

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT-FOUNDED 1974

Edited by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit, Supporter of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International

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## Workers of all races! Unite against white racist attacks!

Black people of Detroit and working class groups responded quickly to the racist attacks on Blacks outside Harpo's on the Eastside of Detroit and in Roseville. 50 to 200 people began demonstrating regularly outside Harpo's. A small Black church in Detroit began to bring together Black marines to patrol the street in Roseville where Charles Gibson, the 19-year-old Black man, was beaten to death.

But, in both cases, the powers that rule Detroit intervened to try to prevent more large actions against these racist attacks.

New Detroit, Inc. (an association including representatives of some of the largest monopoly banks, real estate, and auto firms in the Detroit area) and Mayor Coleman Young's office, sent their own representatives to make a deal with Harpo's and excluded representatives of the demonstrators that had been picketing Harpo's.

The Original New Grace Baptist Church was forced to retreat from its decision to send Black marines to patrol Roseville, in exchange for a promise from the Roseville police that the Roseville police will do better in the future.

At the same time, the newspapers, which are owned and controlled by the same monopolies that own and control everything else in the Detroit area (including the Mayor's office and the police force), have been arguing that these attacks were not really racist attacks, that whites were fighting with whites and that Blacks were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

(This is, at best, self-deception, at worst, a lie, that serves to protect white racist thugs. The current generation of young whites has been bombarded with racist propaganda: the Reagan-Bush Supreme Court decision against affirmative action programs for Blacks; Bush's presidential election campaign centering on "getting-tough" with alleged Black criminals like Willie Horton; the racist attacks on Black figures like Marion Barry and Coleman Young, who are no more corrupt than white politicians like

Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, etc.; the constant racist propaganda against peoples of other lands, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, etc. The only whites that do not become racists in such an atmosphere are those that work or live with Blacks and/or make a conscious decision against this racist propaganda.)

Why are the powers that rule Detroit against large actions against these racist attacks on Blacks?

Because any kind of large struggle against these racist attacks is going to tend to unify the working class in the Detroit area.

Blacks constitute one of the most working class and thoughtful sections of the working class in the Detroit area; they have a tremendous amount of influence over the most working class and thoughtful white workers.

More struggles are breaking out, against racist attacks on Black people, against pro-company union contracts, against U.S. intervention in the Middle East and other crimes against workers and oppressed peoples.

Workers should support these struggles and work to make them as large and as united as possible. These struggles can help create the

For precisely this reason, workers of all races need to continue and develop the struggle against these racist attacks on Black people. They need to form an independent, working class committee to investigate these attacks, and to find and punish the racist thugs responsible for them.

The police have arrested, charge and imprisoned several men. But it's not possible to rely on the police, because the police have been selected and trained to serve the powers that rule Detroit, not the masses of Black and white working people.

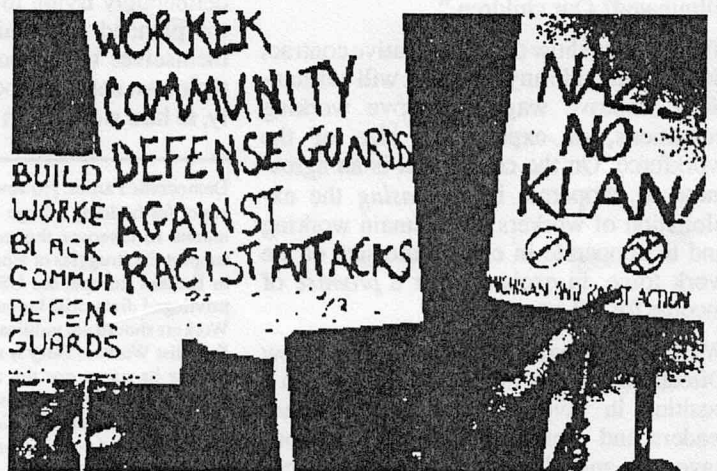
The more workers of all races struggle along these lines, the more they will see that the working class is capable of forming its own working class party, of taking over the monopolies, and of running them in the interests of the people. ■

## A workers party to takeover the monopolies!

conditions in which workers will be able to resolve the problems before them. But these struggles alone will not resolve the problems before the workers.

Workers need to build a workers party, based on the unions, to takeover the monopolies and develop a planned economy in the interests of the people.

(Continued on back page)



Demonstrators in front of Harpo's last month.

**SUPPORT THIS STRUGGLE — SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH!**



## Briefly . . .

**Spark**, a Trotskyist group with supporters active in the auto plants and in the UAW, issued a leaflet **against the tentative contract with GM**. They make the following points about the contract:

— “the raise amounts to only 3 cents, not 3 percent”;

— a joint management-union committee will work for “...‘the establishment of work standards on operations that fully utilize employees.’ What does that mean? It means adding on to jobs until you don’t even have time to spit.”

— “when two people retire, the company only has to replace one person. And if two people go out on an early retirement, then GM doesn’t have to hire or recall anyone to replace them. If people retire and the company doesn’t have to replace them, who do you think is going to be expected to pick up all the extra work? We will be. And who won’t be getting the jobs that are eliminated? Our children.”

These points show that the tentative contract does not include anything that will substantially improve wages, improve working conditions, or expand the size of the workforce. On the contrary, it is an agreement to cooperate in *increasing* the exploitation of workers who remain working and to cooperate in cutting the size of the work force, in exchange for a *promise* of income for a 3-year period.

While Don Douglas, a key leader of the New Directions Caucus in the UAW has taken a position in favor of the contract, other leaders and members of New Directions have not, and plan to publish a statement against the contract.

All workers should support the efforts of Spark, New Directions, and other workers’ groups to get out the truth about the contract. **A united fight against this contract, for a contract that advances the interests of the workers, not the bosses, is necessary.** If the current owners of the auto monopolies refuse to agree to such a contract, this will simply show that they have outlived their usefulness, that workers need to form their own workers party and takeover these monopolies.

**200 demonstrated against U.S. intervention in the Middle East** outside a meeting where George Bush was speaking in downtown Detroit on September 27. There will be a national day of action against U.S. intervention on October 20. A meeting will be held concerning U.S. intervention in the Middle East at the SANE-Freeze office (9 mile and Woodward) on Monday, October 1, at 7 p.m. We urge all working class groups to attend this meeting and push for the largest possible struggle to bring the troops home now, and against any and every attempt to sabotage such a struggle.

The Workers World Party’s name will be on the ballot in the November elections. It’s running candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, senator and other offices. Workers should vote for this party and its candidates against the bourgeois Republican and

## Workers party . . .

(Continued from front page)

All the bourgeois publications in the U.S. and elsewhere say that workers parties and planned economies have failed, and point to the USSR. This is a lie.

Workers and oppressed peoples in the USSR and Eastern Europe have taken up a struggle against the privileged dictatorial bureaucracies that have taken over the workers parties, the workers governments, and the workers planned economies, and that have tried to take a disproportionate share of the wealth of society for themselves and that have tried to persecute and oppress all those that have gotten in the way.

Now that the workers and oppressed peoples are rising up against this social inequality and political oppression, these same privileged dictatorial bureaucrats are deliberately dissolving parties based in any way on the working class and they are deliberately trying to sabotage and destroy the planned economies, in order to allow themselves to put public state property in their own names, to begin to use this property, to hire workers, to produce for the world

Democratic Parties. However, the Workers World Party is not for building a large workers party based on the unions to takeover the monopolies and it does not support the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples in Eastern Europe, the USSR, and China against the privileged dictatorial bureaucracies in these countries. Workers should not politically support its program. The Socialist Workers Party is also running candidates, but neither its name nor the majority of its candidates’ names will appear on the ballot. Andrew Pulley’s name will be on the ballot for Congress in the 13th district; workers should vote for this working class candidate.

**There was a demonstration for the right to abortion**, against a law forcing women under 18 to get parental or judicial permission for an abortion, September 15 in downtown Detroit. Demonstrators also marked the anniversary of the death of Becky Bell, a young woman who was afraid to tell her parents she was pregnant and died from a massive infection after an illegal abortion.

**George Bush welcomed DeKlerk, the white racist head of the apartheid regime in Southern Africa**, while this same regime, its police, and its Black supporters in Inkatha, continue to organize massive violence against the African National Congress (ANC) and the masses of Black people in Southern Africa. This shows once again that Bush was being totally hypocritical when he claimed to support Nelson Mandela and the struggle against apartheid in Southern Africa when Mandela was in the U.S. Workers of all races need to fight for a **total union boycott of all supplies to the apartheid regime**, until this regime is totally destroyed.

**Hands off Hussein and Iraq!** The head of the U.S. Air Force recently revealed that the U.S. is planning to bomb Hussein’s home. Workers of all races must oppose this. It is impossible to unite workers of all races and nationalities, if workers in the U.S. allow the U.S. government to murder workers of other races and nationalities in other lands and the heads of their countries. Workers have never supported Hussein’s attacks on Iran and the Kurdish people in Iraq. But his crimes are absolutely nothing compared to those of Bush, former head of the CIA, which has been training and arming death squads from Central America, to South America, to the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

market, and to make profits so that they can enrich themselves at the expense of the people.

Workers in the U.S. *and the USSR* need to build workers parties to takeover the privately-owned monopolies in the U.S. and to takeover the publicly-owned state enterprises in the USSR, to develop planned economies in the interests of the people in both countries, and to crush the resistance of the exploiters and oppressors in both countries — in Marxist terms, the imperialist bourgeoisie in the U.S. and the Stalinist bureaucracy in the USSR.

This will be a big step toward building truly socialist and communist societies, where there is no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom.

Workers who are for this should subscribe to *Truth*, help distribute *Truth*, and help build Trotskyist Committees in workplaces, working class schools, and working class neighborhoods to lead this struggle.

Working class Trotskyist forces are the organized political forces truest to this struggle. — M. Guttshall. ■

**200 people demonstrated against the trial against Dennis Barrie**, the head of an art museum in Cincinnati, Ohio, who is being tried for obscenity because he allowed photographs of homosexual activity and of nude children to be shown. Workers should support the struggle in defense of Barrie. The right to engage in sexual activity between consenting adults and the right to freedom in artistic expression are elementary democratic rights. The reactionary U.S. government, responsible for starving and torturing thousands throughout the world, must not be allowed to legislate morality.

The Socialist Workers Party just abandoned its previous position defending Hussein, Iraq, and the occupation of Kuwait against U.S. imperialism and its puppets.

**Spark**, a Trotskyist group in Detroit, held a forum against U.S. war on Iraq. Spark opposes U.S. intervention in the Middle East. However, it was not clear at the meeting if Spark favors a united fight to bring U.S. troops home now and if Spark favors supporting Hussein and Iraq against U.S. forces.

The Revolutionary Workers League, a Trotskyist group in Detroit, and the International Socialist League, a Trotskyist group in New York and Los Angeles associated with the International Workers League, each published statements supporting Iraq against U.S. imperialism. For copies write: RWL, Box 1092, Detroit, MI 48231; ISL, Box 831, NY, NY 10008.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 20 copies of *Truth* at the Ford Rouge plant and at a meeting against racism at Harpo’s. We also passed out 500 leaflets against the tentative GM contract to workers at the GM Poletown plant, the GM Saginaw Gear and Axle plant, and the Ford Rouge plant.

**Note:** When we first published the last issue of *Truth*, *Truth* No. 245, the headline read: “White workers! Workers of all races! Unity against white racist criminals!” We distributed a few at the Ford Rouge plant. We found that our attempt to address ourselves especially to white workers confused both white and Black workers. It wasn’t clear that our propaganda was propaganda *against* white racism. Thus we deleted this line and reprinted *Truth* with the headline: “Workers of all races! Unity against white racist criminals!” ■

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### TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Com-

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# Unity against the auto bosses and the traitor Bieber! Vote No!

Bieber and the Administration Caucus are pushing a contract that does nothing to improve the working conditions, and that allows plant closings and layoffs in exchange for a little hush money.

The workers must vote NO on this contract.

The working conditions today in the plants are the worst they have been in years. There are more heart attacks, there are more workers compensation cases, there is just *more* suffering.

GM is making as many cars as it did years back with about 2/3 the workers. Ford is making more cars with 1/2 the workers. The companies are continually adding work, and committeemen often refuse to file grievances to protect the workers from disciplinary actions and work overloads!

Bieber's contract won zero, *nothing*, to stop layoffs and plant closings. All the workers laid off now are simply abandoned. Everyone knows GM plans to close more plants. Autoworkers cannot allow this bleeding of the workforce to continue. Workers need *real* jobs to make a living — not hush money for a few years.

Autoworkers can continue this struggle by voting no and by fighting for a more working class platform, and a more working class leadership. They can fight for:

- jobs for all; divide work among all workers without cutting pay;
- equal pay for equal work; equal rights for new hires, young, Black, and women workers.

Workers must fight for a *strike of all three* to go as far as possible towards winning these demands. In the short run, the autoworkers may get a contract that better defends all autoworkers. In the long run, such a struggle would definitely strengthen the working class.

