

Defend women's right to abortion!

The National Organization of Women (NOW) is organizing a demonstration to defend women's right to abortion in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, April 5.

We urge working class women and men of all races and nationalities to support this demonstration against all the rich white male politicians and religious figures trying to restrict women's rights.

Millions of women are working full time, going to school, trying to support themselves and their children with little or no help from men. They are trying to raise their children in this same spirit of independence and self-sufficiency. More and more working class women and working class men are beginning to see that this society, as it is presently organized, has little or nothing to offer the vast majority of the people. More and more think radical, even revolutionary, changes are necessary, even inevitable. More and more are getting involved in different struggles, trying to figure out what they can do to build the kind of society they want.

These working class women and men need the right to abortion. They need to be sure that they won't be forced to have a child, whether they are prepared to or not. They need to know that they'll have children if and when, and only if and when, they are prepared to do so.

Some working class women and men are against abortion; they think it's immoral. That's fine. They can have their point of view. But no matter what you think about abortions, you need to defend women's right to abortion. Every woman has a right to decide this question for herself. Rich white male politicians should not be allowed to legis-

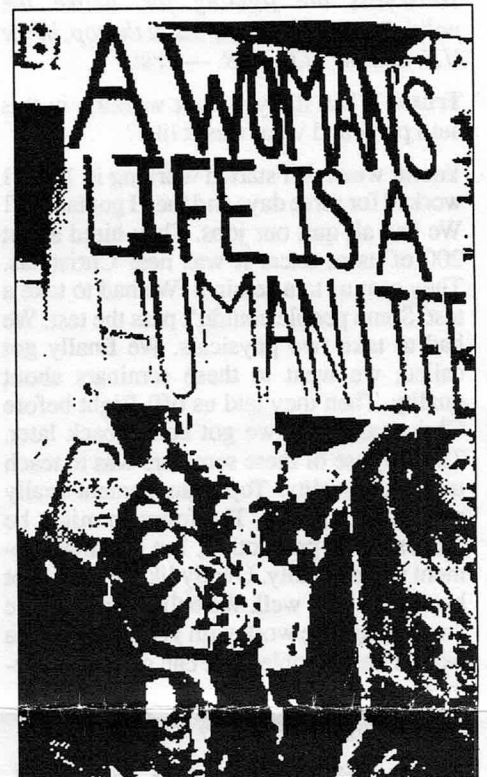
late morality.

The same rich white male politicians who condemn women who have abortions as immoral, are the same rich white men who vote salary increases for themselves and other benefits, while people in the streets pick through garbage looking for food. The same rich white men who think women should be forced to carry and bear children, are the same rich white men who refuse to pass laws forcing employers to give women pregnancy and childcare leave. The same rich white men who say abortion is murder, say dropping bombs on, exploding, and burning, thousands of Iraqi people, is an "operation desert storm."

Please. Don't talk to us about morality. These men are the scum of the earth.

Defend women's right to abortion!
Down with the rich white male politicians, and all the hypocrites!
March on Washington
Sunday, April 5 ■

Women's right to abortion!
Washington, D.C.
Sunday, April 5
For transportation information, call:
National Organization for Women — 254-4892
Eastern Michigan University — 487-4283
Socialist Workers Party — 831-1177



Briefly . . .

Caterpillar Workers Rally drew 15,000 - 20,000 workers to Peoria, Illinois on March 22. The turnout showed support from all sections of the working class for the 5 month old Caterpillar strike. The UAW leadership, however, had nothing to offer the strikers but a \$2000 special bonus. What is needed is a nationwide UAW strike to force Caterpillar management to accept the workers' demands for the same contract as the John Deere workers.

Iraq is once again becoming a target of the imperialists in the U.S. The U.N. inspection teams arrogantly promenade around Iraq, demanding compliance with U.N. resolutions. These teams and resolutions are merely fronts for the big imperialist countries. It's funny how the U.N. teams are composed completely of English-speaking people — U.S., British, Canadian military. Bush may once again attack Iraq, although this time the support from the workers will be less. Reflecting the sentiment of many workers, one comic put it, "this next time Bush's attack on Iraq will be called 'Operation Approval Rating.'"

The Socialist Workers Party has announced candidates for president and vice-president for the 1992 elections — James Warren and Estelle DeBates. This is welcome news for all workers who want to vote for candidates besides the Democrats and Republicans. We urge all workers to help the SWP to get on the ballot in as many states as possible.

In the USSR, a demonstration of thousands of hard-line Stalinists has once again highlighted the increasing possibility of another military coup against the people and their incipient political revolution. This coup will have nothing to do with socialism or communism and no true socialists or communists will have anything to do with it. Indeed, they will support the people, as they did last time, against the coup-makers.

Truth participated in the Peoria rally supporting the Caterpillar workers strike. One thousand leaflets calling for a nationwide UAW strike were distributed. Twenty-five copies of Truth were sold at a meat-packing plant and the Ford Rouge plant. Eight copies of the latest issue of Fourth International were sold as well. ■

Support the demonstration!

Some socialists say workers shouldn't support or participate in the demonstration for women's right to abortion because it has been initiated by NOW, a bourgeois, middle class organization. Others say that demonstrations don't do any good.

But working class women and men need the right to safe, legal abortions. Supporting elements in other classes fighting for this

goal, even if they are not doing it very consistently, can help create the conditions in which workers will achieve this goal.

Participating in demonstrations, even those led by other classes, can help workers learn how to organize these kinds of actions themselves. It's also an opportunity to learn about different working class and middle class political tendencies in a living way. ■

We didn't go to free Kuwait, to come home and be hungry, homeless and poor ...

We are printing an interview with a young worker. As readers will see, this young worker is doing a lot of thinking about the problems facing working people, and what should be done about them. We think it's very important to support this tendency among young workers. We also think that all the problems that he raises show the need to build a big workers party and a workers revolution, in which workers get all political and economic power into their own hands, and use them to build a good life for working people and all oppressed people. This is what true socialists, communists, and Trotskyists are fighting for, unlike the politicians and bureaucrats at the top, in the U.S. and the old USSR. — Truth

Truth. When did you start working in this auto plant and what was it like?

Young worker. I started working in 1989. I worked for three days and then I got laid off! We had all quit our jobs. They hired about 200 of us at once. It was near Christmas. They sent us to a seminar. We had to take a test. Some people couldn't pass the test. We had to take two physicals. We finally got called, we went to these seminars about quality. Then they laid us off! Right before Christmas. Then we got called back later. The purpose of these seminars was to teach us about quality. Top management really cares about quality. The foremen might be interested in production, but top management wants quality. I really like my job. Not because it pays well. We believe in what we are making. We work with good people. If a worker has a problem, he can go to management.

Truth. What is your job?

Young worker. I am a welder. I use a welding gun and weld frames together. There are about 9 guys who work together. We work together as a team. We care about each other. We have to do about 90 frames a day. Maybe workers used to come to work high and drunk. We don't do that. If there is a problem with the frame, we help each other. We try to fix it up.

Truth. What do you think about the GM plant closings and what can be done about them?

Young worker. Well, it might help to buy American cars. They aren't going to let foreign cars in the lots anymore. On the other hand, I believe that the people should have the right to buy whatever car they want to buy. The real problem is that GM management does not know how to run the company. They have all those losses, then they still leave the same guys at the top running the company. Roger Smith gets \$1.1 million

a year. What did he do for GM? They should cut those big bonuses for the people at the top instead of closing plants. I'm not sure about a strike. What good will a strike do if they are losing money. Something has to be done. I'm not sure what. If GM workers want to strike, I'd support them. I think workers should be able to vote for the top leaders of the union. Let the workers be able to decide directly who is going to represent them. I'd like to be a committeeman some day. But I'd like to be the kind that represents the people, not the kind that is appointed from the top. Let the workers decide. Then we'd have someone that we could believe in. Bieber is OK. He got me a good contract the last time. But I wouldn't have voted for him. I think he's owned by somebody else.

Truth. What do you think about the men who are running for president of the U.S. now?

Young worker. I'm going to vote for Bush. I don't see anyone better. I think Reagan was the best president. He always had something to say. He was a clown. He built up defense. He said it's OK to get rich. It seemed like everyone was making money when Reagan was president. What's happening now? Bush did lie. He did raise taxes. He gives a lot of money to other countries. Like Israel. He loaned \$10 billion to Israel. The Democrats are no better. I think people are going to come together. Magic Johnson, Michael Jackson, Miss Fisher. They are working together to deal with this AIDS problem. In some ways, racism is almost dead in America. Blacks and whites are against Duke. That's a good sign. Bush spoke against Duke. But whites still don't want me in their neighborhood. They don't like us. It's different on the job. There is more equality in the plant. Some companies won't let you get very high up. The problem is that the political people are totally out of sync with the world. They are comfortable, they have plenty of food. They don't have any idea what it's like to be hungry and homeless. How can you get help if you are hungry or homeless? If you want to solve problems with education, you need to put the teachers in charge, not some lawyers. They are just going tie everything up with red tape. We have all these empty houses, but the homeless can't get into them. It's all caught up in red tape. If you want to help the hungry and the homeless, kill the red tape. That's the solution. Kill the red tape.

Truth. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Young worker. Well, I would like to say that I voted for Engler. But I had no idea he was going to do what he did. Why is he getting rid of welfare now? It's the wrong time. We have empty houses. They could go to work repairing them. And did you know that half the homeless are veterans and that some of these guys are from the Gulf War? These guys looked out for our country, yet now they are homeless. This is not right. If the government wants someone to fight a war,

make sure it can take care of these people. We didn't go to free Kuwait, to come home and be hungry homeless and poor. Where did all the money go for this war? ■

Earth Day and socialism

Twenty years ago on April 1, Earth Day was started. It was started by a senator. Earth Day meant that the concern about the environment was so strong in the U.S. that the ruling rich wanted to appear before the world as "environmentally conscious." The ruling rich are driven by the need for profits to the exclusion of everything else — worker safety and health, peace among nations, and, of course, a healthy environment.

We need only mention two environmental disasters since Earth Day began: Bhopal, India, where hundreds died of poisonous fumes emitted from a Union Carbide plant; the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska and so on.

Workers worry about the environment but mostly they worry about the loss of jobs. The media have shown lumber workers fighting environmentalists in California over trees and Mexican workers becoming sick from water polluted by large U.S. maquiladora factories on the Rio Grande River.

There is today a contradiction between good-paying jobs and a healthy environment. This contradiction is a product of profits being the driving force behind economic activity. In other words, of the capitalist economic system.

This contradiction is but another form of the same contradiction that exists between jobs and a high standard of living for U.S. workers. The capitalists are closing 22 GM plants to be "competitive" with Japan, demanding concessions to keep jobs here.

The capitalists cannot organize production or make any decisions favorable to the environment unless they make a profit or, avoid social unrest which might threaten all profits.

Today we have socialized production, that is, that thousands of people work together to create the products that we need to live. The capitalists play no role in this process. They are parasites. The people who work together to create the products we need, the wealth of society, need to own and control the factories, banks and so on that they have built. That is a socialist method of production.

With the workers owning and controlling the factories and banks, the contradiction between a healthy environment and jobs would end.

For example, the workers would free the scientific experts from the burden of profits and they could tell the workers the truth. Even the disagreements between experts would be honest and not motivated by profits for one group of rich over another.

Workers would support research projects needed to make intelligent decisions about how producing the goods we need could be done to be environmentally safe.

The worsening condition of the environment and the worsening condition of the U.S. workers goes together, and can only be resolved by taking the factories and banks away from the rich and placing them in the hands of the workers — socialism. — J. Marlowe ■

Truth is 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. Editor: Margaret Gutshall

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