15,000 March Against Bakke
Turning Point in Struggle of Minorities

Washington, D.C.—On April 15, in Washington D.C. 15,000 people marched against the Bakke decision, against racism and discrimination. 15,000 people full of the determination and rebellion that had opened up lunch counters, smashed segregation, won open admissions, and burnt cities. A sea of Black and white, Puerto Rican and Asian-American shoulder-to-shoulder, with one common chant, “Beat Back the Bakke Decision.” After 7 years of little organized response to discrimination, the April 15th march was a turning point.

If you watched the network news the evening of April 15, that Saturday held no special significance. The only report of a demonstration in Washington, D.C. was about 400 Elvis Presley fans who want his birthday to be a national holiday.

But news blackouts can only hide reality, not change it. The anti-Bakke demonstration was the biggest outpouring of protest against racism this country has seen in the 1970’s.

It delivered the People’s Verdict against the Bakke decision and served notice to this country’s rulers, right in their seat of power in Washington, that poverty and degradation.

No matter what the Supreme Court decides on Bakke, new legal challenges lie ahead in the ruling class’ offensive against the gains of the 60’s. Earlier this year the highest federal court in the south decided a case entitled Weber vs. Kaiser Aluminum. Weber involves an on-the-job training program adopted by the USWA and Kaiser for its Gramercy, La. plant.

This program instituted a ratio of one minority trainee for each white trainee in order to increase minority participation in craft jobs to a level reflecting the racial composition of the area. At Gramercy 2% of the craft workers are Black, while 40% of the surrounding population is. Because Blacks are generally excluded from the crafts unions where they could gain the needed skills, very few would be able to ever get into such skilled positions without a special training program.

Weber, a white worker at Gramercy, challenged the program as discriminatory under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race in employment. It would be quite possible for Bakke to lose and for Weber to win.

What would a Weber victory mean if the Supreme Court hears his case in the fall? The Government would have to prosecute any employer or institution which had special programs to overcome discrimination against Blacks, Latin, and even women!

New Case Outdoes Bakke Attack on Affirmative Action

No matter what the Supreme Court decides on Bakke, new legal challenges lie ahead in the ruling class’ offensive against the gains of the 60’s. Earlier this year the highest federal court in the south decided a case entitled Weber vs. Kaiser Aluminum. Weber involves an on-the-job training program adopted by the USWA and Kaiser for its Gramercy, La. plant.

This program instituted a ratio of one minority trainee for each white trainee in order to increase minority participation in craft jobs to a level reflecting the racial composition of the area. At Gramercy 2% of the craft workers are Black, while 40% of the surrounding population is. Because Blacks are generally excluded from the crafts unions where they could gain the needed skills, very few would be able to ever get into such skilled positions without a special training program.

Weber, a white worker at Gramercy, challenged the program as discriminatory under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race in employment. It would be quite possible for Bakke to lose and for Weber to win.

What would a Weber victory mean if the Supreme Court hears his case in the fall? The Government would have to prosecute any employer or institution which had special programs to overcome discrimination against Blacks, Latin, and even women!

US imperialism in Southern Africa has left its mark on those who marched and the many who supported them.

One of the largest and best received contingents in the march was the 600 member Soweto Brigade, marching behind a banner declaring, “Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from the USA (Union of South Africa) to the USA (United States of America).” Their chant of “Soweto” was greeted with cheers throughout the march, reflecting the widespread inspiration Black people get here from their brothers and sisters in struggle in South Africa.

The Bakke decision of the California Supreme Court (which the US Supreme Court will rule on within the next month) has the potential to wipe out all continued on page 13

N.Y. Students Clash With Cops
Take on Cuts, Discrimination

New York City—On the afternoon of May 3rd, tactical police, preceded by a dozen plainclothesmen, burst in on 50 students peacefully occupying a building at Brooklyn College to protest recent attacks on minority students and the firing of a Puerto Rican professor. Brooklyn College president John Kettler unleashed the bloody attack, which sent several students and cops to the hospital as many students fought back. One of three students arrested on trumped-up felony charges was repeatedly beaten across the face at the precinct and is in danger of losing sight in one eye. Since the battle, 300 students demonstrated May 10th, demanding an end to police repression on campus.

Also on May 10th, police moved in to break up another occupation, arresting 15 Hostos Community College students sitting in a building which the city has refused to open to the school. At Hostos, the only bi-lingual college for Spanish speaking students this side of El Paso, students have been forced to go to school in an overcrowded former tire factory without a cafeteria, auditorium or lounges. During last semester’s finals many students actually had to take their tests sitting in the hall.

A few months ago they took matters into their own hands, and along with community residents, moved into the empty building across the street. They have fixed it up and are operating classes, cultural activities and daycare there since, saying hello to the city’s stalling. The city had purchased the building for Hostos in 1974 but never opened it up to the building.

The occupations at Brooklyn and Hostos were sparked by a growing frustration with the increasing attacks on the schools in the City University of New York system (CUNY). In the past two years there have been massive budget cuts in the CUNY system. The latest assault, which directly affects Hostos, is a "Master Plan" announced by Mayor Ed Koch in May, which would halt all new construction throughout CUNY. It would also end New York

continued on page 16
On May 15th, The Longest Walk, a cross-country march of several hundred Native Americans and supporters, stopped to rally as the federal-pent in Montana. A few miles from this event, Leonard Peltier!* one of thousands of Indian activists who have struggled for justice for Native Americans, was sentenced to two life sentences based on circumstantial evidence and trumped-up charges.

The NAACP and the Urban League brought with them the stories of thousands of Native Americans who have endured ailments ranging from tuberculosis to mental illness. FBI agents followed them every step of the way, at times provoking and harassing them. The march is part of the battle Native Americans have been waging against the U.S. government and its allies since the government first stole the Indians' land and began pushing them farther and farther west and herding them onto smaller and smaller plots of land for their reservations.

The 2000-mile march has taken a physical toll on the participants, who have endured ailments ranging from tuberculosis to mental illness. FBI agents have followed them every step of the way, at times provoking and harassing them. The struggle to free Leonard Peltier is important because his case is being used by the government as a warning to other Indians who advocate fighting militantly for justice for Native Americans.

Peltier was charged with killing two drunk off-duty cops with one of their own guns. The two were working together. Along the way, other Indians have made contributions to the march. A young Indian woman brought a pot of beans for farmers donating their pigs. Reinforcements of food, medicine, clothing and supporters who walk a few miles have kept the spirits of the Indians high. They have not wavered from their desire to expose the problems of Indians, and at each point along the way they have met with particular abuse. The struggle to free Leonard Peltier is important because his case is being used by the government as a warning to other Indians who advocate fighting militantly for justice for Native Americans.

The march was joined by Indians from another struggle in the Minneapolis-Paul area, where Indians are trying to defeat a law that would bus Indian students to schools around the city. The Native-American-Controlled Survival Schools sponsored the "Run for Survival," to protest the government's attempts to deny Indians the right to control their own lives in such areas as education. The Run opposed the busing plan because it would disperse Indian youth to other schools, thus denying them courses in their own language and culture.

The anger and discontent reflected in the Lessons of the 60s, the ghetto rebellions, the Panthers and Malcolm X have never disappeared. The links between oppression in Africa and the US are still strong. The NAACP and the Urban League have deep roots in the fight for justice for Native Americans, and for justice for Black, Latin and Asian people.

The march was joined by Indians from another struggle in the Minneapolis-Paul area, where Indians are trying to defeat a law that would bus Indian students to schools around the city. The Native-American-Controlled Survival Schools sponsored the "Run for Survival," to protest the government's attempts to deny Indians the right to control their own lives in such areas as education. The Run opposed the busing plan because it would disperse Indian youth to other schools, thus denying them courses in their own language and culture. These demands and the struggle to free Leonard Peltier are symbols of a growing movement among Indians to take matters into their own hands. In early April, armed Navajos seized the oilfields on their reservation at Montezuma Creek, Utah. The government and the oil monopolies have been trying to grab Indian lands for years, because the reservations rest on 30% of the Western coal reserves, 40% of the country's uranium, and 4% of the country's oil and gas deposits.

The NAACP and the Urban League are continuing to demand affirmative action programs. In several states (N.J., Louisiana, etc.) recent court rulings have found quotas to be unconstitutional—quotas which right now are the only guarantees that minorities will be able to get into professional programs.

In Milwaukee, Wis.—Angry citizens picketed and packed the Fire and Police Commission hearings here on April 27 to speak out against police conduct and procedures. The hearings were the result of a long string of police and national procedure and the struggle to defend affirmative action programs. In several states (N.J., Louisiana, etc.) recent court rulings have found quotas to be unconstitutional—quotas which right now are the only guarantees that minorities will be able to get into professional programs.

Milwaukee, Wisc. — Angry citizens picketed and packed the Fire and Police Commission hearings here on April 27 to speak out against police conduct and procedures. The hearings were the result of a long string of police and national procedure and the struggle to defend affirmative action programs. In several states (N.J., Louisiana, etc.) recent court rulings have found quotas to be unconstitutional—quotas which right now are the only guarantees that minorities will be able to get into professional programs.

Although Bakke is the main national issue downing on the Native reservations, the NCOBD doesn't link it to the 101 other attacks, from the attacks on MOVE in Philadelphia to the cuts in Black and Latin Studies departments on college campuses

The anger and discontent reflected in the Lessons of the 60s, the ghetto rebellions, the Panthers and Malcolm X have never disappeared. The links between oppression in Africa and the US are still strong. The NAACP and the Urban League have deep roots in the fight for justice for Native Americans, and for justice for Black, Latin and Asian people.

**continued from page 8**

affirmative action, be it minority admissions or minority hiring programs.

Bakke, a white man, had gone to school in California as a medical student and then to Bethel College in Illinois as a law student. He was admitted to the University of California Medical School despite the fact that he was over the age limit and an out-of-state resident. Bakke's case went to the Supreme Court, which decided in 1978 that affirmative action programs are constitutional. The Supreme Court ruled that Bakke was not entitled to the affirmative action programs because he was not a member of a minority group.

If affirmed, the Bakke decision only Reinforcements of food, medicine, clothing and supporters who walk a few miles have kept the spirits of the Indians high. They have not wavered from their desire to expose the problems of Indians, and at each point along the way they have met with particular abuse. The struggle to free Leonard Peltier is important because his case is being used by the government as a warning to other Indians who advocate fighting militantly for justice for Native Americans.

The NAACP and the Urban League have deep roots in the fight for justice for Native Americans, and for justice for Black, Latin and Asian people.