

# REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

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\$1

## Coalfield Combat Zone

Across the Appalachian coal fields there is a militancy that hasn't been seen in a decade. "Welcome to Beijing China, c/o Governor Li Peng" reads a sign on a lawn in Cleveland, Virginia near the baseball field where miners gather for picket duty. Convoys snake down toward Virginia from six states. Thousands of miners fill the "solidarity camps" that now dot Virginia's coal fields. They arrive to fill the picket convoys and the jails. Back in the unionized coal fields of West Virginia, squads of picketers—often armed, masked with bandanas and ski masks—have laid siege to nonunion mines. As we go to press, the entire unionized coal fields east of the Mississippi are out on a work stoppage that started three weeks ago as a wildcat in support of miners at Pittston. 42,000 striking coal miners confront state police, federal marshals and hired soldiers of fortune, and the coalfields are like a combat zone.

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### A Deceptive Trap and a Real Attack

National Conference July 27, 28, 29



# Three Main Points

by **Bob Avakian**  
Chairman of  
the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

- 1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation — here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.
- 2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.
- 3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

# Down with the Fascist Flag Amendment!

A big move is being made by the powers-that-be to shut people up and shut people down in the name of the red, white and blue. The situation calls for political resistance from all quarters against this high-handed attempt by the government to dictate the terms of political protest. As soon as the Supreme Court ruled that, even according to the oppressors' own laws, burning the American Flag was a protected form of political protest, the U.S. President and Congress called for a constitutional amendment to outlaw antipatriotic protest once again. This fascist flag amendment says: "The Congress and the States shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States of America." This is a very dangerous move against the political rights of the people.

In the name of "the American people," an ugly program of punishment and repression is being carried out and wrapped in the flag. But this flag amendment is not in the interest of the majority of people. It is a top-down move by desperate men, unsure of the future of their system in a world of trouble. They are desperate to reverse the verdicts of the 1960s and to reimpose the "my country right or wrong" mentality.

The voices of all the basic people need to be heard, loud and clear, against this flag amendment. Our class needs to unite with broader forces who know a Nazi program when they see one. And those who think that this fascist amendment is not what the flag stands for need to come out and fight against it in unity with the oppressed. There is much at stake for the future.



Joey Johnson

**"We live in a sick and dying empire that's desperately clutching at its symbols."**

Joey Johnson, Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade



South Bronx, N.Y.

**Attention RW Readers: According to our publication schedule, the Revolutionary Worker will not publish an issue next week. Look for the RW again the first week of August.**

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COMMUNIQUE FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

Stakes are going up.  
Attacks are coming down from the powers that be.  
The atmosphere is charged.  
Battle lines are being drawn and forces are lining up  
—on the people's side, not just on theirs.

*In this situation, our Chairman Bob Avakian  
said our stand is:*

**FEAR NOTHING.  
BE DOWN FOR THE WHOLE THING.**



# El Diario Fights the Power in

The Peruvian government is facing a growing threat to its rule, especially from the people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru (often called Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path, by the media), and it is lashing out with even more vicious repression against the people and revolutionary and progressive forces. Backed by the U.S. and other imperialist powers, the Peruvian rulers are stepping up the campaigns of terror by their military against the peasantry in the countryside, the main base of support for the people's war. Armed missions by elite commandos trained by American advisers have become commonplace in the slums in the cities. Thousands of Peruvians have been jailed as "subversives" and are denied even minimal legal rights, and progressive lawyers have been attacked and killed by death squads linked to the ruling APRA party. The government calls high schools and universities "schools of terrorism" and has made them targets of police and army assaults.

One particular focus of the government's repression has been *El Diario*, a newspaper based in the capital city of Lima. *El Diario* has the third largest circulation in Peru—50,000 copies are sold daily, and many of the copies are passed from reader to reader. Many of the paper's most enthusiastic readers and supporters are people in the poorest sections of the cities of Peru.

*El Diario* has become widely known for its consistent exposure of the Peruvian regime's repression against the people and progressive individuals and organizations as well as for its serious and respected reports on the actions, leaders, and aims of the people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru. During strikes and demonstrations, protesters and marchers can be seen holding up copies of *El Diario*. Large numbers of people have come to rely on this paper to cut through the lies put out by the government and the reactionary press.

Last March 8, when *El Diario* started publishing again after being forced to shut down by the government, the paper's editorial stated: "In these five months of suspension the reactionary and servile press has called us many names, for example the often used 'voice of Sendero.' We know that this shows their inability to understand that while they practice a servile, even mercenary journalism, we take up and will always take up the pen in the service of the country's oppressed."

So it is not surprising that the Peruvian reactionaries have attacked this newspaper fiercely, intent on silencing it for good. But the ferocity of these attacks has been more than matched by the brave determination of the staff and supporters of *El Diario*.

## Putting a Spotlight on the Crimes of the Rulers

For years *El Diario* has played a big role in exposing the crimes of the Peruvian rulers. In 1983 eight journalists, including three from *El Diario*, traveled to the highlands of Peru to investigate what the government claimed was a "Sendero massacre." They were all brutally killed by the Sinchis, an elite commando unit of the police. The government's investigative commission, headed by writer Mario Vargas Llosa (now a right-wing presidential candidate), outrageously declared that the murders of the journalists were committed by the peasants of the area due to their "backwardness" and "ignorance." The commission's report was given immediate and wide coverage by the bourgeois media in Peru and internationally.

But *El Diario*, together with the families of all the journalists, uncovered the truth about this crime and revealed that the eyewitnesses, who saw government troops committing the massacre, were themselves isolated, charged with the murders, and jailed or put in hospitals under constant police guard "for their own protection."

On June 18, 1986 the Alan García government ordered an assault by the

combined armed forces against the revolutionary prisoners being held in three prisons in Lima. *El Diario* had been covering the struggle of the prisoners and had warned that the government was planning a massacre. Over 300 prisoners were killed in the assault—at least 100 of them were murdered in cold blood after the battle was over.

The next morning the Investigative Police raided the offices of *El Diario* to confiscate that day's edition. When they found the offices empty, the police went to the paper's distribution points to carry out the confiscation. That same morning the police disconnected *El Diario*'s telephone line, cutting the link between the reporters and the paper's offices. The next day's edition was also prevented from reaching the people by the police.

As soon as it was able to reopen, and despite death threats against its editor, *El Diario* printed an interview with Dr. Martha Huatay, lawyer for many of the prisoners who were killed and an activist for the rights of political prisoners. She accused the government of genocide and stated: "*El Diario* was right, the news was not false, because the prisoners gave a lot of proof to all the national press, which, for the most part, chose to ignore it. *El Diario* stepped forward to tell the truth, the whole truth, and that dignifies our national press and its reporters."

## The Bombing of El Diario

At 9:20 in the morning on October 2, 1987, three men attempted to place a bomb in a car outside the offices of *El Diario*. They were riding in a Volkswagen without license plates. The bomb accidentally went off, killing two of the men instantly and seriously injuring the third.

According to Peruvian law, when an incident like this happens a judge is supposed to be called to the scene to supervise the investigation. But instead of a judge, a large contingent of police headed by colonels and generals was at the scene within five minutes of the explosion. They ordered the removal of the bombers, the evacuation of the perimeter, and an immediate cleanup of the area. The survivor, Miguel Ríos Sáenz, was quickly taken to the Police Hospital under a false name, isolated in his room, and kept under constant guard by the Investigative Police. The general heading this fascist unit never left his side.

The three attackers were later identified as "militants" of the ruling APRA party, and Ríos Sáenz was exposed as having been a special bodyguard for then-Vice Interior Minister, Augustín Mantilla. An official hearing later declared that the three paramilitary thugs were not guilty of the attempted bombing and claimed that they had been "victims of a terrorist attempt" while innocently passing by the offices of *El Diario*. This attack marked a leap in the repressive tactics against *El Diario*.

## Interview with Chairman Gonzalo

On July 24, 1988 *El Diario* published an important, unprecedented interview with the Chairman of the Communist Party of Peru, Comrade Gonzalo. The interview was conducted by Luis Arce Borja, the paper's editor. The publication of this interview deeply stung Peru's rulers. It was a major political event in Peru and was also covered by the international media. The first two printings of 100,000 copies each sold out immediately.

In his "State of the Nation" speech a few days later, Peruvian president Alan García announced a series of legal measures designed to strengthen the police and military and prepare to wage an even more desperate struggle against the people's war. One of these measures was aimed directly at *El Diario*. To stop what he called "slandering rags" from printing material on the people's war which does not agree with the government's official line, García introduced Law 24953 against so-called "propaganda in favor of terrorism." The Peruvian rulers and their imperialist backers use "terrorism" as a code word for the peo-

ple's war and the Communist Party of Peru.

The law states: "Those who publicly or through any social medium of communication incite the commission of acts of terrorism, as well as those who publicly defend, exalt or glorify an act of terrorism already committed, or praise a person or persons convicted and sentenced for their participation in criminal acts, will be imprisoned for no less than five years."

An incident which happened on the same morning that García gave his speech showed just who are the real terrorists and perpetrators of reactionary violence. Manuel Febres Flores, a legal counsel to *El Diario* and member of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, was assassinated by a death squad calling itself the Rodrigo Franco Command. In a document submitted to the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in March 1989, Luis Arce Borja revealed that this death squad is led by Augustín Mantilla, now the Interior Minister and a close confidant of Alan García.

## Political Battle for the Press

Less than a month after García's speech, and even before the new law had been officially passed, the government moved against *El Diario* again. Luis Arce Borja, several colleagues, and the paper's printer were all arrested. The third print-

ing of the interview with Chairman Gonzalo was confiscated. The same official who declared the APRA thugs innocent of the 1987 bombing attack on *El Diario* accused Arce Borja and a colleague, Danilo Blanco Cabeza, of being "subversives" and ordered them imprisoned. The two were held in prison for almost forty days, and they were released only after there was a storm of protests against the detention from broad sections of Peruvian society, including a famous television news anchorman who was later threatened by the Rodrigo Franco Command.

On October 7, 1988 the Rodrigo Franco Command carried out several violent attacks against the homes of *El Diario* reporters and dynamited the newspaper's offices, destroying valuable equipment and shutting down the paper. Other progressive individuals and journalists also were attacked, including the editor of the weekly anti-APRA magazine *Oiga*.

Luis Arce Borja was arrested once again in December, only three days after the Peruvian Congress passed Law 24953. After his release Arce Borja traveled in Europe and Canada to denounce the Peruvian government's violent attacks against the people, and he introduced a motion to the 45th Conference of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. But because



Readers greet the reappearance of *El Diario* on March 8, 1989.



Demonstrators demanding an end to the repression of *El Diario*.

# Peru

of maneuvers by Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, Arce Borja was not allowed to speak to the conference. Those Latin American countries then supported a motion by the Peruvian government "on the violation of human rights caused by armed groups exercising violence against democratic governments!"

*El Diario* took the offensive and waged a campaign to raise \$100,000 to buy its own printing equipment so that the paper could reopen. The slogans for the campaign were, "The Masses Are the Makers of History" and "We Must Rely on Our Own Forces." Relying on its broad support among the people, *El Diario* finally reappeared on March 8, International Women's Day, of this year. An article in the March 8 issue pointed out: "It was the most impoverished sectors of the population who most resolutely took up the struggle [to reopen the paper]. . . . Because it is the masses who are the makers of history, this trench of combat is once again with them."

*El Diario* is still being hounded and threatened by the government and the reactionaries. On April 19, army troops tortured and killed an *El Diario* reporter in the jungle city of Tingo María. On June 12, 1989 *El Diario* was bombed once again. Two days later Janet Talavera, co-producer of the Chairman Gonzalo interview and current editor of the paper during Arce Borja's international tour, was arrested along with several others. She was charged under the provisions of Law 24953 and is still imprisoned.

But the rulers of Peru have not been able to silence *El Diario*, and this newspaper continues to be a defiant opponent of the government and a strong voice for the oppressed people of Peru.



Residents of one of the many shantytowns ringing Peru's cities.

## Transatlantic Plots to Stop Peru Editor Tour

The U.S. government—along with its Western European ally Belgium—is trying to mess with the U.S. speaking tour of *El Diario* editor Luis Arce Borja. The tour was scheduled to start in mid-July and go on into August. The moves by the U.S. mean that at least some of the tour might be delayed, and there is a real possibility of more outrageous attacks.

Luis Arce Borja, who has been speaking in Europe, applied for a U.S. visa in Belgium. On July 12 the U.S. ambassador to Belgium, Laura Livingston, informed Arce Borja that his visa could not be approved that day. The blatantly phony excuse cooked up by U.S. officials for their decision was that a church listed on his itinerary had not supplied an address to the embassy! The embassy also claimed that it would take eleven days to process paperwork on his visa. The eleven-day delay, however, was not computed from the date of Arce Borja's original visa application but from his July 12 meeting with the ambassador. The end of this eleven-day period falls past Arce Borja's first scheduled speaking engagement on July 21 and several other important press interviews and meetings in New York City. The U.S. government has in hand many letters of invitation from prominent individuals and organizations for Arce Borja to come to the U.S. as well as an itinerary for the tour. But this did not stop the U.S. from using a technicality as an excuse to try, at the very least, to cancel the New York leg of the tour.

The visa delay was followed immediately by another attack by the Belgian government, a NATO ally of the U.S. When Luis Arce Borja left the embassy

after the meeting with the ambassador, he was detained by a contingent of Belgian "anti-terrorist" police. Arce Borja was taken to their headquarters but not formally charged. However, a condition of his release was that he declare he would not take part in any "terrorist" activity while in Belgium. Arce Borja has been in Belgium for over a month and a half, and it is only now that the authorities have moved against him in this way.

The meeting between the U.S. ambassador and Arce Borja on his visa was a prescheduled meeting, so the Belgian authorities probably knew well in advance that he would be at the embassy. And the fact the ambassador herself—and not a lower-level bureaucrat—has dealt with Arce Borja's visa application from the start is not routine and shows that high levels of the U.S. government are focusing attention on the speaking tour. It is possible that the U.S. might use Arce Borja's arrest in Belgium as part of justifying an attempt to deny him entry into the U.S. All this points to a plot involving the governments of the U.S., Belgium and Peru to prevent Arce Borja from speaking in the U.S. and to continue the vicious suppression of *El Diario* and its staff.

These moves against Arce Borja's speaking tour come exactly one month after a death squad backed by high officials in the Peruvian regime bombed the offices of *El Diario*. Janet Talavera, the current editor of *El Diario* in Arce Borja's absence, was arrested by the Peruvian government in a violent police raid two days after this bombing. Janet Talavera remains in prison charged under the Peruvian law against so-called

"propaganda in favor of terrorism"—a law widely recognized to be a means to silence any opposition to the Peruvian regime's repression and particularly aimed at *El Diario*. Arce Borja has been waging a campaign in Europe to demand her release from prison.

A recent press statement by the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, Berkeley, which in cooperation with a broad array of groups and individuals initiated and is coordinating Luis Arce Borja's tour, stated: "The U.S. government has lately been quite fond of promoting its supposed credentials as a country with a 'fair and independent press' and a land without official censorship. Yet the U.S. media has been filled with lies and distortions regarding the genuine people's war in Peru and the role of the U.S. government in that country. And now, Luis Arce Borja, an internationally recognized journalist and speaker, who brings with him a rare combination of direct experience and vast knowledge of the situation in Peru, faces very possible censorship by the U.S. government, much like the cases of Donald Woods and Dennis Brutus."

The Arce Borja speaking tour is an opportunity for oppressed and progressive people in the U.S. to learn more about developments in Peru, including the advances of the people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru and the threats of stepped-up military intervention in Peru by U.S. imperialism, the main backer of the Peruvian reactionaries. It is vital that the U.S. government be defeated in its attempts to prevent this tour. A political fight must be waged to see that this tour happens

and happens on schedule. The CSRP and other organizations and individuals are calling on people to flood the U.S. embassy in Belgium and the U.S. State Department with telegrams, phone calls, telexes and faxes demanding that the U.S. keep its hands off Luis Arce Borja and immediately grant his visa. These can be sent to:

U.S. Embassy—Brussels, Belgium  
Phone: 32 2 511 3830  
Fax: 32 2 511 2725  
Telex: 213-36  
U.S. State Dept  
Phone: (202) 647-4000

Copies should also be sent to:

Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, Berkeley  
P.O. Box 1246, Berkeley, CA 94701  
(415) 845-2206 ext. 101  
(messages only)

Schedule for Luis Arce Borja Speaking Tour:

New York: July 21 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.  
United Methodist Church  
(across from NYU)  
San Francisco: July 30 (Sunday) 2 p.m.  
Victoria Theater  
Los Angeles: Aug. 5 (Sat.) 7 p.m.  
United Methodist Church  
1010 Flower Street  
Los Angeles

The CSRP is calling on many more people to join the effort to make the U.S. tour a great success. Contact CSRP directly to assist on the tour and for news on latest developments. □

# The Right Thing About

# DO THE RIGHT THING



W

alking out of the theater, Public Enemy's "Fight the Power" still in your ears, sweating from the heat of Spike Lee's Bed-Stuy summer, different images collide in the mind—the torment of Radio Raheem's murder, the rush of the people rising up against yet another pig murder, the plate glass shattering, Ha! Frank Sinatra's melting face in the fire.

The basic people, especially those who live by the millions in the ghettos and barrios, know the contradictions and the characters Spike Lee has put on the screen in *Do the Right Thing*. And it feels good to see and hear—for that rare time in the movies—"Hey, that's us up on the screen."

All the more so, since this presence is not welcomed by all...

A pissed-off reviewer for *Time* magazine says of Spike Lee: "He holds the film like a can of beer in a paper bag—the cool sip of salvation on a blistering day—until it is revealed as a Molotov cocktail." What do you know! This film is unnerving the respectable folks who worry about what the people have in their paper bags.

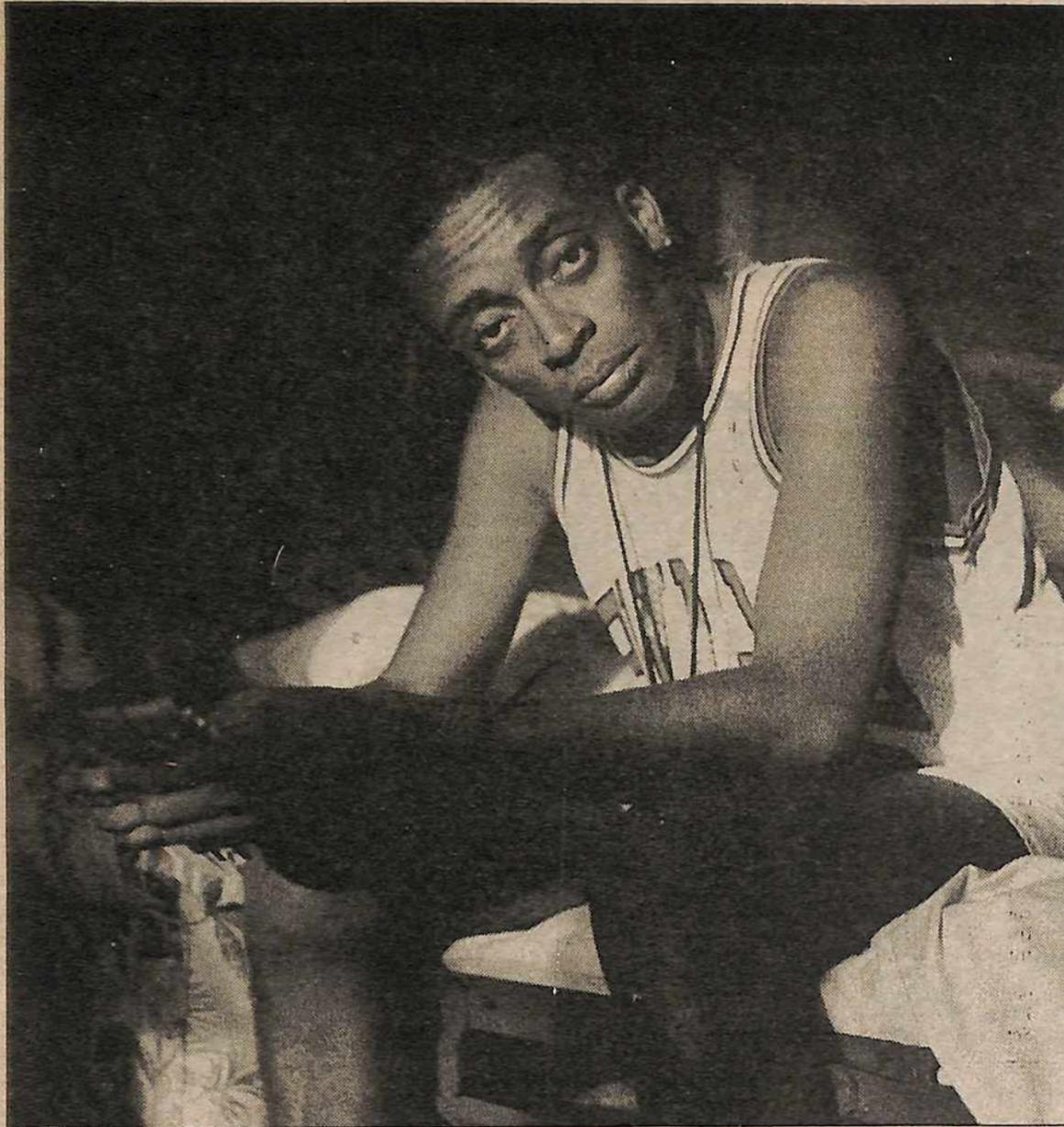
Radio Raheem and Buggin Out are totally recognizable to the oppressed—angry, proud youth holding on tight to the only thing they really have, their culture. And they're willing to fight the power to keep it. There are bitter tears in the theater when Radio Raheem is murdered by the cops.

His character is sketched beautifully—down to the 20 D batteries required to juice The Radio. His face before us full-screen, defying the orders to turn off his music, will not be soon forgotten by the people who have been ruled out of order by this system. Like many Black youth, he finds status in his gold knuckle name-rings, but there is something deeper—a searching for philosophy. The left hand says "HATE" and the right hand "LOVE." Raheem to Mookie: "STATIC! One hand is always fighting the other." He broadcasts the beat of Public Enemy. He is threatening to those who think that the Black and Latino youth are expendable. But the proletariat has no trouble seeing the potential for Radio Raheem to get down all the way with revolution.

Buggin Out, who in some quarters is considered angry "beyond reason," has a vision and intelligence that leaps out when confronted by the utter disregard for Black culture and Black people by the white people in the neighborhood. He can't abide the arrogant refusal of Sal to put pictures of Black people on the wall of his pizzeria. He is offended by the ignorance of Clifton, the yuppie homesteader in Larry Bird B-ball jersey, who says, "It's a free country, a man can live wherever he wants." Buggin Out comes back: "I ought to fuck you up for saying that shit alone!"

Tina is a fighter. She is introduced with boxing gloves, a combative dancer. But she is trapped. She has chains to break. As Spike Lee has done before, he gives a frank and unromantic view of the reality of relations between men and women. Tina is righteously mad at her situation. She has to order a pizza to get Mookie over to the house to see her and her baby. She is tired of being treated like all she's there for is sex. And she is on Mookie's case. At the end of the story, it is clear that whatever else happened in the riot that night, her situa-

Photos from "Do the Right Thing."



Mookie

and swagger through the neighborhood. It's an occupying army. In the looks of the corner men you can see an undeclared war waiting to break out. The police are enemies of the people.

Sal is a man holding on to the outpost of property and the privilege that being a white man in America affords him. Like many white Americans, his racist views are only slightly below the surface of his gruff paternalistic attitude. "I never had no trouble with dese people. . . . They grew up on my food." Sal's son Pino is so full of the racist outlook of the slavemaster that he is incapable of admitting that his favorite Black performers are "really Black." All that is wrong with his life is seen as the fault of Black people. His younger brother Vito sees all this ugliness and tries to rise above it, making friends with Mookie, but he is also pulled back by the patriarchal ties that bind him to his father and brother. Pino lets his ugly dehumanizing view of Black people hang out, but Sal does much damage. When push comes to shove, he calls Radio Raheem a "nigger." He is quick to reach for the baseball bat behind the counter of his pizzeria. And it brings destruction. . . and ultimately death.

Sal's attack on Radio Raheem is ugly and brutal. And when the cops come it goes to another level: a PUBLIC EXECUTION goes down. Radio Raheem is dragged away and thrown into the police car and the next media-hyped lie about "Black man hangs himself in custody" is on its way. People wake the following morning to Love Daddy's radio announcement: "Our mayor has commissioned a blue-ribbon panel, and I quote, 'to get to the bottom of last night's disturbance. The city of New York will not let property be destroyed by anyone,' end quote."

This portrayal of the pig police is a real strength of *Do the Right Thing*. It tells it like it is. The racism of a white pizza parlor owner is not just oppressive ideas—it is part of a system of white supremacy, backed up by armed men and the POWER of the state. This is reality: in America the lives of Black people are valued less than pizzerias. And in all the controversy over *Do the Right Thing*, this has come out over and over again. But it's a two-sided thing, because the movie is emboldening those who want to turn this situation upside down.

### Let's Stop Stuttering

Smiley. He's a kind of an oracle who appears in the film at every key turning point. With his tape of Malcolm X constantly playing on his pocket cassette, he takes on the bigot Pino. He joins with Raheem and Buggin in the boycott of Sal's. He lights the fire in the pizzeria after the riot begins. He celebrates what the people have done, pinning his photo of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King on the wall, smiling for the first time ever.

Throughout the film, Smiley's photo cards foreshadow the now famous pairing of quotes by Martin Luther King and Malcolm X at the film's end.

On this point Spike Lee told an interviewer, "The beauty of *Do the Right Thing* is that we incorporated both Martin Luther King's view of non-violence and Malcolm X's view of the use of violence to combat

Continued on page 14

tion has not changed and she is still determined that it will.

Mookie is confronted by the pull to hold onto what he's got, even though by anyone's measure, including his own, it's just a chump-change job with a lot of aggravation. Spike Lee writes about his character: "The future might be too scary for kids like Mookie, so they don't think about it. They live for the present moment, because there is nothing they feel they can do about the future. What I'm really talking about is a feeling of helplessness, that who you are and what effect you can have on things is absolutely nil, zero, jack shit, nada." Mookie's weakness is money. He is always counting it and arranging it. When Buggin Out's protest threatens his situation, Mookie calls him out, "Man, you're fucking with my job." But in the end, the forces colliding in society bring Mookie to stand with the masses in the rebellion against the death of Radio Raheem. He does the right thing. And no one would have imagined it an hour earlier.

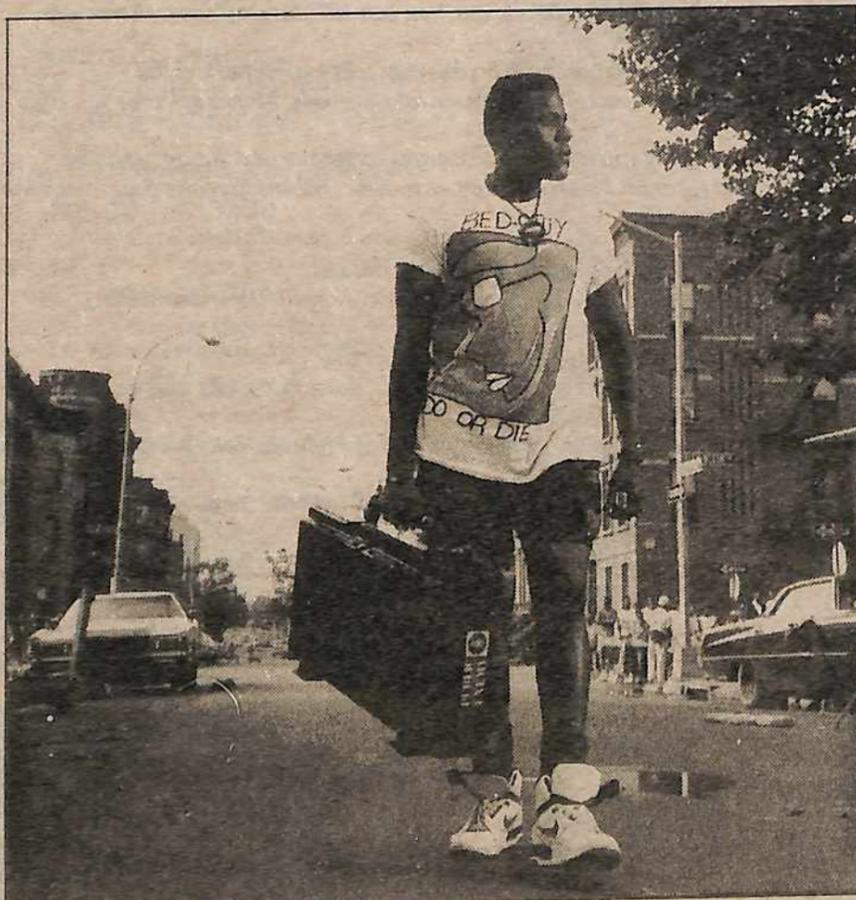
These are the times we live in.

### The Power

Spike Lee has delivered a killing portrayal. He confronts the systematic devaluation of Black life in America. And he celebrates the joy of the people who will not tolerate this situation. . . .who will resist.

The film is a many-sided picture of racism and how the Black people deal with it on different levels. And it is a very funny film. This artist knows the people so well he can make them laugh at their own weaknesses. When the talking heads, Black, Puerto Rican, Korean, white, do rapid-fire solos of racial slurs against one another straight into the camera, it brings laughter and the pain of recognition to the audience. But at the heart of the film is the confrontation between the oppressed people and the sinister powers—a story of how the oppression of Black people and the ideas of white supremacy, racism, are backed by force and how the people rise against it.

Just as in real life in places like Bed-Stuy, the police appear with sinister regularity in this film. They prow



Radio Raheem

# Wolf's at the door!



*Mama, Mama 'dey's a wolf at 'da door!  
My Mama say, "what you come up here for?"*

*Mama, he say he come to save us from thugs,  
He say he part of the gov'ments war on drugs.*

*My Mama say is you 'da same wolf what brought us to 'dese shores,  
And destroyed our families; turned our sista's into whores.*

*Mama, he say yeah, but he ain't lak' he use ta be,  
Now he really care 'bout us colored peoples and our family.*

*Mama, he say Nancy Reagan sent him to tell us: "jes' say no."  
He say the gov'ment's truly concerned 'bout our welfare, Mama say, iz 'dat so?!*

*My Mama say is you 'da same wolf what ran 'Cointelpro'  
And conspired to destroy Martin Lufa' King wit' code name 'Zorro?'*

*Yep Mama, he say he one-n-the-same  
but everbody make mistakes and everbody change.*

*My Mama say is you 'da canine what introduced the 'All us' bill?  
Y'know, All us criminals to all yaw workin' on the hill.*

*Mama he say do you mean the Omnibus Crime bill of 1969?  
'Da one necessary to control the militant Blacks and keep the anti-war commies  
in line?*

*My Mama say was you 'da one 'no-knocked' cuzn Willie's head in '71?  
Mama, he say he had to; cuzn Willie might ah had ah gun.*

*My Mama say how come everytime yaw have a war on some'n we the casualties?  
She say the war on communist aggression left Daddy dead 'cross the seas.*

*The war on poverty left us mo' poorer and dependent on crumbs from you,  
So jes' what is 'dis 'war on drugs' 'sposed to do?*

*Mama, he say it 'sposed to save us from our drug dealin' kin.  
He say 'dis plan's endorsed by all our Black leaders and our liberal white friends.*

*My Mama say where 'dese so-called Black leaders been?  
She say if any of 'nem supportin' your schemes we need some new Black leaders  
'den.*

*My Mama say she jes' wanta be right & correct,  
She say ain't you the same wolf that 'sponsible for the demise of Malcom X.*

*You battin' ah thousand Mama, you know dis wolf betta' 'den he know his self.  
My Mama say, no thank you, you can sell 'dat stuff somewheres else.*

*See, My Mama got biiiig books what tells everything you did,  
'Den you come talkin' 'bout savin' somebody, Mama say who you tryin' ta kid?!*

*Mama say you jes' tryin' to repress us for the next step of genocide.  
She say it ah be a cold summer in New Orleans 'fore she believe any more ah  
your lies*

*Anyway, you 'da ugliest wolf I ever did see.  
Got red, white, & blue eyes and blood drippin' from your teeth.*

*In one hand you got ah cross, in 'da other you got 'da flag  
'N' ah stench comin' from your soul 'dat would make ah maggot gag.*

*Mama, Mama 'dis wolf got the Bill of Rights 'n' the Constitution trampled under  
his feet  
And everywhere he steps 'dey's blood all over the street.*

*My Mama say you always talkin' 'bout constitutional rights,  
But you always tryin' to destroy 'dem by the 'dawn's early light,*

*My Mama say revolution is 'da only thing she buyin' now  
'N' if you don't git out our door she got a .38 'dat ah show you how!*

*My Mama say stop tryin' to run these games 'n' leave poor peoples alone.  
No you can't come in cause my Mama say, SHE AIN'T HOME!*

**KENNETH CARROLL**  
*p.s. the war on drugs is the war on you!*

Kenneth Carroll is a poet/activist, resident of Washington, D.C. and editor of *Omwale*, a graphic literary magazine.

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# A Call to a National Conference July 27, 28 and 29

## THE WAR ON DRUGS:

### A Deceptive Trap and a Real Attack

True Education and Real Alternatives, YES. Persecution and Repression, NO.

The "War on Drugs" promotes a general social atmosphere of fear, calls for suspended rights, and targets the victims as the source of the problem. It is a climate that seeks to justify a quarantine of the inner city by ever increasing police build-ups.

In calling for a national conference against the "War on Drugs," we are fully aware of the serious danger of drugs, which is precisely why we call for both truthful education about drugs and serious alternatives to dependency. Among us we have diverse views on long-term solutions. But we ALL agree that the major focus of this current "War on Drugs" is not about keeping drugs out, but about keeping people down. For there to be any real solution to the problem of drugs, there must first be an end to these attacks on the people.

Now is the time to end complicity with their phony "War on Drugs." Now is the time to come together to expose the "War on Drugs" for what it really is. Now is the time to organize to defeat these attacks on the people.

No more evictions! No more "jump-out squads"! No more apartheid control on housing projects! No more mandatory drug testing! Money for serious treatment and help! Amnesty for youthful offenders! End the racist barriers to decent lives for our youth!

Join with community representatives, legal rights activists, and drug treatment experts to construct a counterattack to the "War on Us"!

(from the Call to the National Conference)

#### REGISTER NOW! BE THERE!

A partial list of speakers  
for the July 27-29 conference:

#### Ama Asantua

Ad Hoc Committee—DC Youth, Washington, DC

#### Carl Dix

National spokesperson, Revolutionary Communist Party,  
New York, NY

#### Karega Dukes

Community activist, Washington, DC

#### Linda Fullerton

Criminal defense attorney from Richmond, CA.

#### James Garrett

Educator, Oakland, CA

#### Aminufu Harvey

Clinical psychologist, head of Maat Institute, Washington, DC

#### C. Clark Kissinger

Member of the National Council of Refuse & Resist,  
contributing writer to the *Revolutionary Worker*

#### Jesse McDade

Professor of philosophy, Morgan State University,  
host of "The Spear" on WPFW-FM in Washington, DC

#### Douglas McVay

Projects coordinator, National Organization for the  
Reform of Marijuana Laws, Washington, DC

#### Edith Mirante

Project MAJE, New Jersey

#### Edmundo Morales

Project director, Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc.  
Author of *Cocaine: White Gold Rush in Peru*

#### Travis Morales

Member of the National Response Committee of La Resistencia,  
Houston, Texas

#### Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad

Mid-Atlantic regional minister for the Nation of Islam.  
Founder of the "Dopebusters" drug patrols in Washington, DC

#### Dera Tompkins

Organizer of the Coalition Against Operation Caribbean Cruise,  
Washington, DC

#### Carletta Younger

Executive director, Washington Office on Latin America,  
Washington, DC

#### Michael Zinzun

Chairperson, Coalition Against Police Repression,  
Los Angeles, CA

#### CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, July 27: **The Source of the Problem**

1:00 - 2:30 HISTORY OF U.S. "DRUG WARS"

Drugs & Minorities, Prohibition of Alcohol, etc.

3:00 - 5:00 A) THE ECONOMICS OF DRUGS

Where do drugs come from, and who gets the money?

B) "WAR ON DRUGS" AND THE LAW

The new drug laws, attacks on legal rights, drug testing

6:30 - 10:00 WHAT'S BEHIND THE "WAR ON DRUGS"?

Panel of different views of what the government is up to with the "War on Drugs"; followed by open-mike town meeting discussion

Friday, July 28: **Who Is Being Attacked in Their "War on Drugs"**

12:30 - 2:30 A) WOMEN AND THE "WAR ON DRUGS"

Testing and imprisonment of pregnant women

Criminal charges of "fetal abuse," Women, AIDS & drugs

B) DRUGS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Drugs & Covert Action, Drug Enforcement & Counterinsurgency

3:00 - 5:00 A) TREATMENT & PREVENTION: The First Casualties of the WOD

The shift of funds from treatment to "law enforcement"

Attacking the victim

B) RACISM, DRUGS, AND "WAR ON DRUGS"

Questions of genocide, intensified oppression, and repression

6:30 - 10:00 HOW DOES THE "WAR ON DRUGS" ACTUALLY COME DOWN IN THE COMMUNITY?

Panel from different cities, "Operation Hammer" in L.A., the attacks on Chicago Public Authority residents, evictions in Washington, and the U.S.-Mexican Border. Followed by open-mike town meeting discussion

Saturday, July 29: **Defeating Their "War on Drugs" Attacks**

12:30 - 2:30 A) THE INVOLVEMENT OF POLICE IN THE DRUG TRADE

Bringing out what everybody knows but never gets said

B) HOW OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DEALT WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM

The positive and negative experiences from China, Britain, Holland, and Malaysia

3:00 - 5:00 A) POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THEIR "WAR ON DRUGS"

Discussion of what is really needed

B) LOCAL EXPERIENCE IN RESISTING "WAR ON DRUGS" ATTACKS

Examples like the challenge of "Operation Caribbean Cruise" in Washington

6:30 - 10:00 WHAT MUST BE DONE TO DEFEAT THEIR "WAR ON DRUGS" ATTACKS AND WIN POSITIVE PROGRAMS

Panel with different perspectives on the road forward. Followed by open-mike town meeting discussion

Adoption of National Action Program by the Conference

## A NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST THE OUTRAGES OF THE "WAR ON DRUGS"

JULY 27, 28, & 29, 1989  
at the First Congregational Church  
10th & G Streets, NW  
Washington, DC

(at the Metro Center subway stop)

Initiated by  
*Refuse & Resist*  
National Planning  
Committee:

#### Washington Area

Joseph Brent  
Kenneth Carroll  
Carletta Hewitt  
Clark Kissinger  
Douglas McVay  
Dera Tompkins  
Nkenge Touré

#### Chicago

Neal Dunaetz  
Jay Miller

#### Los Angeles

Michael Zinzun

#### Oakland

James Garrett

#### ENDORSED BY:

Coalition Against Operation Caribbean Cruise  
D.C. Chapter, National Lawyers Guild  
International Council of African Women  
JoNina Abron, Managing Editor, *The Black Scholar*\*  
Mark Anderson, Washington Peace Center\*  
Rev. Louis Chase, Lynwood United Methodist Church, Lynwood, CA  
Bobby Karega Dukes, Community Activist, Washington, D.C.  
William Kunstler, Esq. New York, NY  
Ambrose Lane, Host, "We Ourselves," WPFW, Washington, DC  
Jesse McDade, Host, "The Spear," WPFW, Washington, DC  
Richard Navies, Dept. Chair, African American Studies, Berkeley HS, CA  
Cecile Pineda, San Francisco, CA  
Jonathan Smith, Esq., Washington, DC  
Rev. Ron Swisher, Richmond, CA  
Kevin Zeese, Esq., Alexandria, VA

\*Organization listed for purposes of identification only

The conference will be held at the First Congregation Church,  
10th & G Streets, NW, Washington. Registration for all three days is \$20.  
Write: Counterattack Conference, P.O. Box 73852, Washington, DC 20056  
Phone: 202/230-4908

# Drug Czar Calls for Cutting Off Heads

From the San Francisco Chronicle June 16, 1989:

## Drug Czar Talks About Beheading Convicted Dealers

Reuters  
Washington

William Bennett, federal drug policy coordinator, said last night that he had no moral qualms about beheading convicted drug dealers.

"Morally, I don't have any problem with (beheadings) at all," Bennett said when asked on the CNN's "Larry King Live" call-in television show.

Bennett said the idea of beheading was "morally plausible" but legally difficult.

"I mean, ask most Americans: if they saw somebody out on the street selling drugs to their kid, what they would feel morally justified in doing—tear them limb from limb.

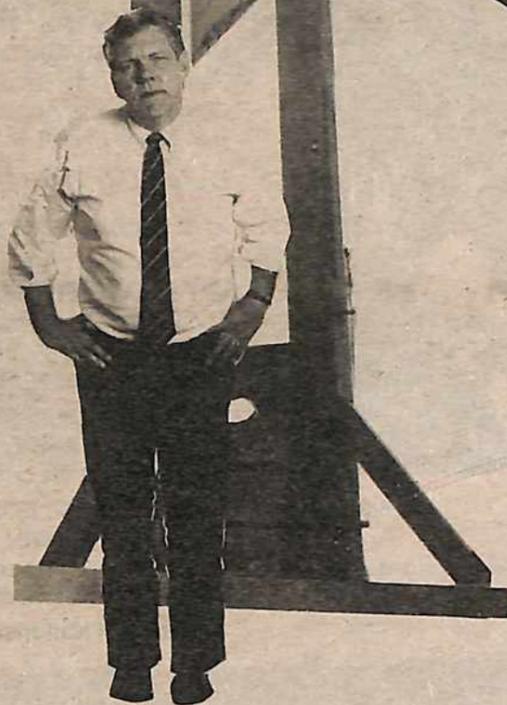
"There's no moral problem there. I used to teach ethics—trust me," he said.

To the RW from a prisoner:

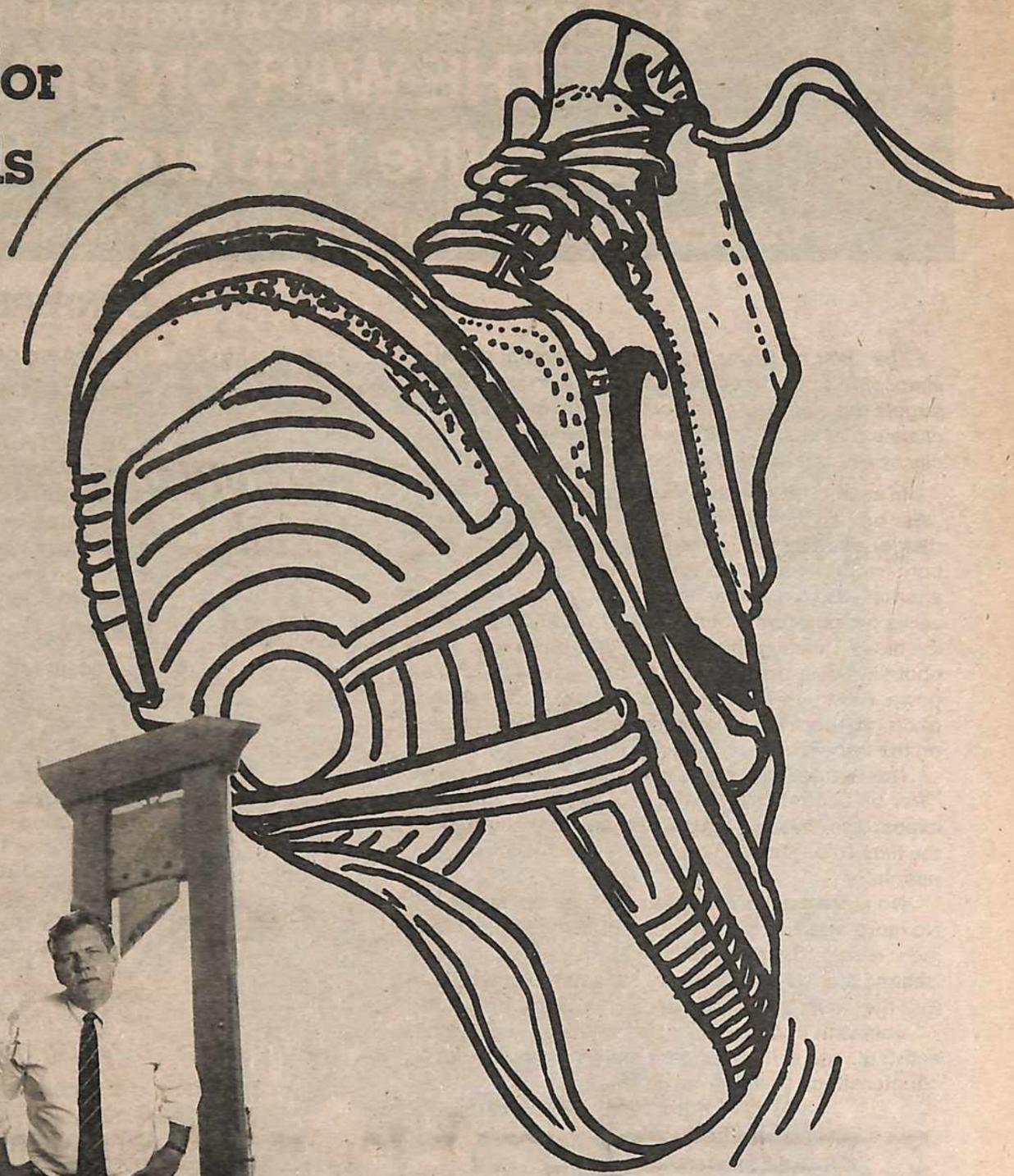
Dear Readers,

The slavemasters of this system have just issued another warning!!! So-called Drug Czar, but internationally known mobster, Bennett, has *again* exposed what this system has in mind for the masses. . . *again*, under the pretense of this system's so-called war on drugs, the masters have shown their true nature. . . They've raided our neighborhoods, kicked in our doors, frisked our people, locked us up, or just straight-up gunned us down. Or in *other* words. . . they've used this same *pretense* to dish out straight-up fascist *terror* towards us!!! *Now*, comes their most *recent* plan. . . In an interview this past week; scumbag, mobster, and flunkee of this system's miseducational program, Bennett, issued a misstatement that claimed in an around-about-way, that drug dealers and/or users should be beheaded on sight!!! And *this*, as we *know*, has nothing to *do* with cleanin' up this systematic pollution. And in *reality*, it's just another repressive, barbaric tactic and plan of the slavemasters, in their attempts to intimidate, further enslave, and keep us down!!! For as we *know*; the only *real* solution to all this pollution lies in the armed struggle and revolutionary overhaul of this whole, despair-filled, unjust, racist, dog-eat-dog, parasitic, imperialist system!!! It's wake up time in Amerikkka!!! Resist Repression!!! Long Live Marxist-Leninist-Mao Tsetung Thought!!!!!!!

P.S. Stay strong, get prepared, and stay conscious!  
Yours truly,  
Doc



William Bennett



## A QUESTION OF POWER: How Revolutionary China Got Rid of Drugs

by C. Clark Kissinger

REVOLUTIONARY WORKER REPRINT

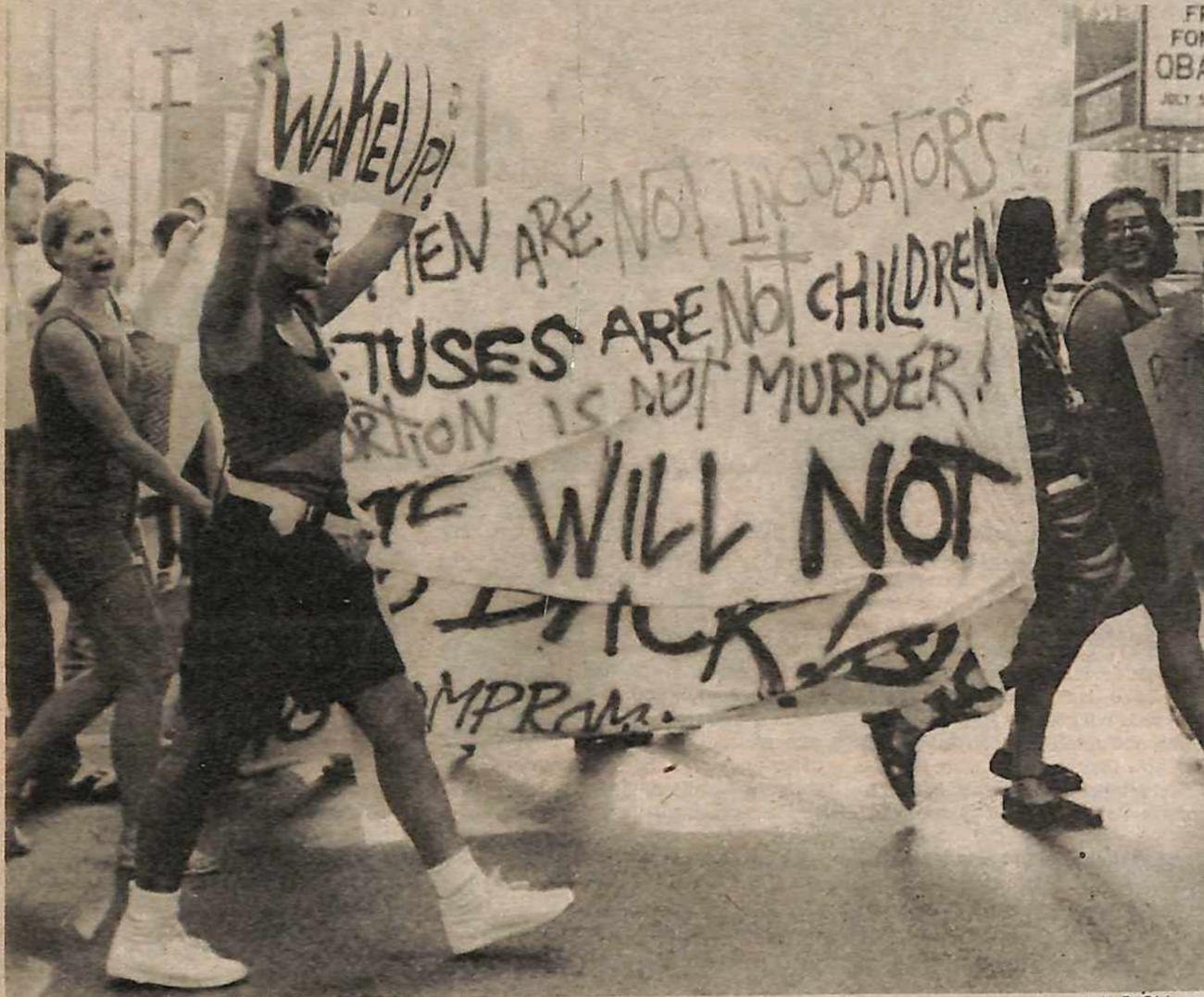
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**Women Must Have the Right to Choose—  
No Forced Reproduction—  
No Forced Sterilization!**

**Women are NOT Incubators!  
Fetuses are NOT Children!  
Abortion is NOT Murder!**

**Outlawing Abortion was—and IS—a Nazi Program!  
Break the Chains! Unleash the Fury of Women  
As a Mighty Force for Revolution!**



July 5, Chicago

**What kind of society is this where women are assaulted, our lives threatened from the highest levels of government? The kind that needs to be gotten rid of through revolution at the first possible moment. That's what kind of society.**

Mary Lou Greenberg, Revolutionary Communist Party

The Supreme Court ruled that states can ban abortion in hospitals and clinics that receive state funding. States can now require women who want an abortion to have expensive viability tests at 20 weeks of pregnancy. And the Court did not strike down the reactionary language in the Missouri law that says "life begins at conception." These rulings represent a major assault on *Roe v. Wade* which legalized abortion. The Court challenged the "trimester" structure established by *Roe v. Wade*, which said states could not restrict abortions in the first two trimesters of pregnancy. Thus the court has opened the door for even more restrictions on a woman's right to determine the course of her own pregnancy.

All women will be victimized by this decision. And poor women, many of whom are of the oppressed nationalities, will bear the brunt of this vicious attack. These are women who depend on public hospitals for abortions or who can't afford expensive "viability" tests. These are women who even before this ruling were denied federal funds for abortion and will be most affected by the flood of reactionary, restrictive state laws that are sure to be enacted and enforced now. An attack on ANY woman's ability to decide when and if she will bear a child is an attack on ALL women.

The stakes are high in this battle for abortion rights. There are lives in the balance, and part of the outline of the future will be drawn as the sides take shape and size. We have to strengthen our opposition in the face of this attack, create new and bold ways to politically take on the government and their foot soldiers. We cannot go on the defensive, sound a retreat and fall back to lobbying individual state legislatures. We must unite to go straight up against them and in their face!

From the leaflet by the RCP, distributed in the days following the Supreme Court ruling on abortion

## Resolution at the Clinic Doors

*We received the following correspondence from a high school student, about a pro-choice demonstration at a Chicago clinic against "Operation Rescue."*

We got to the clinic at 8:00 a.m. We were welcomed by chants of "Pro-Life, Your Name's a Lie. You Don't Care If Women Die." When I heard that, a smile came to my face, but it was quickly wiped off by the sight of "pro-lifers" in front of the clinic door. "No fucking way they can do that," I said to my friend. She looked at me with sympathy in her eyes. "The pigs are just standing there. THEY CAN'T DO THAT," I went on. We passed a young pro-lifer who read my "Clinic Defense" sign on my chest and yelled out, "What's better, life or death?" The only man with us turned around and yelled back, "What's better, a clump of cells or a woman's life?" The smile returned to my face.

Two hours later, the pigs started taking action. They moved the pro-lifers from the door, along with the five brave pro-choicers who were in between them and the door. In those two hours I came in contact with five very scared, very angry, and very impatient women who had appointments. One Black woman asked me how to get in. I had to tell her sadly that we couldn't do anything until the pigs moved the pro-lifers. I saw her once after that, looking at her watch and then the door. After that, she was gone.

The time was coming close to "escort" the women into the building. The cops had just finished moving the last of the pro-lifers. We had made two circles (an inner and an outer) and the women were in the middle. The pro-lifers started screaming, "Don't kill your baby," and other idiotic things of that sort. That's when one woman broke down. "It's hard enough to make this decision and then come here and be terrorized by these people," she said through her tears. There was nothing I could say. She was right. She should not have to go through this shit! The woman standing next to her (who was also going to have an abortion) had tears streaming down her face, but her face showed no expression. They were holding hands. Tightly. It was time. We locked arms. They pulled the sheet over their faces, their boyfriends went to the front of the circle and we started walking. I remember hands groping at us, seeing their boyfriend's faces harden and the one hot tear run down my face. I remember thinking, never should anyone, anywhere, have to go through this. Never should a woman have to take this treatment for making a decision that has to do with her body.

We got through the revolving doors and into the elevators. I hit the 7th floor button and up we went. Everyone got off except for myself and my friend. The women turned to us with red swollen eyes. "Thank you," they said. "I'll never let this happen again," I said. "Never again." A painful smile appeared on their faces and they turned and walked into the clinic.

By C.B.

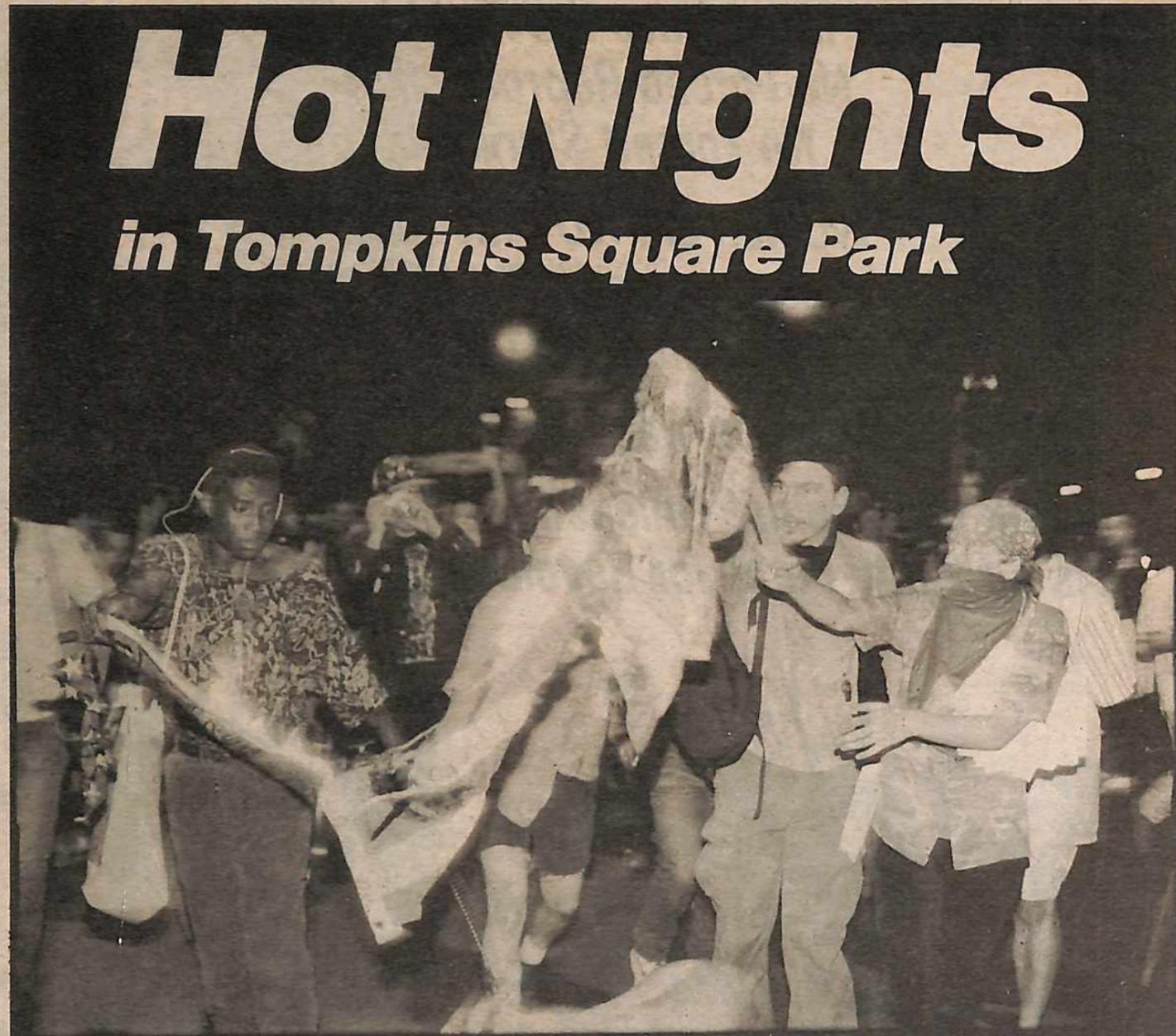
# Hot Nights in Tompkins Square Park

## Police Tear Down Homeless Shantytown

The oppressors keep trying to put the clampdown on New York City's Tompkins Square Park. And they keep getting hit with the people's anger. In July a new park rule went into effect that forbids tents and such from being put up in the parks. But when the authorities moved to enforce this rule in Tompkins Square Park, they set off a major battle.

On July 5 the police and the Parks Department personnel moved in en masse, sealing off the park and dismantling anything and everything that looked like someone might sleep under it. They ransacked through what little the homeless possess—a pillow, socks—and threw it all in the dirt like so much trash. It touched off street demonstrations, flag burnings, and a wild night of fierce protest. A banner raised in the night's heated air read: "Tompkins Square/Tiananmen Square/Uprisings Everywhere." The protest ended with a bonfire made of wooden police barricades blazing in the street.

July 8, in open defiance of the new park rule, people gathered at Tompkins Square and prepared to rebuild a make-



Burning the U.S. flag after police attacked on July 5.

shift shantytown the police had torn down. But first people marched to the infamous 9th Precinct, best known from last August's night of bloody head-bashing by 9th Precinct pigs. At the head of the march a rainbow-colored banner was carried that declared: "No evictions! No Curfew! Take Back the Park!" A speak-out was held back at the park where the homeless and activists spoke out bitterly against how they are being forced to live and the importance of this battle to defend the park. This had a galvanizing effect.

Up went the tents in bold defiance of

the rulers' clampdown. And one banner put up amidst the tents read, "Revolution Is the Hope of the Hopeless."

The police began to charge into the park. A city university student whose summer vacation has been unlike any before said, "We formed a human barricade around here, we—everybody—homeless, squatters, anarchists, Marxists, we had RCYB here, and several other people. . . . Before I saw cops I saw cameras and news reporters in my face, so I think the police used the press. They physically pushed through and broke through on that side. They took tents down. . . . And ten minutes later we just rebuilt them again." He added, "I think the city is just pushing people more and more into open warfare. They're making it harder for people to stand by and watch."

Each time the people put up the plastic sheeting, the police would charge through a human wall of resistance. The Parks Department patrol would hustle in to quickly tear down the tents. And as the police retreated, a wave of anger ad-

vanced at them with people up in their faces demanding, "Pigs Out! Pigs Out!" Three times the structures went up, were torn down by the authorities, and then rebuilt again by the people.

"Every time we build, they tear down," a Black homeless man proudly said. "We were yelling and screaming, 'This is not right. This belongs to us.' They figured the longer they did it then we would give up and forget about it. No. The longer they did it it made us stronger."

This is a neighborhood out of the rulers' control. And it's getting more unruly! This is a neighborhood where Black and Latino proletarians hang with radical artists and intellectuals, homeless, and older Eastern European immigrants. It's a place where if radical and revolutionary graffiti isn't on the walls you wonder what gives. Youth from the suburbs and tourists from around the world flock to the East Village on warm and increasingly unpredictable summer nights. For some, living here is an act of political protest—squatters take over abandoned buildings and collectively

According to the New York Daily News a police riot-control training session in Brooklyn during June got a "little too realistic." The training exercise involved seventy cops from the Brooklyn North Task Force, a mobile patrol unit that is shifted to different precincts, and sixty plainclothes cops from Brooklyn South. The Brooklyn North cops were playing the role of uniformed cops while the Brooklyn South group was playing the role of a crowd.

The Daily News reported: "The riot training was supposed to teach the cops how to deal with crowds. It was instituted as a result of the Tompkins Square Park riots last August in which untrained and undersupervised young cops overreacted, brutalizing several innocent civilians.

"Police were giving out few details on whether last night's mock exercise was a Tompkins Square replay, or how and why the cops battled each other, or how they got hurt, but a police spokesman chalked it up to the realistic training involved.

"He said the cops at the riot-training session, reportedly in a Brooklyn armory, took their training a little too seriously.

"It seems to have gotten a little out of hand," said one of the cops involved.

"When it was all over and the dust had settled, at least four cops wound up at local hospitals. . . .

"Nobody was saying which side won."



Marching to the Ninth Precinct.

Special to the RW

Special to the RW

rebuild in defiance of the rules of private property. It's where what's different and unorthodox isn't only tolerated, it's wanted and expected. And the more the authorities try to bring this place under control, the more it gets out of control.

Last summer the city's efforts to enforce a 1 a.m. curfew led to a police riot.

**Up went the tents in bold defiance of the rulers' clampdown. And one banner put up amidst the tents read, "Revolution Is the Hope of the Hopeless."**

And as the cops indiscriminately beat anyone and everyone in the East Village last summer, they made more enemies. Now every time they wade into Tompkins Square Park, they have the public uproar over that riot clinging to their every move. They are compelled to attack and try to stop what's going on in Tompkins Square Park, but they have to move with caution.

This summer when the Parks Department passed new rules aimed at driving homeless from city parks throughout the city, scores of homeless headed for Tompkins Square Park. The *New York Times* reported that over the three weeks before the new park rules went into effect, the number of people living in the park grew to over 200. The *Times* also said that the number of structures in Tompkins Square built by homeless jumped from six to thirty-five. And the homeless have sharpened the atmosphere with a "nothing to lose" edge. When people defied the new park rules, rebuilding the tents and shanties, some homeless people in the park made signs that read: "What are they so afraid of? Homelessness is a problem their system can't solve!" and "Homelessness reveals the true colors of the system at home."

"They forced our hand," said a Black homeless man. "They forced us into being homeless with the [high] rents. . . . We have no other place to go. . . . This is the bottom line. It's the park or else. . . . If we don't fight, there's nobody else who cares in the establishment. Our last stronghold is the park. . . . Tompkins Square Park is the place. It's the battleground."

More and more New York City has become a patchwork of battlegrounds. In the last two weeks: Women take to the streets and close down the Brooklyn Bridge to protest the Supreme Court's anti-abortion ruling. Youth on bikes act like a radical messenger service darting from one park to another, spreading word of developments or calling for reinforcements. Revolutionary graffiti hits the walls of the South Bronx that says, "Burning the Amerikkkan Flag Is No Crime," "Down With the Fascist Flag Amendment," and "Revolution Is the Hope of the Hopeless." Washington Square Park witnesses a fascist attack by skinheads. Two racial attacks go down with bands of racist whites beating up Black youth. Spike Lee's movie *Do the Right Thing* opens and movie reviewer Rex Reed blurts out on TV how he's praying Black youth will go see *Batman* instead this summer. And Tompkins Square Park flares up in the midst of all this, turning the city's temperature up even higher.

For all those who hate the madness of this system and want to put an end to it, this is an excellent situation to politically maximize preparations for proletarian revolution; to mobilize and defeat the oppressors' attacks and politically take

them on in ways that will hurry up the system's downfall. The possibilities to do that, and a vision of a very different kind of future, can be seen in the ways people are coming together in the battle for Tompkins Square Park.

"I've seen so much unity," said a Black homeless man. "They talk about Blacks and whites don't get along together. That's a lie. The white people, they made me proud. They bring us food. They stand out there protesting with us. A lot

**The city attacked a section of people they thought were helpless as well as homeless. They found out it wasn't true.**

of them have homes but they're staying out there with us. The majority of the homeless are Black and all the white brothers and sisters supporting them—that makes me feel good. . . . They were going to the store and buying plastic. You know how much money they spent on plastic alone! And every time the police tear it down, here's some more plastic!"

Another Black homeless man, who took part in an over 200-day-long homeless encampment on the lawn of City Hall in 1988, said, "You know, I'm 28 years old and I had never met a real Indian. There's Indians here. Polish, Russian, Chinese people—we all come together."

The people have taken a lot of bold initiative to take on the authorities and get organized. In the park and in the street demos, people gather around undercover cops, hounding them with chants of "oink, oink" and "pig" and force them to leave. In at least one in-

stance, the masses were able to rescue a protester who was being arrested by an undercover cop. At one march to the precinct some homeless people carried copies of the *RW* as their signs. And one group of homeless people decided that protesters in the park should wear armbands in order to show the unity of this as a movement.

The battle of Tompkins Square Park has also transformed the people themselves. An example of this occurred the

first night the police and city workers tore down the shantytown. When the park was reopened, homeless people moved back in. One homeless guy set up his bedding on the bandshell. Another homeless guy came along. He started cursing and swearing at him, saying, "This is my spot. Get the fuck out!" and was ready for a fight. The first homeless guy then said, "This is jailhouse mentality here. I'm gonna move because we can't be acting like we're in jail. That's their game." A university student said being in the park has "blasted away misconceptions that the homeless are uneducated and stupid. The homeless understand their situation. . . . The city attacked a section of people they thought were helpless as well as homeless. They found out it wasn't true."

The callousness and cruelty of ripping down plastic sheeting over homeless people has revealed the ugliness of this system to a lot of people, including middle and even more upper-class people.

When a protest was recently held outside the Parks Commissioner's brownstone in the wealthier Upper East Side, a lot of well-dressed, gold credit card-type people in the neighborhood expressed sympathy and support for the struggle of the homeless.

It is no wonder that the rulers look at the scene in the park and the broader social ripples and are forced to attack. A *New York Times* editorial spoke against the park's shantytowns in the name of making the park available for "all the people." A *Daily News* columnist described the park scene as full of drug addicts and able-bodied men who ought to get a job. Police Commissioner Ward defended the police sweep of the park on the grounds that the longer the homeless were allowed to keep up tents, the longer they would think they had "special property rights"—a self-exposing comment intended to line up sections of the property-owning middle classes against the homeless. Bob Grant, a right-wing, reactionary radio talk show host, spoke on a TV show where homeless and activists were discussing what's going on in Tompkins Square and shrieked that the homeless are homeless because they want to be.

These are nothing but lies and desperate attacks and reveal that for the oppressors the situation is not good at all.

From the strategic perspective of the proletariat, the situation is excellent. Diverse forces are coming together to resist a ruthless act of repression by the oppressors. There is a righteous determination by the masses to defeat the new park rules and reclaim the park. And this is adding to the sparks and stirrings of unrest in a major city where keeping the lid on is a life-and-death question for the rulers. A fine situation indeed! □



Special to the RW



Special to the RW

Building plastic shelters and linking arms to face police in Tompkins Square Park.



## The Right Thing About "Do the Right Thing"

Continued from page 7

racism. Malcolm X didn't even call it violence. Under certain circumstances, he says, it's protection and intelligence. Personally, I side more with Malcolm X. Most young Black people today would."

Smiley's photo recalls a whole history of struggle, a clash of ideologies and politics among the oppressed themselves, a struggle over what road forward. It recalls a time when the Black liberation movement shook



Smiley

America at its core and the views of Martin Luther King were rejected in practice as Black people rose up in more than 100 cities after his death. It implies questions about leadership and philosophy. We have all heard the endless debate over whether the two would have ever seen eye to eye.

But Smiley's photo—which is of the only meeting between the two Black leaders—is a fantasy of a unity that never existed. These men were not friends. Malcolm X was a revolutionary and Martin Luther King was not.

In some ways Smiley is portrayed as the most politically conscious person in the film. But he has a stutter. The irony is that the politically conscious people will never lose their stutter as long as they hang onto that picture. In reality the oppression of Black people will not be ended as long as people stick to the philosophies of Martin Luther King or even Malcolm X. Only proletarian revolution can solve the problem. Spike Lee probably doesn't agree with us on this, but it's true. We have to speak plainly on this, the hour is getting late.

### Who's Afraid of Who

At a time when major rebellions of the Black masses have been the exception—with Miami keeping the tradition alive—*Do the Right Thing* has brought burning and unresolved questions to the front of the cultural arena, and everyone is compelled to confront them. These are questions which the Black rebellions of the '60s placed so powerfully on the agenda twenty years ago: what will it take to end the oppression of Black people in America.

*Do the Right Thing* has become a major element in the simmering mix that is developing this summer of 1989. The bourgeoisie and their apologists, who fear that the Black youth will be inspired by the movie to fight their oppressors, have come out to attack the film. Some bourgeois people have made a regular crusade out of hitting on *Do the Right Thing*, charging that it is antiwhite, anticop, and will cause Black people to riot this summer.

Spike Lee says, "Tell the cops not to kill any Black kids this summer, don't tell me not to make my movie. People have been rioting long before this film for reasons that have been around a long time. I don't see this movie suddenly being a reason."

Chairman Bob Avakian says, "Who is afraid of who? Centuries of slavery, serfdom, unemployment, exploitation, rape and murder are memories and current reality permanently branded on the collective consciousness of Black people in America. The slave always wants to kill the slavemaster, and the oppressed always wants to eliminate the oppressor. This is the knowledge that instills fear and desperation in exploiting classes everywhere."

Spike Lee makes no apologies. He has won most of

the rounds on *Nightline*, Oprah Winfrey Show, in the magazines and newspapers, exposing the oppressive logic that turns reality upside down. When the host of ABC *Nightline* asks why Mookie would "start the riot," Spike replies, "Mookie didn't start the riot, the murder of Radio Raheem by the cops started the riot."

From the standpoint of the basic people, the masses in the movie show a lot of restraint. After watching the cops murder Radio Raheem in cold blood right before their eyes and remembering Eleanor Bumpurs, Michael Stewart, Arthur Miller, and the dozens of other Black people murdered by the system, they do not take after Sal, the guy whose racist rampage kicked off the whole mess. They do not even go after his bigot of a son Pino. All they do is destroy his property, a symbol of the arrogance and power of the system that views them as expendable. [Even on the level of property relations, if you want to get technical about it, burning down Sal's pizzeria was less of a loss to Sal than the smashing of his beat box was to Radio Raheem. As Mookie said, Sal has insurance. "Ya know the deal."] But if private property is held sacred in this country, it and other sacred icons can also be overthrown. And it will be the Mookies and Raheems and Smileys of the world who will have the final say.

Spike Lee has said many times that he did not want to wrap up the film with a phony neat ending. He says the film does not give answers—it is up to the people to resolve the issue in reality. Some people are pissed off that the ending is not a more tidy reformist package. Others hope the film will help elect a Black mayor in New York. But the proletariat needs to make revolution. And fortunately for the proletariat, the movie is not a tidy package. Spike Lee shows America 1989. It's hot and it's getting hotter. . . □



Mookie and Sal

# Coalfield Combat Zone

Continued from page 1

Dante, Virginia—Westward through Virginia, gentle farmlands suddenly give way to the steep, narrow valleys of coal country. From the moment we left the four-lane, it was obvious that whole counties here are gripped in a grim and bitter struggle. This is a combat zone where the extreme demands of Pittston Coal Company are backed up by virtual martial law.

Motels throughout this area have been booked solid by armies of state police, federal marshals and mercenaries, hired by the coal companies. Fifteen miles up into the mountains, the forest road suddenly filled with police patrols and guard posts. Again and again you drive up on a scene where pigs have stopped some miner's truck by the side of the road. Miners in their camouflage fatigues are simply thrown up against the squad cars, frisked, handcuffed, and dragged to jail.

At this point there have been well over 2,000 arrests, most near the entrances to the mine property. Each morning, slow-moving convoys of pickup trucks, crammed with miners, harass and block the scab coal trucks that rumble out of side roads. At mine entrances and other strategic spots, shacks are manned by tense pickets who stare down the hired mercenaries imported by Pittston.

One morning, standing among the pickets at the Moss 3 Preparation Plant, we watched the state police and federal marshals arrest man after man from a convoy that clogged the main coal-hauling road. Federal judges have decreed that traffic violations in this coal field are now federal crimes. As each driver was arrested, another miner slid over into his seat and the picket truck rejoined the illegal convoy. One miner has now been sentenced to three months in federal prison for driving slowly on a public road.

Even open sympathy with the miners is dangerous. A Catholic nun was stopped Wednesday, July 12 for driving her health van at a speed the cops considered suspiciously slow. She explained that she was transporting fragile prescription medicines over the poor roads, but the state trooper noticed that she wore a camouflaged-colored necktie in support of the miners. That was enough. She was arrested, cuffed, and jailed on \$10,000 bond. She was told she would only be released if she signed a document swearing to give no further public support for the miners.

High school students have been suspended for wearing signs of support into the classroom.

A community center was visited by state police who announced that serving food to convoying miners was now considered an "illegal assembly." The center responded by plastering a huge banner outside that said, "All Day Revival." And it continued to serve meals under that religious guise.



Mass picket at Moss 3 Preparation Plant.

In southwestern Virginia, any sign of resistance is being made illegal. The reality of wage slavery in America—the property relations, the armed power of the state, the hypocrisy and injustice—is confronting the miners at every turn.

## The Return of the Gun-Thug Army

Meanwhile, the coal companies' private army has been conducting a secret war of violence and dirty tricks. Vance Security is known to hire ex-Green Berets and Soldier of Fortune types. Vance's armed men in bullet-proof vests pull up at isolated homes in the nighttime to terrify miners' wives while their husbands are on picket duty. Booby-traps are planted in the driveways of known militants.

This week these thugs are busy building military blockhouses at key points on Pittston property in clear preparation for armed exchanges.

On the surface this is a contract strike. After an industry-wide mine agreement was negotiated in late 1987, the Pittston Coal Company refused to sign it. They broke with the forty-year-old industry pattern and demanded new, extreme concessions from the miners. After negotiations stalled for over a year, 1,500 Pittston miners in Virginia finally struck this spring, on April 5. One miner said, "This strike is over our lives." In this area, coal is the only industry. Within living memory, there was a time when coal operators ruled the camps and every detail of the miners' lives. They kept the miners in a grip of debt, dependence, and illiteracy. Miners deeply believe that this is what the capitalists want back again. One says, "They want power, total power over our lives. And we know what they will do if they get it."

## A Cold-Blooded Message

The day that the old contract ran out, Pittston cut off medical benefits for many hundreds of widows, disabled miners, and pensioners. One West Virginia miner explained to the *RW* the deep symbolic importance of these medical benefits: "I remember just after World War 2, when we first won our medical card. Squads of us miners drove up into the hills and back to shacks in forgotten places and we gathered up all the disabled and older people who had suffered without medical attention, without medicine. We brought many of them down in stretchers. In the local hospital here, those stretchers filled the halls. It was pitiful to realize how these people had been suffering." Then in 1988, forty full years later, Pittston Coal Company totally cut off all medical care to its victims, something no other coal company has dared do, even during the most bitter strikes of the last two generations. A Pittston spokesman, William Byrne, was asked to justify this move and he simply said: "It's like a credit card that expires.



Supporters at rally.

Theirs expired." Such remarks coldly reveal Pittston's goal: They're not just demanding concessions from the miners. They want a new order in which the miners are broken and the company's will is law. And the government is backing them up.

## A Battle Yet To Come

A showdown has been visibly building across the whole Appalachian coal fields for years now. This year it finally broke out. And the lush valleys of southwestern Virginia produced the spark.

Militancy has flared across the Appalachian coal fields in a way that hasn't been seen in a decade. Convoys have snaked down toward Virginia from six states. Thousands of miners have filled the "solidarity camps" that now dot Virginia's coal fields. They arrive to fill the picket convoys and the jails. Back in the highly unionized coal fields of West Virginia, squads of picketers, often armed, often masked with bandanas and ski masks, have besieged nonunion mines. In just one of many incidents Thursday, July 13, 300 miners were arrested. As we write this, the entire unionized coal fields east of the Mississippi are out on a work stoppage that started three weeks ago as a wildcat in support of Pittston miners. After more than 42,000 miners walked out, the offi-

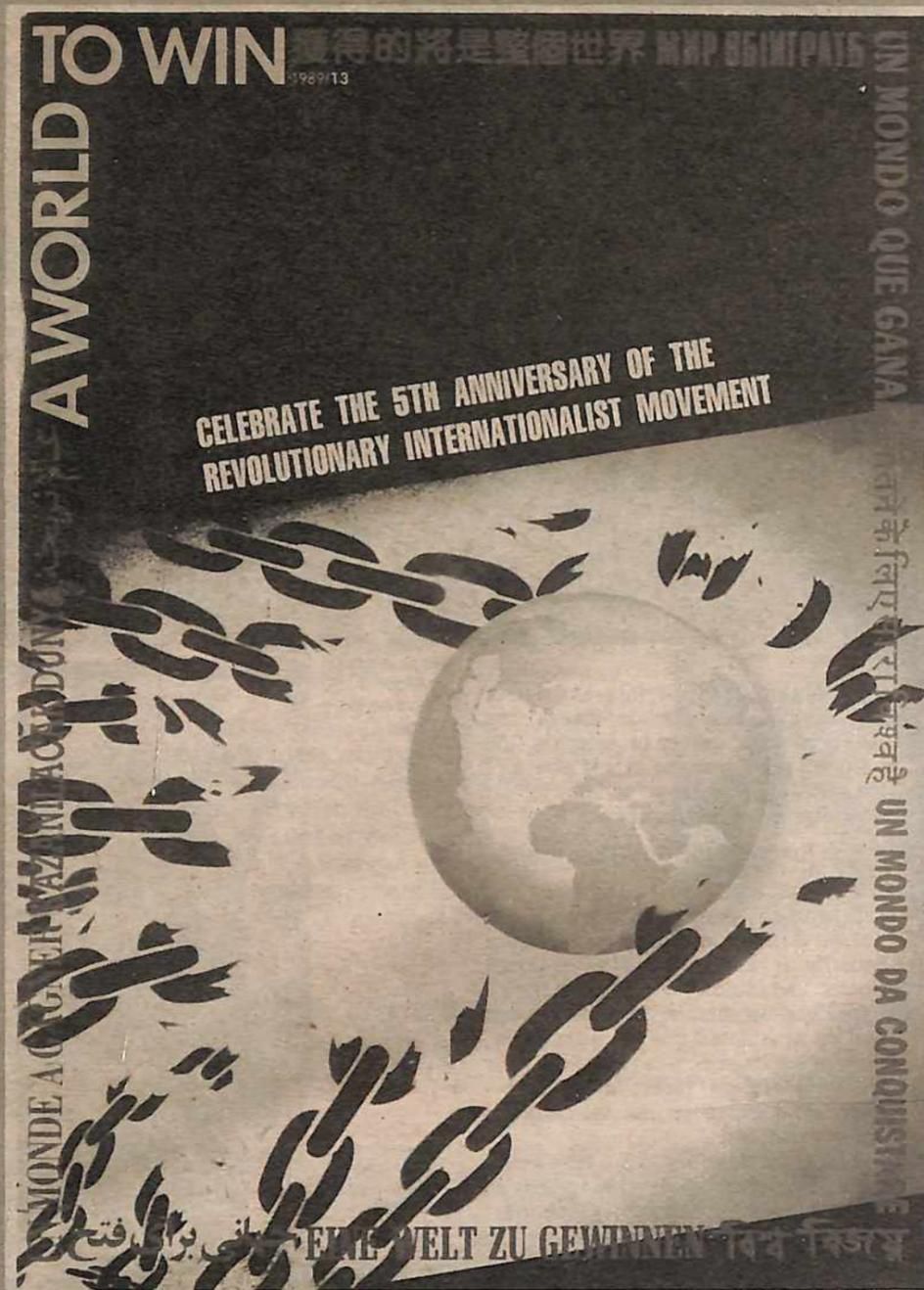
cial of the miners union, the UMWA, gave it an official sanction by declaring a "mourning period" of one week. This Sunday, July 16, that mourning period ends and so the work stoppage of non-Pittston mines may be declared illegal again.

In Virginia, three months into this bitter struggle, no one knows what might happen next. The situation is very tense and the scattered gun fights and explosions could escalate into a full-scale shooting war at almost any time. These events have been suppressed or distorted in the bourgeois media. Clearly the plan of the companies and the authorities is to overwhelm these determined miners and their families with the sheer weight and violence of the courts, police, and gun thugs. And clearly, the determined resistance of these miners and their families is a major development that deserves the attention of the oppressed revolutionary people.

During the past week, an *RW* team dodged state police and gun thugs to explore this struggle. We interviewed dozens of men and women, often in the noise of confrontation and directly under the lenses of Pittston's hired assassins. In the next issue of the *RW* we will write more about events here and about their broader significance. □

# NEW ISSUE!

## REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALIST QUARTERLY



### IN ISSUE NO. 13 . . .

#### CELEBRATE THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE RIM

Statement by the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and a 30-page photo section on the international communist movement, "The Internationale Shall Be the Human Race."

#### PERU

An account of the recent resounding advances in the people's war in Peru being led by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP).

#### PERESTROIKA

An analysis from the pages of the Indian Marxist-Leninist newspaper *Mass Line* on the factors behind the Gorbachev phenomenon and its significance.

#### BANGLADESH

The rulers of Bangladesh and their imperialist masters declare that the people of Bangladesh are too poor and ignorant to do anything about the floods which are ravaging their land with unprecedented frequency and severity. A supporter of the Purba Bangla Sharbohara Party (PBSP) shows how this recent increase in the scale and scope of flooding is a result of the rule of imperialism and reaction, and why flood control is impossible without new democratic revolution.

#### AND MORE . . .

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