AFL-CIO revives rebaiting

by Felix Martin, Labor Editor

I couldn't stand conservative former AFL-CIO President George Meany. Current President Lane Kirkland can't stand the present-day labor movement. And the poor rank-and-file worker doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Kirkland came out and attacked the unions that were participating in the April 25 demonstrations against President Reagan's policies in central America and South Africa—because he agrees with what Ronny Reagan the strike-breaker and world outlaw is doing over all the globe.

A UNION ON REAGAN'S SIDE

I am not a bit surprised. What else can we expect from a right-wing president of the AFL-CIO who stood by silently while President Reagan destroyed the PATCO union in 1981, opening the floodgates for the twofisted worker-owners and all the takebacks that have robbed workers of all we gained in struggle towards a decent way of life in the last 50 years?

I know that Kirkland and those other conservative labor leaders are afraid of a new labor movement in this country. That's why they're recommending their old weapons, taking them out of mothballs—like calling unions and workers who disagree with their reactionary line "Communists and Stalinist dupes."

The test to bring back the McCarthyism of the 1950's, when the CPI expelled 11 militant unions on the grounds that they were dominated by Communists. Then they would suddenly move it toward larger agricultural development, when it has come to Mississippi, along with Alabama, is at once identified with the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and stigmatised in the 1980s as a virtual Third World within the human struggle that I found in the Mississippi Delta. In the South revealed this, as against what we are told by the authorities. It's a waste of time, a waste of energy, and a waste of labor.

Black World

Struggles in the Delta

by Lou Turner

"If ever America undergoes great revolutions they will be brought about by the presence of the black race on the soil of the United States. That is to say, they will arise and develop out of the condition, not to the equality, but to the inequality of condition."—Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America

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The state charged that the five Alexandra activists sought to "overthrow, usurp or endanger the authority of the state," with seditionist intent to defame or subvert the authority of the state. The South African paper, Weekly Mail, described the case as the "first verdict in South Africa where people were charged with treason for running people's courts, street, black and area committees, and for forming an action committee."

The charges describe these organizations as "organs of people's power," and singles out the rent boycott as proof of treason.

The indictment accuses them of plotting to seize control of Alexandra or "render the area unworkable by the state." Perhaps they are referring to the mass uprisings there in February 1986, in which 60,000 residents attacked police forces after a police assault on a funeral. Or perhaps they remember the self-mobilization of Alexandra residents, their occupation of the Alexandra South Congress, the Alexandra Women's Organization, the Alexandra Action Committee.

There is no doubt that Alexandra was—and is—revolt against the Bocha apartheid regime, that it is "un-governable." The state knows very well that the mass revolt is not plotted by these five activists. In threatening them with the death penalty, however, they have sought to silence some of the most profoundly revolutionary voices to emerge from within the black trade union and black township struggles.

Moses Mayekiso's imaginative vision of a socialist South Africa challenges all the political organizations within the movement. In criticizing the African National Congress' "Freedom Charter" he declared: "We need a workers' charter that will say clearly who will control the farms..." The state is then oppposed to the idea that there will be two stages, the first being anti-apartheid liberation... It's a waste of time, a waste of energy, and a waste of labor.

The state has set the trial for Aug. 3 in Rand Supreme Court. We appeal to all our readers to protest. Free Moses Mayekiso and his co-defendants!—Michael Connolly

Free Moses Mayekiso!

Moses Mayekiso, General Secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union (MAWU) and chairman of the Alexandra Township Action Committee, has been charged with high treason by the racist apartheid Botha regime.

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East Europe's masses demand a radical openness from below

by Urszula Wislanka

One year after the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster, a long radioactive shadow still hangs over the Ukraine and the Baltic states. For the Soviet government (of Gorbachev's very own) and the policy makers' claim that the incident is over—the loss damaged nuclear reactors are being put back into production; nuclear plans are going full speed ahead; and, after, "healthy" babies are being born in Kiev—the future ramifications remain within the earth's soil, the crops eaten, indeed, in the bodies of the Ukrainian and East European peoples, and most especially now, in the bodies of the children.

At the same time, the "fallout" is not limited to radiactivity. The economy in all of East Europe is falling apart. Constant price rises, shortages of the most basic consumer goods (and therefore long lines in stores), borrowing from Western banks, all in a quest to get out of the austerity measures—this is the cycle of the deep, perpetual crisis.

This economy and the nuclear disaster have helped to give rise to new activities for freedom in East Europe. The real contradictions of life and labor being faced and acted upon by masses in three East European countries today—Yugoslavia, Hungary and Poland—can give us a means of this reality better than any book, in contrast to Gorbachev's glasnost from above.

YUGOSLAVIA: WILDCAT STRIKES

In Yugoslavia "workers' control," a form of "democracy" from below, has been growing in the last few years.

That workers do not feel in control is seen in the number of strikes. In 1986 more than 80,000 workers took part in 800 wildcat. In March of this year, by the Yugoslav government's own conservative estimate, 10,000 workers came out in 70 different strikes to oppose a wage freeze, a rolling back of wages to last year's levels and pugging future wage increases to increases in productivity (deeply taken to "deal" with inflation and rising foreign debt).

The government of the state where workers supposedly have control of the factories is threatening to call in the army against them! One Yugoslav dissident intellectual told us: "You have a real strike movement, but all these strikes are not centralized. They are what you would call wildcat strikes, simply workers in one particular enterprise get mad and walk out. The number of strikes so far in 1987 is double that of 1986. In Yugoslavia, in the last 12 years, there have been over 200,000 wildcat strikes. Where there are strikes, they are not allowed to organize, to join forces with other groups of workers. In most cases the grievance is that the government takes so many taxes from the enterprise that the workers have nothing left to live on."

"The government keeps its own huge apparatchik. What was supposed to be self-government for culture, science, health care, etc., all became bureaucratized and professionalized—and one has to pay for all the employees. That workers do not feel in control is seen in the number of strikes.

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That consumerism has failed to buy off the society is witnessed by the persistent dissident movement. Since the early 1970's, Hungary has had holding demonstrations on March 15 to commemorate the rate the 1848 revolution. This March 15, 2000 mostly young demonstrators gathered at the memorial for Sandor Petofi chanting from his poem: "We will not be enslaved any longer!" (It was the Petofi Circle that was a witness by the persistent dissident movement. Since the early 1970's, Hungary has had holding demonstrations on March 15 to commemorate the rate the 1848 revolution. This March 15, 2000 mostly young demonstrators gathered at the memorial for Sandor Petofi chanting from his poem: "We will not be enslaved any longer!"

HUNGARY: 30 YEARS AFTER THE REVOLUTION

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Cultural Thaw? in Russia?

Raya Dunayevskaya writes on the latest Russian play, p5

High school students speak out, p7

"Human Power is its own end"—Marx

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"See Raya Dunayevskaya's 1944 and 1946 analyses of the Black dimension in the Howlett Problem," 425$70 and 436$90, in the Marxist-Humanist Archives.®
by Suzanne Casey

On April 24, 290 student demonstrators at Princeton University entered the dormitory complex known as the Night House. The campus, stopping at nine sites where acts of sexual violence have been reported. As they walked past the college eating clubs, where a woman student had recently been sexually harassed and then disciplined for "verbal disrespect" when she fought back, they were joined by male undergraduates, one of whom was arrested and charged with lewdness. On April 28, 600 demonstrators demanded immediate action by the university against sexual harassment on campus.

While sexual harassment is not a new one, it has become so widespread in our society that even conservative statistics show that at least 60% of women working have been subjected to some form of sexual harassment. This harassment is not only found, as some would have us believe, in factories and coal mines, but in hospitals, in day care centers, on college campuses, and even Wall Street. It is limited to physical advances.

In the U.S., they can be traced back to the era of slavery was bound up with the man as patriarch of the family, and the white man—considered it his privilege to sexualize women workers who testified. (See NEWS & LETTERS, June 1979.)

Women at Princeton preparing for a rally against sexual harassment.

The challenge to end sexual harassment

The roots of sexual harassment lie deep in our society, but the problem is clear: The man as patriarch of the family, the thought that he is entitled to control all that is female, is omnipresent. Women have been subjected to some form of sexual harassment in their daily lives. In 1980, over 9,000 murdered and 30,000 "disappeared," the majority of these cases occurring in countries with dictatorial regimes.

In Iceland's general election April 25, the leftist, feminist party, Women's Alliance, doubled their number of seats in the Althing. They come and tell you: We're laying you off. They do this: a woman has 20 years, what they do is this: a woman has 20 years, and many of the women had never been but a walking dispensation, with women asking what do the theories of the church's position on: right to dissent in the church, or more acute every year in the time before the monsoon to the family, of the women's self-esteem, interfere with her relations with her co-workers and eventually even destroy her means of livelihood. But because this type of harassment comes not only from "superiors," but from male co-workers, fellow students and even men we pass on the street, the solution is more inclusive in the "systematic capitalization of the family, as active Subjects in the hard process of changing them as part of the fight to change society.

The fight against sexual harassment in our daily lives presents us with many revolutionary possibilities. Women are beginning to explore the roots of such attitudes and begin to demand immediate action by the university against sexual harassment. Many get hurt. They work two or three days and they're disqualified. Unemployment. That's what our lives have been but a walking dispensation, of the family. The purpose of the conference was revolutionary even though women there passionately wanted a new society. One woman, almost in tears, spoke about how none of us have got over sexism, no matter who we are in this society. Yet they don't see themselves as active Subjects in the hard process of getting rid of all this, both capitalism as it exists in the U.S. and the state-capitalism of Russia and China. This fight against sexual harassment is not only from "superiors," but from male co-workers, fellow students and even men we pass on the street, the solution is more inclusive in the "systematic capitalization of the family, as active Subjects in the hard process of changing them as part of the fight to change society. The fight against sexual harassment in our daily lives presents us with many revolutionary possibilities.

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Immigrant workers strike Barrett Foods

Queens, N.Y. — We have been on strike against Barrett Foods, a chicken and turkey food processor, since March 30, when about 30 of us came out. We won union recognition in 1985 (Local 174, United Food and Commercial Workers) but the company has refused to negotiate.

The way Barrett treats the employees, many of us understand. Workers, we are slaves, not people. We start at $3.60 an hour for women, $3.70 for men, and the night shift starts at $3.80. We have no respect or rudeness or vulgarity of the foreman as well as the owner is careless. There is no security—if you are sick, there is no way to go to the doctor except with your own money. If you have an accident in the factory, no one knows—GET HURT—GET FIRED.

One worker cut the tendon on a finger. The company didn’t even give him a bandaid! He paid the hospital.

The company has blacklisted workers on the line, and when he came back from the accident, the foreman wanted to fire him. We went to the company and told the man to fire us! He told us to go home, and the company sued us for $750 each. We were heard out of this. The union helped to hide to keep a strike. We opened our eyes. We are not garbage to be treated like this. People must be treated like people. Not animals.

—Barrett Foods workers

Union silence at paper co.

Philadelphia, Pa. — The union has been negotiations first contract with the Paper Manufacturers Co. (PMC) since August, but there has been a blackout about the proceedings. We have had only two meetings, a membership meeting, and our negotiating committee members are forbidden to reveal the content of their discussions. We are not being told why.

I found out, though, that at the last meeting the company offered a minimum across-the-board raise, with one exception—a slightly larger amount for the job classification that just happens to be the shop steward’s. Is the union helping the company to hide an attempt to discredit our steward? That kind of ridiculous behavior should be broadcast!

Instead of discussing our concerns, the union local president repeats that we can’t get everything that we want in a first contract. We will be something to build on in future negotiations. How can an organization build support except through participation and discussion of its members’ ideas?

—Worker

Marxist-Humanist Workshop

London, England — The anniversary of the Cher­.nyhagen Summer Workshop for the Marxists-Humanists and American Civilisation is being held from May 14 to May 28. The workshop will be held at the University of London’s Institute of Contemporary Arts. There are also studies in the major Marxists-Humanists and American Civilisation workshops.

The problem with the union leadership who supported the April 25 rallies is not with that, but that, as one rank-and-file union president noted to me with Lane Kirkland on most issues. We are united in the fed­eration on almost all issues, except foreign policy, and we are not going to let those differences spoil the union.

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THREAT FROM RANK AND FILE

Workshop Talks

—Deirdręnn Goulding McDonald

Who We Are and What We Stand For

News & Letters was founded in 1965, the year of undemocratic elections in Egypt. The Revolutionary Arab Congress of Egypt was held in October of that year.

News & Letters was created so that the voices of these people who have been ignored or suppressed could be heard. We have been inspired by the articulation of a philosophy of liberation, a philosophy of liberation.

Montgomery Bus Boycott against segregation — activities which signalled a new movement from prac­tices which were accepted in this country, where black workers had been under threat from the owner if they were involved in union activity she will call "get out of our factory and get fired!"

There is no way to get a bandaid! He paid the hospital.

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It took more than a week to pull the broken bodies of all 27 miners who had been trapped in a coal mine in Utah, where 27 miners died in a December 1986 fire. The Wilberg miners testified at the hearing that they suspect the agency has yet to resolve suspicious circumstances about unsafe working conditions by saying that "if you don't like the damn job, you can get out." The mine was cited for 34 safety violations, including nine that contributed directly to the fire, but fined only $111,000, a percentage of the $111,000. For two years new regulations have been "a very dangerous procedure"—but said that "there were "about 15 theories" on the cause of the disaster. Some wanted to know why OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) inspectors had not checked the building site since last October. Some wanted to know why it was not being constructed on bedrock as recommended. Construction engineers agreed that the lift slag construction that was being used was "a very dangerous procedure"—but said that "all of the companies would continue construction.

The father of one of the victims did not speak in terms of anger, he said: "They killed people in there—saving money. They killed a bunch!"

The same week, on the back page was another story—news of the Elgin coal mine in Utah, where 27 miners died in a December 1986 fire. The Wilberg miners testified at the hearing that they suspect the agency has yet to resolve suspicious circumstances about unsafe working conditions by saying that "if you don't like the damn job, you can get out." The mine was cited for 34 safety violations, including nine that contributed directly to the fire, but fined only $111,000, a percentage of the $111,000. For two years new regulations have been "a very dangerous procedure"—but said that "there were "about 15 theories" on the cause of the disaster. Some wanted to know why OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) inspectors had not checked the building site since last October. Some wanted to know why it was not being constructed on bedrock as recommended. Construction engineers agreed that the lift slag construction that was being used was "a very dangerous procedure"—but said that "all of the companies would continue construction.

SOARING WORKPLACE DEATHS

Compared with the 5,500 deaths in 1980, there were 5,500 deaths in 1985, an increase of 66%. Over half were minority workers; 3,750 deaths on the job in 1985, stymied by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) investigators had not been made public when the apartment complex they were building collapsed. They killed a bunch!

* * *

The same system, of course, that destroys us at work—This same system, that has destroyed our world, that threatens us with its nuclear waste dumps, asbestos-laden school buildings—the list is endless. And it is not a neophyte system. When Reagan revoked the federal OSHA standards, inadequate as they were, in 1981, labor and community groups have been trying to educate themselves about dangerous materials passed in 45 cities and states, but got local prosecutors, coaches, and executives. In 1844 three executives of Film Recovery Systems, Inc. in Chicago were found guilty of the murder of a Polish immigrant who was working in one of their plants in Chicago. Other criminal indictments have been handed down in Los Angeles and New York City.

When they are not prosecuted, they are not prosecuted on purpose. The responsible agencies, stymied by the defense lawyers' objections, for the most part, are not interested in investigating the crimes of the corporations that are killing their workers. "No more will we be the lapdogs of the rich and the powerful," said the Austin Labor Center mural on this page, 1987. The character of labor today has become transformed, unity that is the system that must be tried for murder—and totally uprooted.
N&L has stories that mean something to us. The stories from high-school kids about the way systems come down on them show you where it all starts. The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. There is a movement, an opposition and a struggle that throw a light on the future of workers on earth.

BLACK WORLD

The "Black World" column of April 24, where Lou Turner quoted a leaflet in the Tuskegee University Department of English, reminded me of David Walker's 1829 Appeal. We have learned from the strike of the railway workers in the so-called "race riot" and in the U.S. that being black is not just a color, but a way of thinking. As David Walker put it in his Appeal during the slave revolt, speaking out against the worst norms of the whites, he defined the Black as "an unfortunate" color: "I want you to understand that you are not of the same species or of the same color as the black man."" We are still facing the same problem today.

At the end of the 19th century, the truth about "The Peace of Brest-Litovsk," is that it only has to be a restoration of the names, Trotsky and Bukharin, is limited to just names. It is only because history cannot be exercised, no matter how administratively it is rewritten. That is why some of the debates about the nature of what happened in 1917-18 and 1936-68, in the work of great revolutionaries such as Lenin led the 1917 Revolution, will talk about how things were to be.

DE-STALINIZED STATE-CAPITALISM

The proposed reforms in the Kruschev form or now in Gorbatchev's trying to claim that he is restoring Leninism, has not changed anything that we know about capitalism. In 1925, Moscow's frame-up murderous Trials of 1936-38, Russia still has the same fundamental class ground—state-capitalism and single party domination.

The so-called reforms, both that were initiated by Lenin and now in the second version by Gorbatchev, cannot re-write history. It's for this reason that it's important also to recall the very first reaction of Trotsky's widow Natalia Sedova, after Kruschev's "secret" speech of 1966, when she called him to any possible way to come to Russia to testify, and that in fact unless the rehabilitation is one of full restoration of Trotsky, it would mean nothing.

But there it is: if it is suddenly and conveniently selected a few of the crimes of Stalin for critical: "Kruschev is the mostusting Stalin that Stalin ever lived." His famous statement was by no means just out of loyalty to Trotsky. The objective ground for opposition to Russian state-capitalism that continued to call itself socialism was seen in a French newspaper, France-Soir, which brought up the question of Stalin in an interview with her.

Views

NEW VOICES IN N&L

In the Militant I found the usual sterile semblance of leaders and reformists. N&L has a real workers' paper, workers, column over to people outside the paper.

What we see is the world crisis is everywhere being fought on all dimensions and not just in the "official" revolution in South Africa. There are reports from all over the globe, in Africa, China, South America, England, France, The Gambia, Brooklyn... giving the lie to the notion of a world Communist party.

In my opinion, what is important in N&L is not necessarily whether the paper is a monthly or a biweekly, but the multiplicity of voices found in it.

Supporter

Chicago

We sincerely hope you can keep us on your complimentary mailing list. Under the present, I think $20, or $10 in Canada, $15,000,000 has been taken back (after having been deducted) from our book and it is important to curtail many orders and subscriptions. No doubt your budget is limited to the New York Times, but if you sincerely believe that having News & Letters on permanent order, the charge of $20, or $10 in Canada, $15,000, is valuable exposure for you, just as it is important that our students and pa trons learn from the N&L.

Librarian, Dissent and Revolution

Cal. State University, Sacramento

Editor's Note: The need for gift sub scriptions—not only for international readers who find it difficult to pay for their own, but for libraries right here at home—is great. Can you help us keep N&L going to them by contributing to our donor subscription fund.

YOUTH VS. THE SYSTEM

I was reading an article in N&L about teen suicide (April 10). My child was in third grade and already is turned off by the school. It's a sick realization, when the damn system has turned off so many people, that we can't be programmed to fit in. Then the "leaders" can't understand why people turn to drugs, crime and suicide. It's pretty damn obvious! No one is expected to do much more than just exist for the human truth shall overcome. I hope in our life-time we will see workers tear all of capitalism down. Working mother

Michigan

The same day you were marching in Washington, D.C., we were marching for democracy in Canada. On April 28, over 100,000 came out in Vancouver. Other thousands marched in protest against the invasion of Afghanistan. The invasion is a direct challenge to the American people, to the American government, and to the American military. It is a direct challenge to Canada, to the Canadian government, and to the Canadian military. It is a direct challenge to all of us. We are saying that this is not our war. We are saying that this is not our government. We are saying that this is not our military. We are saying that this is not our future. We are saying that this is not our democracy.

Marcher

Canada
in the country; 70% of the population works in agriculture—soybean, rice and cotton; from the end of November government aid, while more than 900 live in sub-standard housing. Sugar Ditch alley and its open sewage trench for which housing.

Page 6

The other side of Tunica is simple and stark as well. It is the jobless black who work in the catfish industry—unprecedented in the Delta was the people of Tunica who were outspoken. No one could have dreamed a few years ago that the Black women workers at the center of that struggle will be heard speaking for themselves in the next issue of News & Letters.

INDIANOLA, SUNFLOWER COUNTY

Finally, we come to Tunica County, Mississippi. Many faces of Fanny Lou Hamer—where the full measure of the ongoing Black struggle in the Delta case is the struggle to unionize and change the lives of the people is so intense that it comes out wherever we go, we can see that it's nothing. We have to get together and help each other and help ourselves.

Anger over 'Amnesty' law

Los Angeles, Calif.—"I'm here illegally from Mexico. I'm not going to talk about it. It's an amnesty day.

They go down to Latin America and extract our blood there. We come here to try to balance our lives humanism both for itself and for others." That is the conclusion those new struggles in the Black Belt have reached.

"I'm here illegally from Mexico. Why is it that the laboring people always get the short end of the stick? It's not that I don't want to work. The last time I worked was August, for three days. I can't get a job because people around me don't want to work. The last time I worked was last August, when the rain comes and the raw sewage overflows the Ditch, there's no blocking out the stench.

Sugar Ditch is not alone a testimony to the depths of the Black condition in America. Likewise to the military training of political refugees from Latin America will not be underplayed by the move. But it seems certain now that the importance of the Guatemalan masses as a vital force in revolutionary Latin America will be forgotten in the move. This event saw both an outpouring of donations and people signing up to send money to "Network," whose public pressure recently tracked a "disappeared" woman and forced her release from a military jail.

Why the protests in Chile?

New York, N.Y.—Your readers may be wondering why the students in South America Caracas, and in the Pinochet dictatorship has been destroying the school system ever since the coup of 1973. One of these was the teachers' union, because it was so democratic. It included all education workers, from janitors to university professors. The teachers' union opposed the removal of general public education, since localities are too poor to support it.

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Those who refused to acquiesce

"We the people" no longer enslave, but the cred- it to those who refused to acquiesce..." So spoke Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in critiqu- ing the Supreme Court in its recent decision on the U.S. Constitution. He attacked the "perpetuation of slavery and disfranchisement of women that was incorporated into the Constitu- tion.

The state of Georgia was one of several in the late 19th century that ended the practice of political disfranchise- ment.

News & Letters Biweekly

"Caravan for the Forgotten" Today's Guatemalan reality

Los Angeles, Calif.—"Why is it that when you go down on the farm you don't know what is going to happen? We don't have much information here about what's going on. We're so far away from the United Nations. And there is so little about Guatemala, even though 38,000 people have been 'disappeared' since 1965 and it's still going on? It's a great disappointment to see the government of Prez. Cerrozo hide the fact that the army still controls everyone. They have the tank systems. These were the words of Frank La Ruse, a spokesman for the caravan of buses and cars that started in Van- couver, B.C., to bring attention to "a new generation of disappeared Guatemalans and gringos," and is working its way down the West Coast to deliver food, toys, medical and educational supplies to some 45,000 Guatemalan refu- gees languishing in camps in Mexico and Guatemala itself.

On May 1, a concert rally was held to benefit the caravan. The presence of a schoolbus filled with don- neds affirmed the solidarity of the spiritual gathering. North Americans of all races joined Cen- tral and South American activists, including many of the estimated 200,000 Guatemalans living in Los Angeles. They sent this appeal to the fight against deportation. "What are national borders? They're just lines to separate the oppressor from the victim.

A spokesman for the United Nations Operation (UNO) told of new sitings in the trade union move- ment, including strikes by government workers. There are still four surviving guerrilla organizations, and on Thursday, April 30, some 5,000 peasants occupied the main gates at Quetzaltenango. This brought a roar of approval from the crowd who have not seen this kind of success. As a Guatemalan spokesman added: "Guatemala gets underplayed because its counter-insurgency state isn't concentrated in one place."

"I'm here illegally from Mexico. I'm not going to talk about it. It's an amnesty day.

Vanguard notes,"Upon the insistence of the Southern delegation at the Continental Congress, this penciled-in line was removed.

In this first burial of full freedom's call lies in- terred a black social conflict of today.

This pamphlet, Ameri- can Civil War, Civil War II, Civil War IV, Trial, presents the true, revolutionary history of the United States. It documents the long struggle for freedom, from before the Civil War to our day, of those who refused to accept the government's legal and constitutional right to pass such a law. In 1863 edition includes an introduction by William S. Cooper, "View of the Two-Way Road Between the U.S. and Africa," by Ray Du- nayevsky.

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Youth

High school students aim to broaden anti-war forces

by Laurie Cashdan

The April 25 marches in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco were an impressive outpouring against Ronald Reagan's counter-revolution waged on the peoples of Central America and Southern Africa. One young Chal­man said what many youth felt about Reagan's actions: "With the Iran-contra scandal, people have seen the presence of so many high school and college students at the demonstrations meant more than numbers. The shouting against oppression across borders involved the kinds of critical questions youth are raising about how a freedom movement can develop here.

At a spontaneous meeting three days after the march in a high school student group in New York, most of them members of "SOB Racism," discussed why the rally organizers had decided not to address the fact that this march place took just a day before the one-year an­niversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Russia. The organizers had not wanted to accept the idea of the Chernobyl disaster, the common in the solidarity movement now, that this is not the time to criticize Russia because Gorbachev's arms deals - "glasnost" politics - are a road to peace.

THE CHERNOBYL CONNECTION

One student said she was glad the march kept the fo­cus on Central America and Southern Africa since the media have been focusing just on the arms deals. Another young woman wished that the march had been linked to the mass anti-nuclear demonstrations in Eu­rope marking the one-year anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

All the students agreed that their SOB Racism group considers itself anti-nuke as well as anti-rac­ist, and that as far as they could tell, most of the stu­dents at the Washington demonstration were anti­nuclear. They were both, they said, because they had chanted, "1-2-3-4, we don't want your g-g-g-g wave, 5-6-7-8, we don't want to radiate!" and "Money for tuition, not for ammunition!"

This discussion shows one way up which the presence of tens of thousands of high school students on April 25 marches meaning which spilled beyond the lines of the organ­izing. Equally important was the presence at the marches of thousands of Black and Latin­o. That pointed to an exciting possibility for creating revolutionary forces—peasants, women, youth and in­digenous peoples—later fell back into the bipolar world context of the two superpowers. This is how one student expressed this concern: "Too often after a revolution one state power has wound up being replaced by another state power. Change made we think about the way so many Third World revolutions had that manifested the emergence of new revolutionary forces, a youth and indig­enous peoples—later fell back into the bipolar world context of the two superpowers.

Steinmetz High bars pupils

Chicago, Ill.—We still don't know if closed cam­pus is really going to come to Steinmetz High. None of us want it, but the school doesn't listen to what we want anyway.

A few weeks ago a student wrote a letter into the school paper saying we should have a walkout over closed campus, just like the students at LaGuardia High did last month. (See April 10 N&L, "Closed Campus Walkout.") Just on admiring this letter, she has been barred from entering the school. I've heard that some other students who said something about a walkout have also been barred. This place is like a prison already. You can't even hang around after school with your friends. Any stu­dent who gets out before the ninth period (the end of the day) has to leave the area around the school building. If you leave the school and come back out and choses anyone away who is within sight of the school. What are they scared of anyway? Don't we have a right to wait there? Everyone is against the closed campus coming here, because the school thinks that it won't able to go out for lunch, things will get even worse. One thing I think that'll happen is that there will be more fights that have broken out, some of them racial, be­cause the anti-Black and Latino especially. But I think that's a good thing. We have to fight back to protect each other what the man on top just looks down and smiles. He knows he'll win that way.

LaGuardia High School students

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LaGuardia High School students

New York, N.Y.—We at LaGuardia High School have sympathetic feelings with the kids who go to Fairfax High in Los Angeles. (See April 24 N&L) We feel our school is like a jail too.

We have a compterized punch-in that says what time you get in. If school starts at 810 but you couldn't punch in until 811, they say you were late. Our report cards and the computer printout. My freshman year the computer made a mistake and said I was failing everything and should be left back. You don't feel like a per­son here, you feel like a piece of plastic.

My biggest gripe is that you can't leave the building. A couple of years during winter, they locked you in the lunch room or to the library, which turns the li­brary into a social club on the second floor, the basement. One of the guards spotted me on the camera, and I heard her voice saying, "Get out of the library." I was watching a movie. Also, the security guards are armed with handcuffs.

You not only have to punch in the morning, but each teacher takes attendance. You can also get in trou­ble for cutting lunch. If the Dean sees you and asks why you aren't in lunch, and you say you were at the school. You can't get a cut card. They send it to your parents. After three or four cut cards, your parents has to meet with the Dean. The Dean calls you everything from stupid to retarded.

At a spontaneous meeting three days after the march in a high school student group in New York, most of them members of "SOB Racism," discussed why the rally organizers had decided not to address the fact that this march place took just a day before the one-year an­niversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Russia. The organizers had not wanted to accept the idea of the Chernobyl disaster, the common in the solidarity movement now, that this is not the time to criticize Russia because Gorbachev's arms deals - "glasnost" politics - are a road to peace.

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LaGuardia High School students
Nicaragua: Reagan's wars kill U.S. citizen

The brutal murder of American citizen Ben Linder by the contras in Nicaragua being forgotten by the U.S. press. Linder, 38, a Swiss-born, Sergio Hernandez were murdered by contras in the night. The government took no action on how to damn a stream and bring electricity to the village of San Jose de Bocay in northwestern Nicaragua.

News of Linder's death spread quickly. Linder was the first U.S. citizen volunteer in Nicaragua to be killed by contras. Linder's family honored his memory in Matagalpa. Thousands of Nicaraguans turned out to honor him. In the U.S., Linder was remembered by some as an anti-war hero.

Linder was a mechanical engineer who, four years ago, went to work in rural Nicaragua. He lived in the village of El Cua, where he had helped on a project to bring electricity to the village for the first time. Linder considered this kind of work a "crime," and it was reported that Linder had been specifically targeted by contras for murder. After wounded him, they shot Linder three times and buried him under the attacks near San Jose de Bocay, contra's hit a dairy project in the same area and killed people.

Many hundreds of Nicaraguans have been killed by contra's bombings and mass grave sites have been found. The death toll is believed to be in the thousands, but said he knew what he might be in for.

Despite this shocking murder of a U.S. citizen, the Congressional hearings of U.S. Senate's subcommittee on Central America have moved on. The subcommittee has been dominated by the Reagan administration, which has been accused of using contra's as a proxy for U.S. military interventions.

The hearings, which started in 1985, have been marred by a lack of transparency and oversight. The hearings have been criticized for their lack of accountability and for not fully investigating the role of the U.S. government in funding and supporting contra's.

The hearings have focused on the so-called "human rights" abuses committed by contra's, but have failed to address the larger issue of the role of the U.S. government in funding and supporting contra's.

The hearings have also been criticized for their lack of diversity and for not fully considering the perspectives of those affected by contra's actions.

The hearings have been a means for the Reagan administration to deflect criticism and to continue its policy of supporting contra's. The hearings have been a failure to address the larger issues of human rights, accountability, and transparency.

East Europe's masses demand a radical openness from below

(continued from page 1)

premier to a general election (Revolution). The demonstration ended at the place where Lajos Batthyány, the leader of the opposition, was killed. The police attack on striking laborers was a key event in the Hungarian uprising.

The U.S. has been accused of using the revolution to justify its intervention in Nicaragua. The U.S. has been criticized for its role in destabilizing Nicaragua and for its support for contra's, which are seen as a threat to the interests of the U.S.

The U.S. has been accused of using contra's as a proxy for U.S. military interventions in Nicaragua. The U.S. has been criticized for its role in funding and supporting contra's, which have been accused of human rights abuses.

The mass demonstrations in East Europe have been seen as a response to the failures of the Soviet-style system and as a call for a more open and democratic society.

The demonstrators have been demanding a more radical openness from below. They have been calling for an end to censorship, for the release of political prisoners, and for a more open and democratic society.

The demonstrators have been met with violent repression by the government. The government has been accused of using violence to suppress the protesters and to maintain its control over the country.

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