American Civilization on Trial—Black Masses as Vanguard, A history of Black America as central to the true history of old America.


Life in South Africa Today—a display of magnificent photographs by David Turse. Sixteen months in the heart of the struggle.

The Marxist-Humanist Archives contains rare original documents on the history of the spread of Marxism in America and Africa by Raya Dunayevskaya. Included is a rare 1966 copy of the Negro Champion, the first Black socialist newspaper in the US, founded in Chicago.

News & Letters Library and Archives, 59 East Van Buren, Ill. 60607, Hours 9 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday.

One year after Marcos ouster: an in-person report

The Philippines: coups, mass opposition

by R. Russell

Manila, The Philippines—In today’s Philippines what is most striking is the intense political atmosphere of activity and discussion that has led up to the national plebiscite on the proposed Constitution. Feb. 2; first, the massacre of 16 peasants and supporters on the historic Mendiola Bridge in the heart of Manila, Jan. 21 (see in-person report, Feb. 13 N&L); then the 20,000 who marched in protest against the massacre on Jan. 26 (see article, p.2); finally the three-day coup attempt by right-wing, pro-Marcos forces in the overthrow of the Aquino Government, Jan. 27-29.

On the Monday following the Jan. 21 massacre, we marched 20,000 strong, crossing the Mendiola Bridge, and past Malacanang Palace. A member of BISIG (from the Tagalog Bakluran as Kamandlang ng Sibiyal-Oblate lang lalagay ito sa mga Estado, or Union for the Development of Socialist Theory and Practice), the group with which I marched, said it was the first time in many attempts that he had made it over the bridge without gunfire or tear gas and dispersal. But immediately after passing by the international press, with the bright television lights and national politicians observing, thousands of demonstrators held hands and ran through dark streets toward the main boulevard, exhilarated but fearful of violent retribution.

Thousands walked to the church where three of the peasants lay in state. Hundreds filed past the caskets as relatives, many very poor and from the provinces, looked on and were touched and comforted by the revolutionaries. One human rights activist working with Task Force Detainees of the Philippines told me that many of the peasants caught up in the massacre were still unaccounted for, either languishing in prison somewhere or lost in the city at large. Living these momentous events in person in the context of a truly startling diversity of human forces struggling to give birth to a new society, creates a fatal impact; at some point, the realization comes that perhaps you yourself have been transformed.

From the moment I stepped off the plane I was “adopted” and taken care of by the Filipino people, both those to whom I was a total stranger, and those who knew me through News & Letters. In fact, the most overwhelming initial impression of today’s Manila is the contrast between the material retrogression of 15 years of fascist rule and plunder, and the present openness and vitality of the people—the Filipino youth, women, peasants, workers, and national minorities—that a revolutionary movement has inspired.

URBAN-RURAL RELATION

This contrast is manifest most profoundly in the urban-rural relationship. Perhaps 30% of Manila’s population live as squatters in shantytowns, which spring up anywhere vacant land can be found. Many of the people are fleeing the destitute rural areas.

Salig, who is a worker and lives in a squatter community in San Juan, Metro Manila, told me, “We are aiming for constructive change. Right now we are very much engulfed by oppression in our midst...Decisions should come from below. We believe in that principle. Leaders in a community size up a problem, then it is solved collectively. You cannot do it alone. All the people are involved: women, students, out-of-school youth...every force is needed to prevent demolitions.”

In fact, the first to massively confront the Aquino Government, one day after the Jan. 22 Mendiola Massacre, was the urban poor, with women in the forefront, who seized and occupied lots at the Dagat-

(continued on page 8)
AIDS: questions of sexuality and freedom

by Terry Moon

AIDS, the disease from which no one recovers, has forced all of us to face issues that we previously avoided. It has brought new arguments into the question of sex education and clinics that give birth control devices and information. AIDS is considered a threat, and its societal impact is not yet seen. It is necessary to ask the question: What is our responsibility to the future generations? The question of AIDS epidemic and that, next to abortion, condoms are the best known safeguard.

Women in Lebanon continued their protests (see Feb. 6, 1987, N&L). A group of women in the town of Migdal Haemek protested the Women's Conference in Nairobi received a strange answer. My appearance in Boston on the program "The Women's Movement Takes a Holiday" was a proposal she recently sent to N&L. My appearance in Boston on the program "The Women's Movement Takes a Holiday" was worth it for them to compare experiences so as not to repeat mistakes....—Tatyana Mamonova

"Women students at Wesleyan: break the silence"

Editor's note: In October, six women students at Wesleyan University in Connecticut began interrupting campus tours to discuss the problem of sexual assault with prospective applicants.

We were found guilty in January by the Student Judiciary Board (SJB) of violating the non-academic code of the university. We were expelled. This is not a simple action, which is included in the same section of the code as coercion and sexual assault. We were not found guilty of sexual assault.

Three others were put on non-academic probation, which is a political decision, not a judicial one. The original complaint was filed against four women by a corporate body like Wesleyan. This is only an educational institution instead as it doesn't affect the corporate tax status of the university. When a university speaks you'll interrupt the institutional process.

That is not the only form of activity that was going on at Wesleyan in January. There was a political protest over the history of sexual abuse at Wesleyan. We also knew that the students and faculty, both men and women, spoke out about their own experiences.

The university tries not to pay any attention to these problems. The police say there were no incidents reported to the police. But on third-party Web sites, the Middlesex Hospital Cross Country revealed that at least 30 Wesleyan students were sexually assaulted last year.

The students at Wesleyan were fighting for their freedom to not attend the university's events that were a sexual assault. They were fighting for their freedom to not attend the university's events that were a sexual assault.
Dear Workers, Austin, Minn.

Los Angeles, Cal.

Everyone has not returned to work, and no provisions have been made to get their jobs back. In Los Angeles, local P-9 tried to negotiate the criminal injury rate of 202%, the reduction of benefits, and the union rights that belong to them. The Hormel Company had no intention to negotiate from their concessionary position, even with record-breaking profits. Over 800 people who crossed the P-9-sanctioned picket line in January of 1986 are currently operating the non-picketing packing plant, most of whom live out of state. The local union people who refused to cross a picket line are being called dissident vandals. Anyways, who tries to fill out an application for employment is automatically refused when they are discovered to be picketers. Only with the News & Letters can the rank-and-file be informed of the truth and draw their correct conclusions. Without this union support generated, the P-9 families would have gone hungry long ago. Your continued support is the only course we have to take. As has been said for years, an injury to one is an injury to all. Over the past two years, Local P-9 did many things to try to settle this problem, one of which is to get people to Austin to help understand the problems we face. We don’t want any more experimentation. The support of other locals is greatly needed. We need your help. —GM worker

In Solidarity,
Denny Mealy, 19-year member

Making worker fit machine shows capitalism’s values

Los Angeles, Cal.—The roofing tile production plant where I work just bought a new shingle machine and laid off the workers. I went to the company didn’t call back the workers laid-off a few years back, but hired in workers from another roofing company.

I was laid-off and right on the line their first day of work without a break-in period. The attitude of the plant manager was, “You must be a worker for a loss of production time—not even a mechanical breakdown, much less a physical injury—when they need to pay you. Unfortunately, the most militant fighters, the youth from the inner city, were laid-off and almost 60 hours-plus a week. The company has instituted a new way to try to divide us, called "department heads," workers who get a little more money and are made to be stooges. They promise to give them a lot of work, but in reality mean nothing. There is a loss of production time—not even a mechanical breakdown, much less a physical injury—when they need to pay you.

The latest Dunkin’ Donuts ad on TV really epitomizes capitalism. Instead of revolving around the market place, like most ads do, it is all about production. "The donut maker leaves his house in the early morning hours, says ‘I need to make the donuts, the other one didn’t make the donuts.’ He drags himself through the doors saying, ‘made the donuts,’ and he finds the person answering the phone, and he says, ‘made the donuts.’ He is so happy, he just says ‘made the donuts.’"

Not only the young, old, or blind, but I read another article in the Los Angeles Times this week about the working conditions in San Quintin, Mexico, where Mixtec Indians, natives of Southern Mexico, come to work in the fields for 12 hours a day. These are crowded labor camps. One woman featured in the story was Maria Parras. Her three-year-old son died from dysentery, and that of the first child they lost. They have 10 children, and the boys have 100 each laid off. He said: “Booskovitch will hire them for 50 but pay and semi minimum wage. He fired all of us who made $45.”

FARMWORKER DEATH CAMPS

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Workshop Talks

(Continued from page 1)

TV ad all too real

Rosa Luxembourg, Women’s Liberation and Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution, $24
by Raya Dunayevskaya...

Marxism and Freedom

by Charles Denby... $10.95 per copy

Women’s Liberation and The Dialectics of Revolution: Reaching for the Future...

by Raya Dunayevskaya...

Indignant Heart: A Black Worker’s Memoir: Life in the South and North...

by Charles DeSylva...

Philosophy and Revolution

by Raya Dunayevskaya...

Order from News & Letters...

Union talk at NJ store

Newark, N.J.—"The torture never ends," reads a button a fellow worker wears every day. This speaks to the prison of the American working class. Workers are being called dissident vandals. Anyone who tries to fill out an application for employment is automatically refused when they are discovered to be picketers. Without this union support generated, the P-9 families would have gone hungry long ago. Your continued support is the only course we have to take. As has been said for years, an injury to one is an injury to all. Over the past two years, Local P-9 did many things to try to settle this problem, one of which is to get people to Austin to help understand the problems we face. We don’t want any more experimentation. The support of other locals is greatly needed. We need your help. —GM worker

In Solidarity,
Denny Mealy, 19-year member

GM, UAW ignore jobless

Oklahoma City, Okla.—So many times in the past when I look at the UAW I was given this work, but now they still close the plant, leaving us without a job, or lower wages. Where I work, at GM, Oklahoma City, they laid off 245 workers from this plant. Under the 1984 contract workers can give back everything my father and grandfather worked for. Nothing is produced for people, just for profit. This is what capitalism is all about. Production for production’s sake. Nothing is produced for people, just for profit. The local did take up a gate fee, and we may probably not be called back to the plant. —GM worker

Detroit's organic food: the truth

We called department heads, "Do not do any work—get somebody to do it." It is a division between mental and manual labor. We must do the thinking and order somebody to do the work. One department head said she doesn’t want to tell us what to do, but now it’s her job. Unfortunately, the most militant fighters, the youth from the inner city, were laid-off and almost 60 hours-plus a week. The company has instituted a new way to try to divide us, called "department heads," workers who get a little more money and are made to be stooges. They promise to give them a lot of work, but in reality mean nothing. There is a loss of production time—not even a mechanical breakdown, much less a physical injury—when they need to pay you.

Now that we just had our lay-offs, we are told key people want you. Unfortunately, the most militant fighters, the youth from the inner city, were laid-off and almost 60 hours-plus a week. The company has instituted a new way to try to divide us, called "department heads," workers who get a little more money and are made to be stooges. They promise to give them a lot of work, but in reality mean nothing. There is a loss of production time—not even a mechanical breakdown, much less a physical injury—when they need to pay you.

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Challenging the nuclear warheads of Reagan

In the largest protest ever held at the Nevada Test Site, thousands of people from across the country converged on Las Vegas to rally against Ronald Reagan's continuing test of nuclear weapons. The demonstration came just two days after the first announcement of a new nuclear test by the Reagan administration. This challenge to the nuclear madness of the Reagan administration—over 400 were arrested when they crossed the boundary line and entered the test site—marks a new moment of anti-war opposition that is very necessary, and which must be developed.

Far from the exposure of the Iran arms deals and the illegal funding of the Contras' terrorism against the people of Nicaragua, the showdown by the nuclear warhead of Reagan, the period since the scandal has become public has been one in which new forms of action have taken place, especially concerning Star Wars.

* The militarization of the space laboratory—This past December the Pentagon suddenly insisted that all negotiations with U.S. allies concerning their participation in the construction of the space laboratory be suspended. (See "Star Wars from the Skies," Jan. 30.) The administration was under no national agreement that would preclude its use of the space station for anti-missile and other military research.

* An attempt to gut the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty of 1972—In order to rush to Star Wars testing the next several members of Congress. As well, the Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, Sam Nunn, quickly concurred the Reagan administration's interpretation of the ABM treaty. But Congress does have the power to propose fundamental opposition to the Reagan policies. After all, Congress itself is part of the military machinery. All that it has on a silver platter.

* To hold the door of this nuclear president no action or act of Congress will do. Only a deepening of the activity of the anti-nuclear movement can assure a fundamental challenge.

The demonstrations at the nuclear test site were accompanied by protests at dozens of college campuses across the country. But the question of deepening reality, that new thing about the Reagan policies. After all, America root and branch. If the anti-nuclear movement demonstrated in Nevada and across the country can begin to confront that reality, then a new beginning can be set.

News & Letters

Vol. 32 No. 3
February 27, 1987

News & Letters (ISSN 0028-8969) is published 21 times a year, bimonthly except in August, September, December, for $5.00 a year (bulk order of five or more—$2.00) by News & Letters, 59 East Van Buren, Rm. 707, Chicago, Ill. 60605. Telephone (312) 663-0839. Second class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois. Send address changes to News & Letters, 59 East Van Buren, Rm. 707, Chicago, Ill. 60605. Chairwoman, Raya Dunayevskaya, Managing Editor, Eugene Walker. News & Letters is printed in a union shop.

DUPRE/DUNAYEVSKAYA

Louis Dupre’s argument in his review of Dunayevskaya’s works (N&L, Feb. 13) is difficult and very new. It is certainly surprising to see this Hegelian dialectical theory applied to the parts of both Marx and Dunayevskaya. It is not surprising, of course, that when he read the book in the U.S. in Capital, Marx had actually “deepened” the Hegelian dialectic, Dupre emphatically disagrees with her. But what is surprising is that nothing less than the entire line of Dunayevskaya’s work is “independent” of Marx. Is Dupre saying that Dunayevskaya has made some new development, himself, did not yet see in his own historical developments, which is thought-provoking and original review of Dunayevskaya’s work?

ORAL ROBOTS FUNERAL FUND

The John Lennon Society, a progressive student activist organization at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill. has established the Oral Roberts memorial funeral fund. Should he die before completing his book, "The True Daddy" (the original title is "Double Daddy"), the Society will be able to finish the book and publish it.

Help Bury Oral Roberts

Box 1013

DeKalb, Ill. 60115
THE 1985 YOUTH CHALLENGE TO DENG'S OPENING TO JAPAN AND OTHER STRUGGLES

Whither China?

By Raya Dunayevskaya
Chairwoman, National Editorial Board

The December 1986 month-long student demonstration against the government in Beijing was the most serious upsurge in the popular resistance in East Europe since winning power, and that the crisis came not from the outside or from capitalist elements within the country, but from within the ruling Communist leadership, from the very one Mao had constitutionally designated as his successor ("closestcomrade in arm")

A whole decade has passed since Mao's death. The disorders of the Cultural Revolution, of "cultural revolution against the cultural revolution", in the most serious crisis since winning power, and that the crisis came not from the outside or from capitalist elements within the country, but from within the ruling Communist leadership, from the very one Mao had constitutionally designated as his successor ("closest comrade in arms")

In a personal reference library.

N&L

The youth have always had a very special role in the Chinese revolutionary movements, and none more important than the 1980s (to which we will return). We have to turn to the demonstrations the year before, to the final quarter of 1985. The demonstrations in China were not a spontaneous outburst of popular anger. They were the result of a challenge to Deng's new policy on Japan. The students read Primer for the Open Door, an official tribute to the shrine where World War II officers lay buried as signifying the same retrogression move as Reagan's move to the Pacific. In Japan, which provided the same type of outcry against this so-called"resolution with the New Japan-Nazist Japanese militarist past. It was a direct challenge to Deng's new policy, not only on Japan but globally, and not only on "foreign affairs".

That the CCP leadership understood that's what the students were doing can be seen as early as Oct. 9, 1985, when the Japanese Foreign Minister, Shintaro Abe, arrived in Beijing to discuss the new Sino-Japanese Treaty that had been signed between China and Japan. The Chinese Vice-Premier Li Peng agreed with him that relations between China and Japan were now on an even keel, but nevertheless reminded the Japanese Foreign Minister of all the differences that have been between the two countries.

Indeed, the Japanese news agency Kyodo reported that "Li obliged the Japanese government for having caused certain "unstable elements in their own country." But the demonstrations against Japan continued, it certainly cannot be considered an accident that the CCP official at that moment made a statement concerning the situation between itself and the Japanese Communist Party.

At the New York Marxist School, a group of secular Jews. We meet once a month—just us, no others, and discuss what's going on in the world and what to do in demonstrations that are coming up.

TOOTING OUR HORN

N&L doesn't toot its own horn loud enough. The "changed world" N&L has been the center of the political action ever since last April, is now clear to everyone since discovery of the second government document on the background of the White House.

M. Franki Bay Area

I like very much trying to make my readers conscious of the "changed world" N&L has been the center of the political action ever since last April, is now clear to everyone since discovery of the second government document on the background of the White House.

Veteran socialist
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Please make my subscription retroactive. I want ultimately to make my way back insofar as past issues are concerned because I think of N&L in terms of a personal reference library.

Reader

Theodore Practice

Editor's Note: Bundles of N&L are available at $5 a volume for the following years: 1963-70; 1970-77; 1977-81. Back issues copies for 1984 to the present can be ordered on request.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

I was very encouraged to read the report on the strikers in Romania by your correspondent. I was very encouraged to read the report on the strikers in Romania by your correspondent.

The students were doing was not to form a group or organize a demonstration. The students were doing was not to form a group or organize a demonstration.

I am sending a small contribution.

N&L Committee member

In front of a small factory notorious for unsafe conditions, a worker who em­phatically said, "I like this paper because it contains a lot of truth. Inside the conditions get worse and worse. They don't even do proper repairs on the machines. They just say, 'Okay, here's your job, but when you're over 50, you can find anything new so I'll just have to go to the support of the Communist Party.'"

N&L Committee member

Michigan

What a great idea to shout out at our distribution there; "U.S. Auto Radi­oactive communities are going to test-hold all your headlines!

Susan Vesce

In Detroit

Editor's Note: Bundles of N&L are 15¢ per copy. Can you distribute the bi­weekly in your area?
Johannesburg, S. Africa—For quite some time in South Africa, workers and trade unionists have lived in fear, knowing that their lives were left without a place or rather a union of refuge when they believed their jobs could be saved.

This generation must not wallow in diversion. This is what Lucius Outlaw correctly refers to as a "re-naissance of feelings and passions" among this new generation of church workers. It is not only that they have their shoulders to cry on, but also that the unemployed have no shoulders to cry on.


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"See W.E.B. DuBois' Black Reconstruction in America: An Essay Toward a History of the Part Which Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880, 1935; p. 354. In Rev. Jackson's ideological drift toward the "center" stands out the words of Howard Beach and Forsyth County to be soft-pedaled as the activity of the "pot of gold" that Rev. Jackson believes would satisfy itself with "results" previously achieved.

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Employed and unemployed young workers speak out

by Gary Clark

"What am I going to do when I get out of school? I don't know. Get a job at a restaurant or maybe cleaning up, save up some money and survive." Woman high school senior

I haven't found a job yet. I've been out of school for a year. I'm 18. There doesn't seem to be anything, there's been nothing. Maybe I'll join the army. It's not much but at least I know it will exist for a little while." 18-year-old high school graduate

Youth in Revolt

Chicago, Ill.—Last week the school administration announced a "Cross campus system" at Steinmetz High School, which means that from now on we are not allowed to leave school for lunch. They say the neighborhood has complained about students because they sit on people's porches or they fight.

That is not all true. There are only one or two big fights at Steinmetz and I don't know what can be said is that the neighborhood is mostly white and many of the students are from the Southeast Side. We just have to think about a new vision of society and take to the task of working out and bringing that vision into reality today.

Oppose Closed Campus

Over 100 Northern Illinois University students rally on Feb. 5 against the first U.S. nuclear test of 1987.

The Parents Support Committee in South Africa released estimates of the number of detentions there in 1986, saying 10,000 of the 20,000 detained were 16 or younger, some under 12. They were counting political activity in the racist, totalitarian state.

No figures were available for the number of children sent to brainwashing camps.

Youth in Revolt

by Franklin Dmitryev

Los Angeles, Calif.—On Jan. 19, the holiday commemorating Martin Luther King's birthday, junior and senior high school students organized a "Children's Sit-in" at the South African consulate in Los Angeles. It was a successful protest action.

The event was covered by two network and three local news programs, CNN, and numerous radio stations, and made news everywhere.

The spirit was energetic, spontaneous. People were enthusiastic, and the rally was not their last. —Anti-apartheid high school student

The world development of a half-century of Marxism-Humanism is recorded, in the documents on my Marxist-Humanism. That brought back the old theoretician-proposer, Mao's last disastrous decade. But China has found that again it is facing the same nuclear bombs and it dare not go to build an independent path. Mao, Deng, as well as "hardliners" and "softliners" are just "exchanging greetings." Somebody's head will roll. Will it be Deng's?

The demonstrations only brought to the front the myriad crises that have been boiling up throughout most of the world. It brought a new sense of urgency, and the theoretical disputes are not the only crises. What is the determinant? Global Humanism, as American Civilization, the firmest unity among workers, Blacks and other minorities.

The dénouement of the masses, as well as the restlessness in the production lines, the poor living conditions and unemployment of the masses, as well as the restlessness in the anti-racially repressive society, and the emergence of a new kind of professoriat. This is most evident in higher "so-called" educations. That is why the New York Times reported one such area, Shenyang, the industrial capital of Manchuria, which is evident in higher "so-called" educations. That is why the New York Times reported one such area, Shenyang, the industrial capital of Manchuria, which is evident in higher "so-called" educations.

Integral to that is the international question: where to globally? Had one merely to choose between U.S. and Russia? But the so-called Third World that would lead to independence from both...What is the point of going to Moscow? Now it's apparent that the ideal is a new, or in my Marxianism and Freedom (1982 ed.) and as well as any my Marxianism and Freedom (1982 ed.) and as well as any...
The Philippines in revolt: attempted coups, mass opposition

(continued from page 1)

The Philippines in revolt: attempted coups, mass opposition

PHILIPPINE YOUTH, U.S. YOUTH

I asked one activist whether the youth living in the shanties on the fringes of the campus demanded the right to study at the University of the Philippines.

"The Government sets very low tuition," he said, "but only up to a certain point. It is for the middle class. Some youth do get some relief.

Yet there is an important history of relations between students and the working people of the Philippines. It is very possible that the work of the Philippine working class is reflected in the proliferation of freedom movements which have only now, in the overthrow of Marcos and its aftermath, begun to throw open the door to real democracy.

Not only is there thinking about what kind of new relations, based on a genuine theory of liberation, could be developed between the students of the Philippines, but also an intense interest in what is happening in the highly exploited youth in the U.S.

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I was invited to show a video of Raya, a film about her comrades as "martial law babies" who were hardly more than 12,000 workers and supporters who had been fired from the London Illustrated News, 5,500 printers from The London Sun and News, and 12,000 workers and supporters who had been fired from The London Times.

Meanwhile, the misery of both Iranian and Iraqi masses continues.

The six-and-a-half year-old Iran-Iraq war, which has taken almost a million lives and displaced four million people, has seen no end in sight. More than 20,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed by Israeli air strikes since the January 2 attack on the U.S. air station near the University of Baghdad. Iraq's sophisticated aircraft has been unable to counter the superior Iranian fighters, which have been able to launch missiles into Israeli territory.

The situation has reached such grave proportions that the U.S. government has begun to discuss the possibility of direct military intervention in the Persian Gulf.