New ways to shift temps and full-timers

by Felix Martin, Labor Editor

I am 76 years old, worked all my life and retired from General Motors Dec. During my lifetime if I went to get a job and the company wasn't organized, I’d organize it to make it better wages and benefits to take care of my family. These days are gone.

Last October, the California Supreme Court allowed older workers to be terminated for economic reasons. The original case involved a man, age 49, who was fired just one year before he would have been entitled to a retirement package worth nearly $200,000 at age 55. In the lower court the judge said “age discrimination laws were never intended to impede a company from controlling its costs.” The Supreme Court let the ruling stand but only two of the seven judges were really in favor of the ruling.

William Quackenbush, a labor lawyer, was quoted as saying, “what they have permitted is for an employer to point to high health care costs and demand a choice of keeping those costs or they have to lay the workers off.” This seems to be what capitalism is all about. You don’t have to do much thinking to understand what the courts and the companies are all about. The market economy, according to the Supreme Court of California, is more important than the human workers. This has always been the way under capitalism.

In the original case the trial judge in Illinois decided a similar case. The experienced worker, age 56, was laid off instead of younger inexperienced workers. The company in the Illinois case but went on to say “labor lawyers say these rulings are not flukes, similar decisions are being handed down by judges across the country. These decisions, when they begin to become practice, will get rid of older workers and replace them with inexperienced younger workers at low pay and benefits. At GM, for example, it now takes three years to get paid reality (recovering the full amount the job calls for) and a year to get health benefits.

(Continued on page 8)

Black World

Race, rebellion and affirmative action

by Lou Turner

Twenty years ago this year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Bakke Decision that the University of California's affirmative action program to recruit minority and economically or educationally disadvantaged applicants for its medical school at Davis was a violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution.

Whereas the Supreme Court’s famous 1978 Brown Decision was a judicial precursor of the Civil Rights revolution that would transform "American civilization" in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, so the 1978 Bakke Decision was a terrible foreshadowing of the two-decade-long retrogression ushered in by Ronald Reagan in 1979. The old movement lyric “We shall overcome” was replaced by the cynical refrain “We shall overcome.”

In today's stifling climate of civil rights retraction, the Bakke Decision laid the foundation for the present.

To our readers: Keep N&L going

The myriad crises we confront today have deepened and multiplied with each new year. As 1989 begins, Asia's economic crisis has exposed the fault lines in the global economy. Mexico has been plunged into its worst recession in the history of the government-sponsored massacre of Indian supporters of the Zapatistas. In Israel Netanyahu continues to wage his genocidal war against the Palestinians. In Bosnia the U.S. and NATO refuse to arrest the war criminals and have guaranteed that the Serbian destruction of Bosnia can continue unchallenged. And at home, while the punkists talk of a "boomom economy" and the "success" story of dopped welfare rolls, half of those forced off welfare have not found jobs and most of those who have are suffering extreme poverty wages.

At the same time, any analysis of these objective events demands recognizing humanity's struggles for a very different kind of world embedded in this reality. You will find that presenting the kinds of details you can hear in every issue of News & Letters. In this issue you will hear the stories of the woman who has been organizing the catfish workers in Mississippi traveling to Mexico to talk with workers fighting to organize a union in her name; of the hundreds of Black and white demonstrators who poured out in Memphis to stop the KKK and the racist congressmen trying to battle the police; of the German students who have been striking against the severe reductions in the university budgets. And in every issue you can hear the voices of the prisoners who have refused to be de-humanized.

What is unique with News & Letters is that you will hear all these voices unfiltered from the articulate philosophy of revolution that lets these voices ring louder and clearer because it discloses the future embodied in the present. It is this combination of philosophy and revolution that makes it urgent to keep N&L alive. N&L is NOT OURS TO KEEP, BUT OURS TO KEEP N&L ALIVE. N&L IS NOT OURS TO KEEP, BUT OURS TO KEEP N&L ALIVE.

We need approximately $4,000 to print this new Marxist-Humanist paper in addition to the $1,500 it costs us to print every issue of N&L. Ever since our birth more than 40 years ago, we have turned to our readers for the help we have needed to keep us alive and strengthen our outreach. CAN YOU HELP US NOW? YOUR SUPPORT WAS NEVER MORE NECESSARY. PLEASE GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS YOU CAN AND HELP US CONTINUE!

Send with check or money order to:
NEWS & LETTERS
59 E. Van Buren St. #707, Chicago, IL 60605

(Continued on page 9)
Amidst intensifying massacres in Algeria, brutal murder and rape are daily features of the revolution. The mainstream media has emphasized the "irrationality" of the massacres and called for an international invasion, as if the violence were instigated by a few madmen. Yet one that Western governments have been unable to explain. The massacres are a result of violence—one that Western governments have been unable to explain. The massacres are a result of violence—one that Western governments have been unable to explain.

We urgently need to dig further into the historic roots of this violence wreaked disproportionately on women, if we hope to prevent it. The violence is not the product of an isolated, radical political faction, but has been a daily feature of life for women in Algeria for four decades. Considering the violence that has killed Algeria since 1962, women's liberation, constituting a demand to repeal the retrogressive Code, is a demand that means full autonomy for women. Algerian women struggle amidst tragedy.
Delta to Mexico, worker to worker

Indianola, Miss.—I'm a catfish worker who for years experienced the racist, inhumane, unjust treatment of the white catfish owners in the Delta. But that is nothing compared to the things I have seen and things changed.

A few years ago, several companies for years and demanded the dignity and respect that we have today. But on the other side of the cotton fields stands a plant called American, a real union busting corporation. In an election and for the third time a majority of the workers rejected the union. They are oppressed workers who are too afraid to do anything about their situation. There is a lot of pressure from the old plantation mentality that they have locked down until they are afraid to do anything about it.

In my mind I was contrasting that defeat to some Mexican workers I met in Tijuana. They are fighting discrimination and resisting the corrupt labor board and the Mexican government who really wants to keep them that way.

They told me how the women on the night shift are locked in and the bosses wouldn't return until morning; they were afraid to talk to them or report any violation. They talked about how the bosses would take 14-year-old girls in the back of the plant and threaten their family if they were going to vote. They told me they were afraid to change, to run. I told them we've got to organize everywhere. If the conditions wouldn't solve their problem, that we had to bring in management to vote, to try and stop the union. They talked about how the bosses would take 14-year-old girls in the back of the plant and threaten their family if they were going to vote. They told me they were afraid to change, to run. I told them what we had accomplished by organizing. In one of the plants' the Mexican workers voted the boss out. I told them that the same things happening to them surrounding us now, they had to do it themselves. I want a change of attitude. We've got to understand that it's the same situation.

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The editing process includes:

- **Extract**: The text is extracted from the document and converted into a plain text format.

The text is representative of Marx's analysis of capitalist production, focusing on the contradiction between production and consumption. Marx argues that the resulting stagnation of production appears as overproduction, leading to a crisis. The crisis is a result of the inability of the market to resolve the overproduction of commodities. Marx's analysis is grounded in the concept of surplus value and the rate of profit, which he critiques as being insufficient to resolve the contradiction.

The text also highlights the historical and political context of Marx's work, noting the influence of the era on his analysis. Marx's ideas have been critiqued and adapted by various economists and political thinkers, including Keynes and contemporary neoliberal economists.

- **Identification**: The text is identified as part of a collection of essays and articles, including selections from Marx's work and other academic commentary.

The text is a reflection of Marx's critique of capitalism, emphasizing the exploitation of workers and the inherent contradiction between production and consumption. Marx's analysis is a foundational concept in the study of political economy and social theory.
On its 150th anniversary, Karl Marx’s Communist Manifesto is once again the object of much attention. With the document’s 150th anniversary commemorating the “proletarian revolution that spreads from France to the common interests of the entire proletariat,” we today have the advantage of knowing Marx’s philosophy of revolution in permanence—working it out as strategy and tactics. The pull to separate theory and practice was also manifested in a swarm of new organizations characterized by the doctrine of the proletariat as a single, indivisible class.

It was Marx, therefore, who was able to keep deepening the critique of vulgar communism that he had elaborated “in permanence.”

**NEW CONCEPT OF ORGANIZATION**

The underlying tidal force—Marx's philosophy of revolution in permanence—has escaped the attention of all Marxist parties-to-lead, Stalinist or anti-Stalinist. The Manifesto's embedding in the overall materialist conception of history to property. The needed second negation of the future. For some, overthrow of the form of society. A world that has witnessed the brutality of retrogression. How Marx dealt with such retrogression was the historical moment which inaugurate an epoch.

Marx would tread carefully in envisioning the future society. Marx says here, what distinguishes the communists, as self-activity and self-organization.”

The pull to separate theory and practice was also manifested in a swarm of new organizations characterized by the doctrine of the proletariat as a single, indivisible class.

**Revolution after 1848 Defeat**

Within days of writing this, Marx, with Engels, wrote another draft, “Principles of Communism,” written by Engels. Engels presented it as if it were nearly automatic: "...that in the constant search for confront the most important of its own, by which to shape and mold the proletarian movement...." That was not the lesson taken by most tendencies, but to the new, classless society. A world that has witnessed the brutality of the workers, initiating a "retrograde process." The workers "must do the messy and brutal" of the idea is as integral as is the self-determination of the idea. The Idea. The Manifesto argues that the revolutions had failed because the idea of revolution as negation of the negation, action and theory. The communists do not form a separate party opposed to other socialist and communist tendencies; these negations are necessary to be, Engels' first draft states, "we...for and against capitalism, for the people in motion, it is the instinct of life that makes them do it."

"The communists,...what we know of Marx as a whole." Marx says here, what distinguishes the communists, their "real needs are not only trumpets the Schisms were caused solely by personal conflict in the League years—if, that is, not seen as steps, neither of them final, in the continuous development of the idea..." The Idea.

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The reports in N&L on the events in various countries show that capitalism has become a worldwide monster strangling the livelihood out of workers everywhere. Here in the U.S., for example, the railroad strikes in Louisiana known as the Amtrak Rebellion, the murder of activist Jonathan Jackson, brother of the famous American militant writer and activist — took over the courtroom in an effort to free George, who was charged with the murder of the Miners County courthouse, which was bloody suppressed by the police.

This signifies that racism is still a thing of the past in America. Even in the 1990s, the U.S. is still the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Rachelle Magee is the radical black attorney who was acting as a legal representative for the Black Power Movement. She was tried in court and found guilty of murdering George Jackson, the famed Black militant writer and activist. Magee was sentenced to life in prison for murder in 1970. She was later exonerated in 1980 and released from prison.

The Black Power Movement was a radical political group that emerged in the 1960s in the United States, advocating for the political, social, and economic advancement of African Americans. The movement gained prominence as a response to the civil rights protests and the perceived lack of progress in desegregation and equal rights for African Americans.

The success of the Black Power Movement was evident in the increase in Black representation in government and the private sector, as well as the establishment of Black studies programs in universities and the increase in Black homeownership.

In 1970, Rachelle Magee appeared as a witness in the trial of James McCann, who was accused of murder. McCann was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a police officer. Magee's defense was based on the claim that McCann was acting in self-defense.

The Black Power Movement faced significant challenges, including repression by law enforcement and the capitalist government, as well as internal divisions and conflicts within the movement.

The Black Power Movement was a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of the United States and the global struggle for racial justice.
The financial situation in China is a mess, much more serious than those countries of Asia now in trouble. It is less affected by external impact. Nobody can predict what is going to happen in the next few months. That is why the world is preparing to prevent an explosion. They stubbornly reject the demands of the currency for fear of its political consequences (on Hong Kong included). China faces formidable obstacles in its pursuit of a better future. The intellectual elites are so satisfied with the status quo that very few of them bother themselves to try to find a way out for China. A country of 1.2 billion population now is suffering with a poverty of ideas, of theories.

**Discontent journalist**

China

Following the recent events in Mexico, a sociologist here who toured Chiapas last summer reported: "It is an occupied country. Everywhere there are the Chiapas state security forces in their blue uniforms. There is a state of crisis here. There are thousands of federal troops in Chiapas on the orders of President Zedillo. Both have been arming, aiding and even directly assisting the paramilitary groups. No federal soldiers or police are allowed to rape and murder. The low-intensity war on the part of Chiapas is directed by the federal government, as President Zedillo stated this past December: 'I prefer to go into history as a beneficent. He expressed pleasure at Army and its allies but also for the Wermacht, Hitler's army. We have to because the Mayor and police are not going to say they were wrong and the protesters were right. There was a unifying experience before the police attack is continuing to unabash us now. There is definitely a place for this group like this in this town. We have to because the Mayor and police are not Going to say they were wrong and the protesters were right. There was a unifying experience before the police attack is continuing to unabash us now. There is definitely a place for this group like this in this town.

**Correspondent**

Canada

There are protest movements throughout Europe. Italian farmers, sugar growers, and others are fighting, rather than the state, should pay European Union overproduction fines, have taken to the streets with a vengeance. On Dec. 14 they dragged a huge black and white cow (named Erolina and now a national celebrity) into Vatican City, just as the Pope was delivering a traditional weekly benediction. He stopped pleading at seeing the demonstrators. Four days later the farmers staged a March on Rome, blocking the main roads and railways with the tractor. Next day throughout the country they handed out free fruit and dairy products to passengers by to gain "solidarity."

The demonstrations have angered the authorities. President Salfaro warned they were illegal. Prime Minister Prodi had been besieged by the wave of protest given by Italian TV. The publicity had an air of new sorts, manufacturers, rice growers and sugar producers now want to join the protests.

**Observer East Europe**

**NEW GLOBAL CORPORATE CONSTITUTION?**

Recently, the Swiss banks have been pilloried for bribing foreign officials and gold lost by the Nazis. Could the Swiss banks come under scrutiny one of these days for laundering wartime profits of Ford, GM and perhaps other U.S. corpo-

**FIGHTING RACISM**

The police acted criminally in Memphis at the anti-KKK rally. They planted for a riot and produced one. After those, those of us in Memphis Against Racism are on the job keeping up. We have to because the Mayor and police are not going to say they were wrong and the protesters were right. There was a unifying experience before the police attack is continuing to unabash us now. There is definitely a place for this group like this in this town.

Memphis

Member, Memphis Against Racism

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Many of us left the anti-Klan rally here not knowing who we should be fighting. the Klan or the police. The mass media grossly misrepresented the entire incident and blamed the violence on guns. But everyone in Memphis knows that the biggest gang in this city is the NOT-eulogized one. Only one who can make the revolution. Working out that difficult relation of the
demonstrators, spontaneous, creative self-activity, the theoreticians can prepare for revolution.

**Memphis**

Anarchist former

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Detroit

**NEW WORKERS' UNIONS needed; old ones needed. The story of how Charles Denby had stresses his failure to do in Bolivia what he had done in Cuba — relate himself to the masses instead of substituting himself for the masses, by working out a new relationship for guerrilla fighting and revolutionary and of theory to practice. I felt that the story of how Charles Denby had to break with Stokely Carmichael, which Lou Turner took up in the essay on the politics of the Black community, speaks to that critique of Che in an important way. In Philosophy and Revolution Revolutions also shows Carmichael's affinity to Che's impatience with the language of the intellectuals, that only ones who can make the revolution. We have to because the Mayor and
deeply divided along racial lines: the Mayor doesn't deserve the eulogy he got in the
demonstrators, spontaneous, creative self-activity, the theoreticians can prepare for revolution.

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Tennessee

**American Civilization on Trial, Black Masses as Vanguards**

Statement of the National Editorial Board. Includes "A 1980s View of the Two-Way Road Between the U.S. and Africa" by Raya Dunayevskaya, and "Black Caucuses in the Unions" by Charles Denby.

**Harry McShane and the Scottish Roots of Marxist-Humanism** by Peter Hude

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**Memphis**

Anarchist former

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Detroit

**New Work**

Anarchist former

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Tennessee

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Tennessee
Memphis, Tenn. — At a rally protesting the nation's botched war on drugs earlier in the day, the courthouse steps by 25 members of the Indiana KU Klux Klan, a rogue faction of the Memphis Police Department, who had gathered anti-Klan protesters with tear gas and violence.

By the time the police cleared the courthouse steps to prevent an assembly—an even mixture of Black and white people—gathering in downtown Memphis to protest the appearance of the Klan, the KU Klux Klan had gathered protesters along heavily guarded streets, to a checkpoint where horde of police used metal detectors to search for dangerous objects.

The protest grew steadily, including members of the Anti-Racist Defense League of Memphis, Kentucky—Concerned Citizens Committee, News and Letters Committees, Women's Action Coalition and numerous others. Yet police treated them as a white supremacist group spreading hate, displaying their lack of respect for the First Amendment rights.

Dr. Herenton, the lost and confused Mayor of Memphis, secretly met with Police Chief Winfrey before the rally, and the whole city was on high alert.

The police had never seen that many white and Black people protest together.

It was horrible, like a battlefield, like a pandemonium that broke out in Memphis in the 1968 uprise. Screams pierced the air. Blinded mothers grabbed in vain to find their babies. Peaceful protesters were knocked to the ground. MPD officers sprayed down protesters with tear gas, sailors with tear gas, cops with tear gas, slapping young Black men to the asphalt.

Zimbabwe food riot

Urban warfare breaks out in Harare, Zimbabwe as police workers fight police across burning barricades.

Black/Red View

Amistad comes to life

by John Alan

Steven Spielberg's new film Amistad began its debut at the end of a legal conflict over copyright and television rights that has taken on huge proportions since the press, on television talk shows and on the Internet.

Steven Spielberg's Amistad was based on the true story that during the first decade of the 19th century, Joseph Cinque, the leader of the slave revolt, played by the African actor Djimon Hounsou, was not given a proper trial and was shipped to the United States.

John Quincy Adams, played by Anthony Hopkins, was one of the lawyers who fought against the government and the powerful political and economic interests that were involved in the case.

The movie was a powerful speaking role in his defense and was the African actor Djimon Hounsou, was not given a

Then, suddenly, without cause, MPD officers tossed tear gas canisters into the closely packed crowd of protesters, despite the presence of senior citizens and babies. Whoeose, coughing, and crying, most protesters were alarmed, trying to beat back or protect themselves from the onslaught of tear gas, vicious police, and mounted cavalry. A few of the protesters kicked the tear gas canisters back at policemen.

With nowhere to go, to a stampede ensued. MPD officers attacked, viciously, without mercy.

The police had never seen that many white and Black people protest together.

The police had never seen that many white and Black people protest together.

It wasn't a riot. It was a police attack on the people.

When I got sprayed, and went down, the guy who sprayed me didn't say a word to me. He didn't look at me, I told him I had asthma and he was still spraying! There was a heavy woman on the steps too and they kept spraying her face. I asked them why they were spraying her and they still kept spraying her and she finally went down to the sidewalk and asked them what were they doing. I think the police officer was very much in a rage.

There were a lot of older people, whole families. People for my son, but they were looking for any Black child. Because somebody got killed they were going to load their gun and sat in the middle of the police station. This is what young Blacks have to go through, how I feel about it. I don't know if we want to physically stop the police, how Black people are treated in America. That's why I say that if anti-Klan demonstration had been all Black and class actions have been deaths because we have shut us.

Howard Jones has written a book Mutiny on the Amistad.

Amistad

As Howard Jones*—Beach Professor of History at the University of Alabama—has pointed out, the story of the Amistad mutiny "might have ended quietly..." in a novel and unremarkable way.

In 1839, the Spanish slave ship Amistad began its northward journey from Africa to the western coast of the Americas, carrying a cargo of slaves to be sold as wage laborers.

After Joseph Cinque picked the locks and released the crew, the ship was taken over by the crew and headed toward the coast of the United States, where slavery was illegal. The crew was arrested and brought to court in Connecticut, where they were tried for mutiny.

"The slave ship Amistad was a complex historical event," writes Jones. "It was a real-life tragedy, a trade conflict, and a moral drama that shed light on the moral and ethical implications of the institution of slavery."
For those who became revolutionaries as young people in the massive freedom movements of the 1960s, it is sad to realize that 30 years after the Poor People's Campaign of 1968, the causes remain the same and the idealism of the Black struggle inspired young, rank-and-file workers', women's and welfare rights movements; being poor in the 1990s means that basic rights will be eliminated. Today, in the U.S. ten million more people live in poverty than did in 1968.

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

The Poor People's Campaign was sponsored by Martin Luther King Jr.'s organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, at a time when he was expanding civil rights to include labor and economic rights. King was assassinated just before the May-June event, when he went to Memphis to support striking sanitation workers. This was also a time of welfare reform to change benefits and conditions of welfare.

All over the country, bitter white farmers as well as Blacks, and many local organizations joined civil rights groups in turning out people to the marches that began over the South and found the country and ended in Washington. The depth of the movement for change and its ability to self-organize were revealed as civil and female labor, the food and clothing to the various stages for the movement.

Over one hundred thousand people rallied in Washington and thousands remained for two months in an encampment by the Washington Monument that was eventually slogged in mud, the tent city was the base for lobbying Congress to live up to President Johnson's declaration of a "war on poverty in the 1960s." The march was also a call to action for the world over the violence in Chiapas.

But when the mass movement died down, the government programs did too, and the crisis in capitalism necessarily continues. The recent demands of the organizations, from the farm workers to the inner cities, and the EZLN are confirming thousands who lived in the camps.

For two days straight in the second week of January, dozens of Tzotzil women were able to keep the army from advancing on the encampment at Tzicatlan against the police and military for the Ejido of Nochixtlán in Chiapas. The army then had to set up camp five kilometers from there.

On January 12, the day of the international protests, 500 Tzotzil and Tzeltal Indians from a dozen independent organizations confronted the police in Ocozocoautla on their march to Mexico City, Tzotzil and Tzeltal Indians were then attacked when the police fired into the crowd.

Another important event took place in the capital a week earlier, on the 28th, when a group of the EZLN's (Zapatista National Liberation Army) who had recently returned from a trip to Chiapas, formerly of the Ejido of Nochixtlán in Chiapas, to "break the information blockade of the violence in Chiapas," and they succeeded in making their presence known for the first time in the capital.

Another important act was the occupation of the Tlatelolco Community Center, a project begun in the 1960s by the movement of the 28th of October in the Venustiano Carranza neighborhood, in Mexico City. The community center was occupied by the EZLN, who have now declared their intention of occupying the center for two hours to publicize the plight of the "indigenous." All Eyes on Chiapas

The fact that Mexico's four-year-old civil war has reached a dangerous juncture has not been lost on the rest of Mexico. And the EZLN has no shortage of those who have solidarity with the movement throughout this time.

During the holidays there were protests from Canada to Tokyo by a cross-border movement, and from the U.S. to France.

AMERICA'S UNFINISHED WAR ON POVERTY

What can be done to change this? First, our solidarity must be increased at least in fits and starts. That makes it all the more important for those, both within Mexico as well as in the U.S., who are committed to justice for the EZLN to be more involved. For the EZLN to be respected, they must be seen as a group that can be trusted to fight for a just and peaceful change in Chiapas without a real transformation of the system which generates these violent situations.

In this sense, the EZLN's mandate to "not negotiate with the defense of our children" and "not negotiate with the army" does not constitute the "army of the unemployed" he described in his letter to President Salinas. A people who are mobilized and united can bring about a new basic social organization that will replace it with a human society that doesn't breed poverty.

We have pointed out in earlier issues of News & Letters that the EZLN is the most radical force that has ever had on the EZLN's territory, especially as expressed by Subcomandante Marcos. It is understandable, though, that much of the media and the government have called his leadership a "necoliberalmism," and seek support from the institutions of "civil society" to act as mediators with the EZLN. In fact, it is precisely this situation that is contained in the statement published in La Jornada on Friday, January 15, 1998, for example, he said: "We cannot ask for radical change in Chiapas without a real transformation of the system which generates these violent situations."

In the absence of a mass movement to confront the continuing plight of the poor, even individual efforts to help people in the midst of their struggles can be thwarted. The welfare rights movement advocates education and training as legitimate work, but the new federal law mandates the states to compel all welfare recipients to enter workfare instead.

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A critique...

In Stephen Steigler's critique in the November issue of the October News & Letters editorial "Bohemia: Revolution was a bad idea," he asserts that the editorial implies the Bohemian government should be reformed in "order for them to start a new war," and that this call for war is "opposed to the Marxist-Humanist body of ideas." In their response to Steigler, they argue that the decision to call for war was made by the Bohemian government from having deviated from the Marxist-Humanist body of ideas on Bosnia is in continuity with the civil war in the U.S.

If I found this unconvincing.

When Marx said, "a single Negro regime would be a single white regime," an abstract concept of revolution. Marx was actually criticizing Frederick Engels, who, like Marx, concluded that the war in the South leaves productive labor to the slaves and could be seen as an effort to preserve the union and slavery. While the Yankees have so far been trying to conduct the war on revolutionary lines, the South or a capitulation to the policies of a bourgeois government. The same is true of our position on Bosnia today.

We are fully aware that Marx's comment on Negro revolution is not applicable to a bourgeois government than Marx's insistence on the U.S. Civil War. The response does say that "we have to single out for special treatment a bourgeois government," but rather than confronting this contradiction, the REU unreflectively roads on that same government to reignite a bloody civil war with the faith that their military victory will teach the masses of the region a lesson. This is a superficial understanding of the matter out dialectically. We should keep in mind that Engels scoffed at the call for a "single Negro regime" and Engels has made no claim that you let yourself be swayed a little too much by the military aspect of things."

Our answer...

In his critique of the News & Letters position on Bosnia, Jim Guthrie says that our support for the Bohemian struggle against the September 1995 war in Bosnia, our support for the Bosnian government, if given enough whips and carrots, will lead to the "outside force" to liberate Bosnia shows that he does not understand the general points of the REU's position on Bosnia.

In opposing this, we found that a new, potentially unreflective war effort had arisen—"the Bosnian people's struggle for a multiclass society. As part of this, from 1993 onward we supported extending military as well as political pressure on the Bosnian government, if given enough whips and carrots, will lead to the "outside force" to liberate Bosnia shows that he does not understand the general points of the REU's position on Bosnia.

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because they are charging people a lot of money for a nice amount of money so they can live.

us pay so much, they should pay the people down there sneaks? That's just not right. It's really wrong doing to us. Why do we have to pay $160 for six dollar grace?

Give Back Campaign came to Nike Town with one hun­

New York—The Settlement House Youth Nike give Back Campaign came to Nike Town with one hundred dollars. They told N&L:

“We here to say, don’t do it, Nike! We’re from Settlement House. We represent all of his property, including valuable legal material. Along with various threats to his well-being, he was told he was being charged with conspiracy to smuggle guns into the prison—a blatant lie and frame-up.

The situation on these charges could result in 30 to 40 more years of prison. How long can anyone endure these conditions? Chris has been there 11 years. He will not do a day of the new conviction, if I’m convicted I will hunger strike to the end—

We support the defense of Chris and halt this drawn-out, tortuous injustice—not just because Chris’ life is on the line, but because he is one of those who has struggled for social justice for so long. Contact the Chris Plummer Support Group, P.O. Box 416551, Key West, FL 33041 (305) 296-2818.

Chris Plummer is an anti-racist anarchist activist imprisoned in Texas. After being involved with the squat-...
Indonesia and South Korea on the Brink

by Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

Despite the promised injection of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank billions of dollars to save South Korea from economic collapse, the crisis has continued to worsen. In Indonesia, the currency began a new spiral of decline in January and is now worth less than 20% of its value last July. With no end in sight, there is talk of the death of US$1 trillion in foreign-exchange reserves, the stripped stores of food, fuel and other basic consumer goods.

While the IMF was putting together terms for a $40 billion emergency loan, the deal turned shaky when the U.S. Department of Justice, the Suharto government, and the IMF agreed to work off a series of "austerity" measures which would cut directly into government-controlled enterprises. The Suharto family has gorged directly on these businesses over the last three decades.

The sinking currency in Indonesia has intensified the unrest already experienced there, including strikes and other labor actions, and ethnic clashes particularly directed at the more than 1 million Chinese. The Chinese are the richest and most powerful of the few remaining classes who have a stake in the finance and commerce structures. Unemployment stands at 4.5 million and is expected to grow by another 2 million in 1998.

Expanding its concerns from "economic" to "social" and "political" regional stability, the U.S. loaned heavily on Suharto to meet the IMF's terms—break-up of government-controlled monopolies, drastic cuts in government spending, ending subsidies for food and other basic commodities. After phone calls from the rulers of the U.S., Germany and Japan, and visits from Clinton cabinet members and the head of the IMF, Suharto agreed. The military has vowed to crush any opposition.

In South Korea, the long-time government opponent and political "outsider" Kim Dae Jung was barely elected president on Dec. 15, with 46% of the vote. His win was due in large part to the anger of Koreans over the disintegration of the economy. Negotiations with the IMF for the 3-5% of their wage—to the internationally not recognized "5%"-of-their-wage strikers that had been scheduled for job training enacted by the previous right-wing government. They also called for a $250/month hike in unemployment and welfare benefits, "immediately, and forever!"

This first serious challenge from below to Lionel Jospin's recently elected Socialist-led government has been met with a determined effort to crush it. Since the election last June, France's 12.9% unemployment rate has not changed. The government promises to institute a 35-hour workweek to create more jobs, but not until the year 2002.

In Paris, 200 unemployed activists also blocked trains at the city's main railroad station. As an expression of the kind of solidarity that has emerged, railroad workers asserted that if police intervened, they would shut down all rail service in the area. Even the Louvre Museum experienced a brief occupation of its courtyard by the unemployed.

Groups such as Action Together Against Unemployment (ACI), which includes many leftists, activists, from Trotskyists to anarchists, and the CGT have organized most of the demonstrations. As one ACI activist put it: "What is important in a movement like ours is that we are raising our heads and that we are proving to others that it is possible to fight back." Another added: "Act of solidarity and expressions of sympathy are growing. People are saying to us: 'We understand, we are also unemployed. We know what it is, but to reveal and further develop the revolutionary Humanist philosophy of liberation—ourselves, it presents the vantage point for re-creating new visions of the future which Dunayevskaya left us in her work from the 1950s to the 1980s. The discovery of Marx's Marxism in its original form as a new Humanism and in her re-creation of that philosophy--our age as Marxism Humanism. This is the foundation of our movement and open to all under the title The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection—Marxism-Humanism—A Hilltop of Its World Development. Dunayevskaya's works interweave and comprehensively her creation and development of Marxist-Humanism, especially as expressed in her history of 1980s strikes, which presents the vantage point for re-creating her ideas anew. Seeking to grasp that vantage point for ourselves and make it available to all who struggle, we are printing some of Dunayevskaya's original 1953 philo- sophic breakthrough and her final 1987 Presentation on the Dialectic of Organization and Philosophy in The Philosophy of Humanism. We have also encouraged Letters Committees. In opposition to this capitalist, racist, sexist society, we have organized ourselves into a committee form of organization rather than a party form. We participate in all class and freedom struggles. This is a beginning for our Constitution states: "It is our aim... to promote the freedom unity of all workers, of women, of minorities, women, youth and those intellectuals who have broken with the ruling bureaucracy of both East and West labor." We do not separate mass activities from our work. We have published for a copy of the Constitution of News and Letters Committees.