Militant labor actions resist Clinton's state-capitalist agenda

by Jim Mills

Eight thousand employees, their members and their supporters poured into Decatur, Ill., last month. Anchoring the Oct. 15 demonstration and march were workers from A.E. Staley, locked out last year as they resisted contract concessions. Joining them were Decatur Caterpillar workers who walked out June 23 along with 13,000 others in three states, and Firestone-Bridgestone workers, on strike since July 12, who walked off the job with other rubber workers in five other locations.

Each union is locked in a bitter dispute over the conditions of work. The contracting proposals have in common expanded work hours, weekend and holiday work, cuts in pay and benefits—indeed, a push for total control over the lives of the people making corn products, farm implements and tires. Members of the three unions, women and men, black and white, marched shoulder to shoulder through the industrial east side of this working-class city. The militant parade passed by each company's plant one by one in order to break down injustices limiting no more than a handful of picketers to each gate. At the Staley site, the marchers dedicated a bridge overpass to workers killed by their jobs. An impromptu rally and sit-in at a street intersection concluded the day's show of defiance against corporate prerogatives to exploit labor.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, 11,000 United Auto Workers at General Motors' colossal Buick City complex in Flint, Mich., scored a rare victory. A four-day strike ending Sept. 30 forced the work force by 500 jobs as well as implement a program to reduce repetitive stress injuries. (See "GM knocks under," page 11.)

And in one of the largest election victories in the South since workers brought a union to J.P. Stevens 20 years ago, workers at Tulips in Martinsville, Va., voted for the Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers union. Indeed, 1994 has seen a resurgence of labor actions. Organizers are seeing winners in the South winning union elections at a 9-to-1 clip. As of the first third of 1994, triple the number of workers had been on strike compared to 1993. Not all actions are officially sanctioned.

Eyewitness to China's hollow economic boom

by Xu Wei

Guangzhou—China has undergone great changes in certain aspects, yet in others it stays the same or has become even worse. Almost everyone I talked to for six weeks believes corruption has become incurable. Indeed, corruption has escalated so much that it has become normal: "No offering is clean."

I sensed a total disillusionment with the government and the party. Both are rotten within and both have proven incapable of correcting themselves, yet show no signs of giving up power. China's political system remains unchanged. In addition, power and money have become closely intertwined.

SURFACE PROSPERITY

On the surface at least, Southern Canton and major cities look prosperous—despite the homeless beggars (usually old men, women and children). The urban life style has changed. Making money, consumption and enjoyment are key activities. Commodities are plentiful. Clothing and shoes made in China follow closely styles in Hong Kong and other major cities.

Some urban families have air conditioners; a few freeways in Canton and Beijing areas, some of them bought and run by Hong Kong tycoons, are already in use. McDonald's, Coca Cola, Pepsi, Eater Leader, Vitasoy, expensive foreign wines are quite conspicuous. Every city looks like a huge construction site. Streets are jammed by vehicles, foreign and domestic.

Inflation is high. The price of all necessities has gone up greatly. Luxurious commodities—clothes with foreign labels and steak are as high as a few thousand yuan and are displayed in almost every store. In Beijing, one small pizza and two drinks at Pizza Hut (there are quite a number of McDonald's and Pizza Hut) cost close to 100 yuan. To compare, school teachers make 300-400 yuan a month and many retirees live on less than 300 yuan a month.

Cities are expanding into what were rural areas. This is most obvious in Southern Canton. The countryside has been virtually replaced by apartment buildings, Western-style houses and shops. New Guangzhou relies on food supplies from other provinces.

I was not impressed by the "miracle" of China's economic reforms. Shenzhen's industrial areas are full of factories and dormitories for workers—usually peasant girls and boys from the countryside of Sichuan, Jiangxi, Hunan, etc. Many workers in factories owned by foreign business. The dormitories are seven or eight stories with balconies. At night, when they look like dark skylines. I'm not saying carefully you will find that workers are crowded in small rooms with one big wall. The walls are stained and windows dust-covered, the balconies are crowded with washed clothes. The dormitories are walled and carefully guarded, identification is required to enter the building and no outsiders are allowed in.

Chinese workers are in a difficult situation. About 80% of state industries are losing money. The problems don't simply lie in management and structures. Forged industrial products are flourishing. Industries on the coast, which were intended to export products, have
Feminist subjectivity center of debate

by Laurie Cashdan

Editor's note: The following comments result from a Chicago feminist printed in the October N&L. We invite other readers to join this dialogue. The first page of my essay, "Feminist and Marx's humanism reconsidered," (N&L, May, 1994) is reprinted below. The principle of creativity and its relation to agency, which I feel is key to whether feminist theory can work encompassing her gentle face; her eyes were glowing, stout in stature, with a brilliant red and violet scarf not to speak out about Haiti and what happened to her. The strength of her courage and spirit kept her alive. The principle of creativity which drives this process. The contradictory process by first referring to a short article published in tomato's Hands, the book by Sarah White, a Black woman working in a catfish plant in Mississippi who, along with her sister workers, organized themselves into a union. She was facing unemployment and welfare lines until catfish processors opened on the old cotton plantation:

"We were eager to start work and disdain the welfare lines. But the picture that was painted was not so beautiful when we had the chance to look at it again. That's when it occurred to me that it is not a mere reflection of the dominant culture. How dare they! First they try to control my mind in school, now in the world. Anti-lifers (like our slogan said, "Pro-life, your name’s a lie, you don’t care if women die!" are more interested in the giving birth to a child than the giving birth to a movement. When you make that mistake, that’s for life! They say, no matter what medium you choose, you have to remind me of the book we read in school, The Scarlett Letter.

Even though only a few anti-lifers showed up for their own anti-life vigil, we were on the job and got more awareness there are people out there who are trying to help! All the things that made me hope that I would do even if you like they did the doctor in Pensacola.

And once again, it raises questions of relations between women and men, and class and color in relation to women. That was another disappointment. Why are women in this discrimination? — High school student Adrienne Rich, poetry and revolution

Adrienne Rich's What Is Found There: Notebooks on Poetry and Politics (1993) is a profoundly important book. At the end of the Cold War and the end of the "total war" that is the revolutionary struggle against the "total war" that is the revolutionary struggle against the actuality of women's movements globally. "Just as the principle of creativity which drives this process. The contradictory process by first referring to a short article published in tomato's Hands, the book by Sarah White, a Black woman working in a catfish plant in Mississippi who, along with her sister workers, organized themselves into a union. She was facing unemployment and welfare lines until catfish processors opened on the old cotton plantation:

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And once again, it raises questions of relations between women and men, and class and color in relation to women. That was another disappointment. Why are women in this discrimination? — High school student

I know that for Marx himself, Communism had never meant less than these two: 1. That the world would be the freest of human creativity. That is why I feel it is urgent to grapple with the way Marxism-Humanism has posed "dialectics of Absolute necessity" needed to work out "a totally new relationship of philosophy and creativity in the retrogressive 1990s."

This is why I feel it is urgent to grapple with the way Marxism-Humanism has posed "dialectics of Absolute necessity" needed to work out "a totally new relationship of philosophy and creativity in the retrogressive 1990s."

Abounding new social movements emerge with great difficul- ties, but also with the potential not only to change culture but also to change consciousness. Various kinds of movement take up the principle that is the new social movements emerge with great difficul- ties, but also with the potential not only to change culture but also to change consciousness. Various kinds of movement take up the principle that is the new social movements emerge with great difficul- difficulties...
**Workshop Talks**

**Confessions: A tale of three catfish plants**

**Belzoni, Miss.**—You can win union recognition at a plant, but unless you really have a union of the members, it means nothing. I worked at a catfish plant in Yazoo City, Mr. Simmons, the owner, is still the law, the total boss of the plant. He sits in his big house on the levee and gives orders. It had been a plantation, just like the old cotton plantations.

Our union, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1358, won an election to represent Simmons workers, but after years of intimidation and fear, people are afraid to talk about working conditions. Most of the 200 workers are not union members and don't pay union dues. They're afraid to talk because Mr. Simmons loans money to individual workers. People say: Don't make trouble and Mr. Simmons will take care of you. It's a sad condition. The plant manager gets mad over the plant, especially on the kill line. Each time a worker uses the bathroom, he has to clock out and then back in. The plant manager has been firing any workers any time he feels like it, and he talks to them like that.

What makes me so angry is that here we have a union, but the way of thinking really hasn't changed. The plant manager has held of you, you have no life or mind of your own. The absenteeism in turn caused General Motors to use an absentee rate of 10%, including workers on sick leave. Why is it important to be union? It is not just the pay, but the way of thinking really hasn't changed. The plan manager has held of you, you have no life or mind of your own. The absenteeism in turn caused General Motors to use an absentee rate of 10%, including workers on sick leave.

**Indiana, Miss.**—We didn't get the wages we wanted in the last contract, but we are trying to make sure that everything else we got at the main Delta Pride plant is strictly enforced. I am a steward and my duty is: "Never knecked under a supervisor. Go by the contract, by the book." This will only work if the great majority of the workers don't abuse the bathroom time. The contract says that you get a break every two hours, not whenever the supervisor feels like it. They had been working within the plant, they had to have it there to have it within five minutes of the two hours. On the kill line, we are watching the speed. We say: "Work at your own pace. Do not work under duress." We don't want any more crippling injuries.

**Somerville Mills in contempt**

**Somerville, Tenn.**—Somerville Mills has been found in contempt of court because they did not comply with the EEOC's demand. In order to make the workers whole in the back pay that they owe them, we need to get total support and unity from all of our colleagues. For the past two years, we've been, the workers are complaining about their management.

**GM knocks under**

**Flint, Mich.**—On Sept. 27, 11,500 members of United Auto Workers Local 699 went on strike over health and safety issues, work standards, movement of work to outside companies and, most importantly, a demand that General Motors hire new employees to relieve overworked auto workers. Those involved in the strike had been working 50-60 hours per week. Some 4,000 outstanding health and safety grievances were on the table.

After a four-day strike that nearly shut down General Motors' North American vehicle assembly operations, GM capitulated and agreed to hire over 400 permanent employees from a pool of approximately that many former auto workers. As a result, the union retired 2,100,000 employees at Flint and Pontiac area. On Sept. 25, GM had averted a strike at the 1,100-employee Fish­

**Seven Year of The Changed World**

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**Chicagoland: Four workers were killed and five seriously injured on Chicago's Edens Expressway, Monday, Oct. 5, when the steering failed on the van taking them to a factory. In the tragedy, which occurred at 7:40 a.m., one of the van's passengers had been a passenger in a van carrying workers along the same route. That van is among a small fleet belonging to a transport company.**

**The pay-der's arrangement is generally a flat fee per day. The fee for 'abusing' bathroom time is $100. It is the interest for the driver to get the most done in the fewest routes, to assign a number of workers in excess of the vehicle's seating capacity. The driver may not even have extended to the driver as well. For each day the deduction may be increased.

**That Friday I found myself pressed between the seat and side door of the van, the driver racing past cars on the highway. We had worked a night, and we were in the next few months, never having known what kind of work we would be doing at the company. "What's it matter?" he replied. "Work is work, right?"

**All the workers have been reduced to one abstract, congested mass; to the increasing sector of "temporary general laborers" this is as an attempt to drive down poverty wages whatever variety of production one is drafted into today. Regularly exploited by continually changing employers, it is employed in an independent basis and comes to oppose them as a class.**

**The other day I heard a worker at the agenter's office tell us, "If we get a strike, I can only break in the impending eight-hour shift. Gustering as if writing out a work permit, he said, "If you're not at work by 7 a.m., you're up worth?" The other frowned and shrugged his shoulders, "They all do that."

**The experience was brought into dialogue with that of company employees. "I don't know," said one temporary worker, "I'm not sure what we do. I've been, the workers are complaining about their management.**

**We're trying to get our foot in the door. Eighty-five to 90% of the sweatshops in San Francisco are not union. The majority of them are piecework. S.F. Knighten, who has been organized since the late 1980s, said, "It's a bad time for everyone. It's a bad time for everyone."

**Black woman activist**
The negativity, the urge to transcend, the ceaseless content. The negativity, the urge to transcend, the ceaseless movement will go into new spheres and sciences and first then achieve "absolute liberation." The abstract liberation experience of the Absolute Mind in the Encyclopedia is "freely released" but does not make it ascend to heaven. On the contrary, it first emerges out of the necessity of subsumption, the "externalities of space and time existing absolutely in its own without the moment of subjectivity." (SL 843)

For those who believe that Hegel lived far away from the concrete objective world, in some distance, over the horizon of our time, we may not be prepared to consider what Hegel presents the transition to Nature as an encompassing undertaking that Hegel is standing on his head. Proud as Hegel might have been of the feat, we need simply to look both to the incredibly rich Mind of Spirit, especially the final syllogisms, to see what Hegel was telling us.

"A moment's reflection on the Logic about Nature being the spell-outed is something that Hegel knew of the end of the dialectics of the finite and the infinite. In the Encyclopedia, Hegel further assures us that "Nature, standing between Mind and its essence, surrenders them, not indeed to the immediate positivity of Spirit, but to the essence of nature, and its negativity, and it is ready to be the subject of Spirit." Whatever Hegel said, and meant, could not but be "history's" and "profligacy". The negativity, the urge to transcend, the ceaseless movement will go into new spheres and sciences and first then achieve "absolute liberation." The abstract liberation experience of the Absolute Mind in the Encyclopedia is "freely released" but does not make it ascend to heaven. On the contrary, it first emerges out of the necessity of subsumption, the "externalities of space and time existing absolutely in its own without the moment of subjectivity." (SL 843)

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The problems confronting the Haitian masses and Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1994, if we returned to re- sume the work they had overwhelmingly elected him to do three years ago, are formidable. It is not only the WIMCO/WUVRU press censorship to which Aristide was subjected as the result of his plan to overhaul the system on every road, but his commitment to absolute freedom, self-determination, and self- reliant development which America already saw as "garbage." 

In its plan for Haiti.

Aristide's selection of the wealthy businessman and champion of "free trade," Smarck Michel, to become his Finance Minister, was another aspect of America's "strategy" to keep them in check, now that Cedras and company suddenly see in Haiti an "opportunity" for their factories. How sharp a break is it from the demands of the Haitian people and Aristide's economic goals in his first sev e r e years of office? I have limited myself to Eastern Europe, but of course I really see in Hegel a "birth-time of history." This is what makes Hegel a philosopher of history. Absolute Idea as new beginning can become a "proof" of the ending of the absolutist and the absolute as new beginning, the self-bringing of the totality. Now we must ask what Hegel meant by "absolute" as "new beginning." He means "no mere transition.

Moreover, Hegel brought the human subject into action for the first time. He opens the way for the "human subject" to act for itself. He works a "break-through" into the world of "natural" science. This is the point of departure for all Marxist philosophy which says: "as the condition for his return. That stratagem—called "free trade" and "economic aid"—was presented last August in Paris to those who would be fooled by its promise of money and popular illusions for the "reconstruction"—primarily the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the U.S., France and Canada.

Reconstruction or Stratagem?

Under the Plan, the Haitian government is to cut the number of its 45,000 civil servants in half, move social services to the private sector, sell its state-owned industries, and remove import restrictions and tariffs. It is the containment of the U.S., not a change in its strategy, that guarantees that those lands remain as importers (U.S. goods) and that the "new" Haiti is modeled after factories in the West who have dealt seriously, not with Marx himself and sees the possibility of the dialectic in the movement from the elemental to the concrete individual through the particular, necessitates a double negation (and that, after all, comprises the "Hegelian" essence of the dialectic) — . . . .

16.1 have limited myself to Eastern Europe, but of course I really see in Hegel a "birth-time of history." This is what makes Hegel a philosopher of history. Absolute Idea as new beginning can become a "proof" of the ending of the absolutist and the absolute as new beginning, the self-bringing of the totality. Now we must ask what Hegel meant by "absolute" as "new beginning." He means "no mere transition.

The very different direction the masses want to take has been seen continuously over the past month—in direct opposition to U.S. intervention that was heard within Haiti from the beginning stood opposed to the totally racist opposition that spurred from the U.S. right and the illusions of some in the Left who saw as an "opening" for Haiti's liberation. Although many "realizations" nonetheless still persist, both within and without Haiti, it does not mean that the masses cannot yet determine their own destiny.

The conflict between what the masses are aiming for and the "plan," the U.S. has in mind for them—namely, to keep them in check, now that Cedras and company have nailed their unqualified support for U.S. imperialism—explains the great difficulty the U.S. forces are having in their new police role. They cannot get the U.S. Special Forces, who had hoped to simply "purge" and "retain" the existing force, to return to the condition for his return. That straitjacket—called "free trade" and "economic aid"—was presented last August in Paris to those who would be fooled by its promise of money and popular illusions for the "reconstruction"—primarily the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the U.S., France and Canada.

No reconstruction or "stratagem" here; Freedom is unrestricted. It will "complete"


In his Dialectics of the Concrete he insists that history is "determined," but not in a determinist, voluntaristic, or fatalistic way. History is "determined" not in a way that determines the future but in a way that can be determined. History is "determined" not in a way that determines the future but in a way that can be determined. Hegel's absolute is here; Freedom is unrestricted. It will "complete"
**THE PRICE OF THE NEW WORLD DISORDER**
*from Haiti to the Middle East*

Though considerable numbers of people protested intervention preceding the U.S. invasion of Haiti, here in Los Angeles information about the situation has come more invisible than ever before. Lately, the U.S. decision to station troops in the dominion of the Haitian people has been covered less than maximum effect. But what will happen now that Aristide has returned and will be constrained to cooperate with the process of democratization? That is the question!

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**Voices from Prison**

I'm on this welfare line because I just got out of jail. I'm trying to get my life back together. It's really hard.

Prison. Equals slave labor. At the New Jersey prison where I'm currently doing time, we are required to work for the state budget cuts to children's programs, among other things. The pay started at $2.20 an hour and went up to $2.40 an hour. They say it costs $30,000 a year to keep a person in jail, but they charge only $2.40 an hour. When a prisoner is sentenced, he is given a handcart and is responsible for wheels the mail, the food, the garbage.

I was a battered wife and nobody ever did a story about my abuse. I'm sure we all know someone who has been abused. But the system does not offer support. Does the support of Haitian people there or Iraq compare to the coverage of O.J. Simpson? What happens to people is that they are not listened to. We are letting the very essence of human beings be destroyed.

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**The Pride of a Woman**

As a woman you have a certain pride and you have to continue the long, rocky path of struggle for who you are. A woman can be just a feet or can mean something more. Let me tell you what it is to be a woman. As a woman I refuse to be intimidated by the power of men. I refuse to be dominated, humiliated, suppressed and went on to say that she is a woman, a revolutionary woman, a woman of the world.

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**Readers Views**

To the "Reader" who submitted the piece on feminist theory in the last issue: I think you are right to be wary of generalizations in the Marxist tradition and specifically about the point that discourse theory eliminates agency. Of course, discourse theory does eliminate agency and in a convoluted way makes feminism into a discourse. Literally, then, is not the author's will, but discourse itself. But in its turn, discourse theorybased on its theoretical perspective of "privileging" Marxism is still within the confines of viewing itself as a discourse and as such a redundant form of ideological implications which makes for a very dehumanized conception of Marxism.

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**Marx's Humanism Today**

Marx's 1844 manuscripts are still new for today, a concrete-Universal. They can't be underestimated. Hasn't Marx anticipated what he would later develop as the "principle of equality" in the Marxist tradition? A state social value is a social relation and use value is an individual act. The contemporary Left doesn't grasp the full implications of the self-activity of the masses as what can transform capitalist and social conditions; they end by making a falsification of the criticism of fetishism. What Hegel wrote about the power of the Idea of Freedom—"When individual will is such that it arises from itself, and grasps the abstract concept of full-blown liberty, there is nothing like it in its unalienated form..."—is characterized in his philosophy of revolution.

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**Fighting for the Rights of the Sighted**

About 100 blind people and supporters massed outside the State Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin, on September 12. In the State Capitol for "The Pride of a Woman," we distributed information packets to the Rotarians who were at the demonstration. What we did need to continue the transcription of Braille textbooks, better preparation of special-ed teachers, and training blind students for independent (non-state) travel, typing, and other skills. The Wisconsin Civil Rights Board of Education for the Blind of the MSB and MSU. We distributed information packets to the Rotarians who were at the demonstration. What we did need to continue the transcription of Braille textbooks, better preparation of special-ed teachers, and training blind students for independent (non-state) travel, typing, and other skills. The Wisconsin Civil Rights Board of Education for the Blind of the MSB and MSU.

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**Freedom of the Press?**

I call the news media nothing but a press and not to be trusted as a system. Take how the O.J. Simpson trial made the news every day, and some how that to the realities of the Californian state budget cuts to children's programs, or the unlawful altering of the fundamental structure of all of the state's original form...and then, if you did know that we had 20,000 prisoners incarcerated when Governor Ronald Reagan took off in California, and today we have 33,000 prisoners incarcerated and the state is spending $31,000 a year for each person kept locked up in prison. Meanwhile, California prisoners have no medical cover age, and one-quarter of the state's chil dren have no medical coverage. And all I have said above pales in impor tance, compared to what O.J. Simp son was to have breakfast for today.

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**Freedom of the Press?**

I enjoy struggling with the writing by Dunayevskaya on Marx's 1844 Manuscripts. It's important to see that the Hungarian Revolution dragged these essays out of the dust-bin of history, but the "principle of equality" in the Marxist tradition was never forgotten for the 1990s. The proof that Hegel lives in Marxism is that "the "principle of equality" in the Marxist tradition was never forgotten for the 1990s. The proof that Hegel lives in Marxism is that the "principle of equality" in the Marxist tradition was never forgotten for the 1990s. The proof that Hegel lives in Marxism is that the "principle of equality" in the Marxist tradition was never forgotten for the 1990s. The proof that Hegel lives in Marxism is that the "principle of equality" in the Marxist tradition was never forgotten for the 1990s.
NOVEMBER 1994

U.S. LABOR IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

To maximize their profits, the giant international monopolies are moving their factories to low-wage areas in North America and Western Europe to the "few wage" Third World, where they can pay workers $0.60 an hour. Even using child and prisoner labor is not abhorrent to them. At home the remaining jobs are taken over by computers which have no unions, or by people living in mental institutions or on welfare. It's a situation that leads sooner or later to straight dictatorship.

For example, in the U.S. the Post Office has eliminated nearly 40,000 jobs in the past 10 years. Just the other day, the Post Office announced it was naming a new "employee-leasing firm" to manage the Post Office building in downtown Chicago. It will be the same as in any country.

Robert Bunting
Chicago

VOICES OF THE LATINO DIMENSION

Recently, while distributing News & Letters and the Spanish supplement, Noticias y Cartas, outside a building containing garment shops, we found several workers sitting on the floor of the lobby. We spoke with two young women from Mexico, who explained that the owner was a half-hour late and would not come to the building until he got there. The owner is the only one with keys to their small shop, and if she doesn't show up, all the workers have made the trip to work for nothing. Needless to say, they make the minimum wage and don't get paid for days they don't work.

Jan Kollowitz
Chicago

QUEBEC'S GAY DIMENSION

You should know that the New Demo­crats are starting to get involved in the struggle for gay rights. However, most of them are very hesitant, and have no concrete program.

GM hier was hiring temporary workers at $12.75 an hour. There has now been a freeze on the number of new hires and there are no new hires coming in. This is not just in Oklahoma but on the interna­tional level. There will be a lot more to this story in the days ahead, you can be sure.

My sister worked at a company that had just moved it. There was no sever­ance and the company in California bought what was left. The company folded up—and then it went to the employees. At home the remaining workers have no unions while millions become unemployed or live on welfare.

In the U.S. for fighting "crime" and it's a fact that many of the black who are arrested are not guilty or are guilty of a minor offense. In the U.S. or a return of Commun­ism, there is need to get rid of rebellious labor. Per­haps nowhere has labor been more rebellious than among the construction workers who have developed an odd habit of helping their bosses "retire." While the Post Office has eliminated nearly 45,000 jobs, they've yet to eliminate the mailman's union. A recent study by the Govern­ment Accounting Office reveals that auto­mation of mail processing in Waterloo and Middletown, Ohio, has created a massive decrease in labor productivity. The Post Office is at a loss to explain how this could have happened.

Laelo Gatt
British Columbia

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Selected Publications From News & Letters

- Marxist-Humanist Literature Catalogue
  A full list of publications (many are not available, or are available only through News & Letters Committees).

- Books
  By Raya Dunayevskaya

  Marxism and Freedom: From 1776 until today
  1989 edition. New author's introduction. ... $17.50

  Philosophy and Revolution: from Hegel to Sartre and from Marx to Mao
  1989 edition. New author's introduction. ... $14.95

  Rosa Luxembourg, Women's Liberation, and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution
  1991 edition. New author's introduction. Foreword by Angela Davis. ... $8.50

  Women's Liberation and the Dialectics of Liberation: Reaching for the Future
  ... $15.95

  The Marxist-Humanist Theory of State-Capitalism: Selected writings by Raya Dunayevskaya
  ... $8.50

  The Philosophic Moment of Marxist-Human­ism: Two Historic-Philosophic Writings by Raya Dunayevskaya
  Contains "Presentation on Dialectics of Organization and Philosophy of June 1, 1987," and 1953 "Letters on Hegel's Absolute." ... $3.00 paperback, $10 hardcover

- Pamphlets

  American Civilization on Trial, Black Masses as Vanguard
  Statement of the National Editorial Board of the 20th Century of Its World
  Development Full description of 15,000-page microfilm collection...

  Bonnie-Herzogovina: Achilles Heel of Western "Civilization"

  Marx's Capital and Today's Global Crisis
  Includes critiques of Ernest Mandel and Tony Cliff

  The Coal Miners' General Strike of 1949-50 and the Birth of Marxian Socialism in the U.S.
  By Andy Phillips and Raya Dunayevskaya...

  25 Years of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.:
  A History of Worldwide Revolutionary Developments by Raya Dunayevskaya...

  Myriad Global Crises of the 1980s and the New World Since World War II
  By Raya Dunayevskaya...

  Theory and Practice, by Rosa Luxembourg
  First English Translation...

  Nationalism, Communism, Marxist-Humanism and the Afro-Asian Revolutions
  By Raya Dunayevskaya...

  Frantz Fanon, Soweto, and American Black Thought by Louis Turner and John Alan...

  Selections from Raya Dunayevskaya's writings on the Middle East...

  Working Women for Freedom by Angela Terrano, Marie Dignan, and Mary Holmes...

- Newsletters

  News & Letters: Six issues for 1994...

  News & Letters: Six issues for 1995...

  News & Letters: Six issues for 1996...

- Guides to Collection and Supplement to the Raya Dunayevskaya Collection:

  Marxian-Humanist Half-Century of Its World Development Full description of 15,000-page microfilm collection...

  The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection

- Newspapers

  News & Letters subscription
  Unique combination of worker and intellectual, published 10 times a year...

- New Address...

- Change of Address...

- Subscription...

From what I've read of Marxist-Human­ism, this philosophy is raising questions to find a way out. We need to be active in the development of a political movement in the Mexican revolutionary Los Angeles

THE REAL CRIMINALS

I am the mother of four young adults. Recently, after coming home at night, my sons have told me how they have been attacked by undercover police in our own neighborhood. This has happened to them more than once. There is no apparent reason for this other than the way the men dress and carry themselves. They were not me­teors, and were never arrested. The police have been known to deliberately set a trap and then arrest them.

My family lives in Wrigleyville. This area has attracted many young profes­sionals. There is construction going on all over, condominiums can't be built fast enough. It seems as though in order to make the streets "safe" for these young white professionals, the police have taken to harrassing young men who do not fit into that mold. As a mother this is very frightening. I am not about to ask my sons to begin wearing the uni­form of conformity. I like them just fine as they are. But once they walk out that door, they will be considered suspicious by any cop who doesn't like their walk, or the way they dress can stop them. Hopefully, my sons will not forget that they are dealing with and will not react normally to this out­rage.

Judy Chicago

Chicago
by John Alan

This October PFS (Public Broadcasting System) presentation of News & Letters documents a program, "School Colors," a documentary film report on why racial integration has failed to become a meaningful aspect of American schools after almost 30 years of practice.

This report is "the black color," while not a great documentary, is not the usual kind of television documentary on the crisis in the public school system because the story is told from the point of view of central administrators or sociologists. Thus, we have poignant testimonies from the people who are living with wrong with racial integration, why it doesn't work and why it is often a humiliating or confrontational experience. The high school noted for its racial and ethnic diversity.

CLASS REALITY BEHIND DIVERSITY

A Black woman from the world of Berk­ley High by pointing to the steps of the main building and saying that's where the white students gather. "That's Europe and I never go there." And on the other side where the Hispanic students gather, "That's Mexi­can and I don't go there." To call this in two racial project simply is not on the same level as "Black Is Beautiful" was the 1960s. Although it creates tension, it remains only a symbolic gesture towards overcoming the contradiction between the idea of education and the reality of the elitist kind of education often found at Berkeley High. However, the pro­jection of Black self-identity has caused the press, docu­mentarians, and Berkeley staff to applaud that the key is present in one's self-identity and African Americans carry a great burden of past history into the present.

The Los Angeles demonstration, not on the last day, is "Black Is Beautiful" in the 1960s. It involves the fact that the changes are their doing.

A Black man student said: "Integration is the worst thing that could have happened to the Black male.

A Hispanic student said it's an insult to call an American when Hispanics, after a debate, could not get their own edited page in the school's paper.

Residents of Berkeley have long known that there was little racial harmony at Berkeley High. Stories appeared in local and national newspapers in the case of Black and minority students. Therefore, "School Colors" of­fers no startling revelations. But when stories of racial tension involve students of different ethnicities and the nature of the student body: it is 38% white, 35% Black, 11% Asian and Pacific Islander, 9% Hispanic and 7% miscellaneous. The high school noted for its racial and ethnic di­versity, and there is no meaningful interrelationship or equal­ity even within that diversity.

CONTRADICTIONS IN BLACK IDENTITY

What Blacks and other minority students are aware of is that they're from a low-income neighborhood. Our middle-class students compose 35% of the top track, college bound students. "School Colors" suggests how little thought has been given to the possibility of students from Berkeley High and other schools.

The chants in Spanish about "Pig" Wilson (Pete Wilson) that occurred during the demonstration included undocumented immigrants and their children born in the U.S. from tra­ditional dances, medical and social services. It would re­quire professionals in those fields to report all individu­als suspected of being undocumented. Up to 100 thou­sand people from throughout Southern California marched on Los Angeles Oct. 16 to protest this Nazi-like measure.

In starting East Los Angeles, we walked down the news named for you, in turn, the Royal Guardsmen, doctors, social workers, priests and others joined the marchers. Most of the group were from Mexico and Central America. Many marchers of African ancestry were there, as were whites and Asians. They were a mixed group of parents, students; instruments and danced the entire length of the march between the streets of Los Angeles.

I marched near Justice for Janitors for a long time and talked with them about their march in June (see July News & Letters). I was also near the Bus Riders Union, participating in one such project, and Harvard University's Micro Projects, and the extensive research and ex­perience of an activist who could provide me with his files.

Another framed activist has been able to prove his inno­vation in his hand and fired.

The projection of Black self-identity certainly is not on the minds of a future generation. Students whole areas of academic training. But the San Francisco--Aims of Black youth and Blacks took to the streets by the hundreds in protest.

In Lexington, Ky., riot police patrol in force as a city cop shot a Black youth and threw the young man to the ground.

Rights hearing on U.S. racism

New York--Hearings on U.S. racism were held in Harlem Oct. 6 before a panel of distinguished human rights leaders from the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches, the hearings are being held in seven cities around the U.S. If the panel finds U.S. racism to violate human rights, it will recommend the United Nations take action.

Local people testified about the many police killings of Black youth and adults, including the recent murder of a 16-year-old boy who, with his friends, was playing with toy guns when a cop happened upon them, saw the toy guns, and shot them.

Eddie Ellis, a former Black Panther, described his frame-up by the government in 1969 as part of its "counter-intelligence" program against political activ­ists. He was recently released after 23 years in prison. Another framed activist has been able to prove his inno­vation in his hand and fired.

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tional. Caterpillar workers walked out of plants well in advance of the official strike deadline this summer. Some 48,000 workers on three continents were on the picket line, caught the ear of many white workers. All too many jobs since 1990.

For the current militancy occurs in the context of some dismal economic facts. A quarter of the new jobs created in the first half of last year's economy were temporary help. A quarter were part-time jobs. U.S. employers fired 10,000 workers per year in the 1980s for trying to unionize their shops. The number of auto workers in the U.S. has receded from view. What almost went unnoticed at the Firestone-Bridgestone gates in Decatur pin the loss of jobs in America on Japan. There are evidence of the kind of confusion that can kill any new beginings for labor on the horizon and shows the need for a vision for labor all on its own.

For the closure of the debate over the meaning of the Great Depression's birthing of U.S. state-capitalism and capitalism's cloaked stalling tactics until anti-union votes could be set in motion on the Future of Worker-Management Relations* has undertaken the government's first major examination on the Future of Worker-Management Relations.
Why plague in India now?

The world's first pneumonic plague epidemic in decades hit India in September. Thousands were stricken; it's resurgence left the government scrambling to deny, though it has acknowledged, that the deadly new drug-resistant strains. A World Health Organization (WHO) report states: "The resurgence left the government scrambling to deny, though it has acknowledged, that the deadly new drug-resistant stains."


1. In a recent review of the book, Scholes wrote, "We can't help but wonder if there are enough hints even on these early pages praising the system of a "free" socialist society that Derrida
could have agreed with Marx that under capitalism the products of human labor take a life on a table of their own, assuming a fetishized, mystical form while, at the same time, it is being dehumanized, and relations between people, Marx writes, take on the fantasy of a system of "objective fetishism," where human rationality would take hold of "free" socialist society. "To be sure, in today's retrogressive climate, it is hard to imagine that Derrida has fallen into, in assuming fetishism to be permanent, that it is still in play."

We write to emphasize our opposition to the view that a labor newspaper should devote its pages exclusively to matters that immediately and directly concern the labor movement. The News & Letters is not a document to combine all the concrete facts and manifestations of the labor movement with these questions. "We do not have the space to include such articles in the News & Letters," V. T. Lenin
TIANANMEN SQUARE, 1989, AND CHINA'S 1990s
A Contrasting View

If the 1980s was a decade of political upheaval, the 1990s seems to be the "gold rush" era. People are in search of the easy money, and the streets are full of people looking for quick profits. Some officials make a fortune by declaring bankruptcy and taking over businesses. In addition, cinemas, barber shops, and fashion shows are popular, and the fashion is to be young—likely just out of high school, and in particular the media propagated lifestyles of the neo-rich.

We can't let this go on, that just because you're Black you are immune to the Criminal Justice System. The police are not there to protect you, but to control those who don't "fit in." The police are not there to protect your rights, but to protect their own. They are not there to serve and protect, but to keep you in your place.

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by Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

The Middle East has once again proven to be the key to the future of Israel and Jordan. The withdrawal of the Jordan treaty, the Israel-Syria negotiations, and the U.S.-Iraqi confrontation over Kuwait, or the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

All of the hoopla surrounding Clinton's visit and the subsequent negotiations have been overshadowed by the tremendous pressure that the Middle East has been under. The pressure has come from every direction, with the United States taking the lead in trying to defuse the situation.

President Clinton has been forced to intervene in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to prevent a violent confrontation. The U.S. government has been working to find a way to end the violence and to create a framework for a lasting peace.

Middle East in Crisis, from Israel to Iraq

Italy's general strike

Several shocking events have exposed the French government's reluctance to deal with the increasing political and economic turmoil in the country. Several strikes have highlighted the government's refusal to address the needs of the workers.

In Italy, the country has been hit with a general strike, as workers demand better working conditions and higher wages. The strike has been met with violent reactions from the government, which has accused the workers of being irresponsible.

What democracy in France?

Several elections have been held in France, and the results have been mixed. The government has vowed to carry out reforms, but the public is skeptical of its ability to deliver.

In this context, the government has introduced various initiatives to improve its image. The country has been hit with a wave of strikes and demonstrations, as workers demand better working conditions.

Kurds face betrayal

Kurdish fighters have been ravaged by the Islamic State, which has been brutalizing the Kurdish people. The Kurdish fighters have been forced to retreat, leaving the region vulnerable.

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