

Marie Springfield: A Victim of Racist, Sexist Justice in Detroit

On Wednesday, August 7, Dominick Carnovale, a white male judge of the privileged class, sentenced Marie Springfield, a young Black mother, to 1 to 15 years in prison for allegedly taking a pendant from one of the white middle class women involved in the incident at Hart Plaza during the so-called Freedom Festival.

Carnovale admitted openly that Marie Springfield, the mother of 2 children, ages 2 and 3, did not take part in beating any of the white middle-class women. However, he claims she took a pendant from one of them.

"He told Springfield she didn't 'do the kicking and screaming and hollering, but you picked the carcass. That makes you as guilty as anybody else.'" (*Detroit Free Press*, August 8, 1991, Section B, Page 1.)

Marie Springfield has already been thoroughly humiliated by having her name and face spread all over TV and newspapers. She and the other young Black women involved in the incident say that these white middle-class women from Dearborn Heights and Farmington Hills threw beer at them, spit at them, and called them "niggers." Yet this fact has been almost totally suppressed. The video that allegedly documents their alleged crimes, does not show what happened *before* two of these young Black women hit these white middle-class women.

Now Marie Springfield will be sent to a Michigan prison and separated from her children and her family for at least 5 months.

"The sentence means Springfield could be out of prison in five months 'unless she screws up in the corrections system,' said Richard Padzieski ... Wayne County Prosecutor's Office ... 'the bottom number is the number which more people are going to serve. The top number is only something that might apply if the person screwed up badly' in prison." (*Detroit Free Press*, August 8, 1991, Section B, Page 1.)

In other words, if Marie Springfield proves to be capable of appearing to be totally servile toward her oppressors, she will be

released. If not, she will pass 15 years of torture or more in prison.

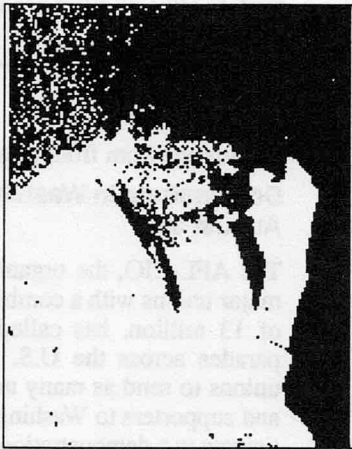
This is justice in America.

George Bush, Norman Schwarzkopf, and Co., order and carrying out the bombing of the Iraqi people, killing, injuring, terrifying, and causing hunger, disease, suffering, and death, to tens of thousands of Iraqi men, women and children, and they are heros who live in luxury.

Marie Springfield, a young Black woman from a poor family in Detroit, allegedly takes a pendant from a white middle-class woman and she is a criminal who may be forced to spend a large part of her life in prison.

What has happened to Marie Springfield shows that the U.S. justice system, even in Detroit, is a racist and sexist justice system. Make no mistake about it, the fact that she is a woman is a strike against her. "Boys will be boys," as the old saying goes. But girls *must* be girls, and if they show any signs of not being docile and servile as they are supposed to be, they will be punished.

What has happened shows that it is impossible for young Black women of the oppressed classes to get a fair trial, even in



Marie Springfield hangs her head as she hears her sentence.



Judge Carnovale sentences Marie Springfield.

Detroit.

We urge all young and working people of all races and nationalities to make a common fight for freedom for Marie Springfield and all of the young Black women charged in connection with the incident at Hart Plaza. (Laquita Glover, Tangela McLemore, Cossandra and Cassandra Rutherford ...)

Some workers say that Cossandra and Cassandra Rutherford have a history of unprovoked attacks on others, including against other Black youth and workers in their own neighborhoods. That may be. But Black working people can and will deal with problems like this themselves. Allowing a racist, sexist, anti-working class justice system to get a hold of them will only make the situation worse.

Free Marie Springfield and all the young Black women of Hart Plaza now! ■

Briefly . . .

Circulate Recall Engler petitions

The Campaign to Recall the anti-working class governor of Michigan, John Engler, has collected over 600,000 signatures as of August 9. The campaign needs 641,141 valid signatures for a recall election to be held. The campaign is making an all-out push to get as many signatures as possible to make sure that they have the required number of valid signatures. We urge all our readers to keep getting signatures up to the final day, August 20. For petitions, call Maureen Taylor at 868-3661 or Truth.

(Continued on back page)

Spark Summer Festival

- picnic meal
 - science tent
 - videos and displays of the workers movement
 - games, skits, sports
 - crafts
 - chance to talk to other workers from the area
- August 18 • Tickets available from Spark or Truth distributors

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Jobs, Not Prisons!

First, Michigan Governor Engler cuts welfare funds to single adult men and women and others, including the disabled, by 12%.

Now, he is calling for a 33% increase in funds for various prisons, including the so-called "boot camps."

Young and working people in Michigan need decent jobs, childcare, schools, homes, and recreation facilities. If they had these things, they wouldn't need welfare, and the number of them involved in crimes against others would drop drastically.

Instead of providing young and working people in Michigan with the things that they need, the owners of the banks and enterprises and their political representatives, like Engler, increase their taxes, take their money, and build prisons to torture them in when they step out of line!

The time has come for the workers to build their own party, their own government, take over the banks and basic industries, and use them to provide the things that people need.

In other words, the time has come for *workers socialism*.

As long as political power and the basic resources of society remain in the hands of capitalists, or middle-class socialists or communists, like the ones that have dominated the USSR, Eastern Europe, China or Cuba, young and working people and their families are going to suffer.

Capitalists and middle-class socialists or communists *benefit* from the exploitation and oppression of the workers.

They enrich themselves at the expense of the workers. Capitalists in the U.S. do it by taking all the natural resources and all the property that the workers have produced, and giving back to the workers only what they need to survive. Middle-class socialists or communists in the USSR, Eastern Europe, China, and Cuba, have been taking a disproportionate share of the wealth, which legally belongs to the whole people, for themselves. Now many of them no longer call themselves socialists or communists at all. They don't want to have anything to do with the idea that those who produce the wealth should own, control, and benefit from the wealth.

Workers produce everything that exists in this society — food, clothes, homes, cars, everything! Why should they share it with billionaire parasites who refuse to work and who don't produce anything at all, that is, the current owners of the banks and basic industries? The working class should own and control everything that it produces, and everyone should have a chance to be part of the working class.

The basic conditions necessary to realize

this change have already been created — a large working class, large-scale finance and industry. It is simply a matter of time.

Young and working people need to begin now to build their own political party, a party that they themselves directly control. They need to begin to fight for their own government, a workers government, made up of workers representatives, directly elected by and accountable to workers in their workplaces. Workers representatives must not have 1-year, 2-year, 4-year, or 6-year terms. They must be *immediately recallable*, that is, workers, in their workplaces, must have the right to immediately recall any representative of theirs who does not do exactly as the workers who elected him want him to do. Further, workers representatives must not be paid any more than what the average worker is paid. Finally, workers need to begin to fight for workers control of the banks and basic

industries, for taking these giant monopolies out of the hands of the privileged few, so that the workers can use them to develop the planned economy so that the people have everything that they need.

This is *workers socialism*, or *workers communism*, not capitalism or middle-class socialism or communism. The workers themselves will call the shots, not a privileged few.

What can young people and working people do to advance this struggle right now? Support every step in this direction, like the campaign to recall Engler, the unions' march on Washington, Labor Party Advocates, or the Spark festival. Subscribe to *Truth*, and help build support for *Truth*, which, in our opinion, has made, and continues to make, the most consistent fight for a workers party and workers socialism, in the Detroit area. — M. Guttshall ■

Briefly . . .

(Continued from front page)

Demonstrate in Washington August 31

The AFL-CIO, the organization of all the major unions with a combined membership of 13 million, has called off Labor Day parades across the U.S. It has urged all unions to send as many members, families and supporters to Washington, D.C. to participate in a demonstration called Solidarity II against anti-working class policies of Bush and the Congress, August 31. We urge all our readers to attend. For more information, call Truth.

Join Labor Party Advocates

Labor Party Advocates, an organization started by Tony Mazzocchi, secretary-treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW), with the single goal of organizing a Labor Party in the United States, continues to grow. Meetings have been held in St. Paul, Minnesota and New York City. It now has nearly 2000 members. We urge all our readers to join. For more information, call (609) 561-6259.

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Keep sanctions against South Africa

The powerful movement of the Black masses of South Africa for an end to apartheid has resulted in great steps forward. Many apartheid laws and structures have been broken by their mobilization in the past few years.

George Bush and other big industrial country leaders have decided to end the sanctions against the South African apartheid government. The African National Congress (ANC) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) have demanded that the sanctions be continued. There is still not one person, one vote, the basic condition for a democratic government. The Afrikaaner Resistance, an armed group of white South Africans that wants to keep apartheid, viciously attacked Black people last week, as they went. It has also

been shown that the apartheid government has been funding the so-called Zulu organization, Inkatha. Inkatha has repeatedly killed the young ANC and other Black militants in the townships in the service of apartheid. There will be much blood of Black Africans shed, and many good leaders killed, until apartheid is completely dismantled and destroyed.

Stop the sanctions against Iraq

The big industrial countries continue to cause hundreds of thousands of Iraqis to starve, drink contaminated water, etc., by maintaining the sanctions against Iraq. The war against Iraq was wrong; it was not in the interest of U.S. working people, but for the rich. Now the sanctions and threats continue the same policy. We urge all working people in the U.S. to demand an end to all threats against Iraq, all sanctions against Iraq, and all U.S. troops in the region.

Support Croats and Slovenians

The oppressed nationalities of Croatia and Slovenia have made great strides in reaching their goal of self-determination for their countries. The fierce determination and armed struggle of these nationalities, their ability to actually defeat the oppressive army of the Serbian majority, caused great fear among George Bush and his friends among the European leaders. They decided to try to force the oppressive Serbian majority of Yugoslavia to make peace with these nationalities. These oppressed peoples have the power to defeat the Serbian army. Workers of all countries should support their struggle for independence. ■

Anti-women campaign moves into Wichita

The anti-women Operation Rescue has been trying to close an abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas for two weeks. Operation Rescue is opposed to a woman's right to have an abortion. It is funded by the forces most against women, Black people and the working class — the American rich. The organizations that support a woman's right to abortion are apparently afraid to confront Operation Rescue in Wichita. Working class forces should organize to crush Operation Rescue by a mobilizing working class women and men from across the country to go to Wichita, keep the clinic open and destroy Operation Rescue. ■

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 Committee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

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