

Unity

For Peace
Justice, Equality,
and Socialism

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NORTHWEST NATIVE ART

Living traditions in
contemporary Native
American visual arts

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UNITY

Interview

Paper mill strike approaches one-year mark

*A talk with striking
workers in Jay, Maine*

Rick Jurgens

Contributed

JAY, MAINE — The waters of the Androscoggin River are yellow with chemical discharges from the International Paper (IP) mill here. The plant itself has been fortified as if to repel an invasion.

Eleven months ago IP issued a list of "non-negotiable" concessions demands to United Paperworkers (UPIU) Local 14, including job combinations, cuts in Sunday premium pay of up to \$5,000 a year, and elimination of the workers' last remaining shut-down holiday. "They (IP managers) wanted a strike," says Maine state AFL-CIO organizer Peter Kellman.

They got more than they bargained for. While the mill has limped along with a scab work force, this town of 5,000 has closed ranks behind the strikers.

The UPIU is waging a corporate campaign against IP and its big business allies. On June 1 the strikers announced boycotts of Bank of Boston and the PNC Corporation in Pennsylvania.

Appearances by Jesse Jackson at strike rallies in Jay and at other IP plants have focused nationwide attention on the struggle.

The strikers have weathered the long ordeal with a rank and file organization which makes the most of their talents, energies and experience. Hundreds of Local 14 members have hit the road,

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'We the people can win!'



Jackson
campaign
forging new
democratic
majority

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jamala Rogers

"Never surrender. I'm by no means tired." The 1988 Democratic presidential primary season is over, but the Jesse Jackson campaign has refused to concede defeat, vigorously pressing forward its bid for the nomination and a progressive party platform that reflects the new democratic majority.

"Millions of Americans have come together over the past months to support my candidacy and my message," said the Reverend Jesse Jackson at a press conference on June 8. "Over the next 40 days, we will work hard to insure that the party reflects their concerns in its platform, its leadership and its rules."

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NEWS

Analysis

Moscow summit: end of Cold War?

High hopes for era of U.S.-U.S.S.R. detente

John Massey

Although President Ronald Reagan's meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in early June produced no breakthrough agreements, the

Moscow summit highlighted what appears to be a new era of improved relations between the U.S. and U.S.S.R.

Already some observers are even hailing the arrival of the end of the Cold War.

The summit dramatized the pro-

found changes taking place in attitude and policy on both sides.

For the Soviet Union, the Moscow summit displayed to the world Gorbachev's effort to achieve *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring) — his efforts to

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A winning campaign . . .

“Over the next months and years, we will continue to spread the message of new hope and new possibility, so that millions more may become actors in the new era of change that is now dawning.”

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A new majority

Jackson's ability to move this majority to action has jolted mainstream media into anxious contemplation of "What does Jesse want?" The real question is, however, "What has Jesse built?"

The Rev. Jesse Jackson's historic campaign has grown from the 1984 promise of a rainbow to the 1988 actualization of a new democratic majority that includes Blacks, Latinos, Asians, American Indians and progressive whites. In fact, Jackson defied media predictions that he would never win support from working class white voters. His message has united people across historical racial barriers, combining issues of Black and minority empowerment with common economic concerns.

Jackson has won near unanimous support from the African American community, and increased his portion of the Latino vote (and in those areas where the Jackson campaign was well-organized, such as East Los Angeles, Jackson won a majority of the Latino vote, demonstrating the potential for strong Latino support). Increasing his portion of the white vote, Jackson went from winning about 10% in Iowa to around 25% in several New England states to 26% in California and 35% in Oregon.

Jackson has also gained greater support from organized labor. In the past four years, Jackson has stood on the frontlines of labor's struggles, whether it was in Jay, Maine, with the International Paper strikers, or in Kenosha, Wisconsin, with the United Auto Workers, or in Salinas, California, with striking Chicana Teamster cannery workers. In return for Jackson's support over the years,

many union locals and workers endorsed, campaigned and voted for Jesse Jackson.

A New South

Jackson has also forged winning coalitions in Virginia, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama through massive voter registration, extremely high African American voter turnout, and by winning approximately 10% of the white vote in several Southern states.

These new coalitions have the potential to reverse the region's unnatural conservatism by electing new Black and progressive white leadership into local, state and national offices.

Justice and hope

Jackson's campaign continues to distinguish itself from others with its hopeful outlook and uncompromising quest for justice in the

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Jesse Jackson won near unanimous support in Black communities everywhere.



UNITY PHOTO: CYNTHIA FLORES

Jackson's message has brought new hope to a whole generation of young people.

Keeping hope alive . . .



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 whole nomination process. In keeping with this, the campaign has announced its strategy to gain support from superdelegates (various elected officials and Democratic Party leaders), who are not elected as

delegates by popular vote. These 645 superdelegates can determine who the nominee will be, because Michael Dukakis has won only 300 more delegates than Rev. Jackson in actual primary and caucus races.

Although many of the superdelegates have already pledged their vote to Dukakis, the Jackson campaign argues that superdelegates should vote as people in their cities, states and congressional districts have voted. Targeting superdelegates from 89 congressional districts, Jackson has already won the support of superdelegate Sen. Fritz Hollings from South Carolina whose state was swept by Jackson. The Jackson campaign also intends to lobby uncommitted delegates and released delegates whose candidates are no longer in the race, because none of these delegates are bound to vote for a particular candidate on the first ballot at the Democratic National Convention in July.

Winning over more of these delegates would help equalize the current disparity between Jackson's popular vote and his percentage of the delegates.

At the same time, the campaign has called for changes in the rules to make the nomina-

tion process more democratic. The winner-take-all elections by congressional district, in particular, are extremely unfair. For example, in Illinois, Jackson won 32% of the popular vote but only received 21% of the delegates. In Pennsylvania, Jackson won 28% of the

vote but only received eight delegates, whereas Dukakis won 68% of the vote and received 92 delegates. In Puerto Rico, Jackson won the primary but received no delegates.

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UNITY PHOTO: SONNY KIM



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UNITY PHOTO: CYNTHIA FLORES



Jesse Jackson and a young lion dancer in San Francisco Chinatown, at Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson banquet.

"Never surrender. I'n

Jackson is also fighting for several other reforms that would empower those traditionally locked out, including voter registration by mail, same-day registration and voting, and much greater emphasis on massive voter registration drives.

All of these reforms would benefit grass-roots progressive candidates.

Jackson, the vice presidency, and the fight for a progressive platform

Should Jackson fail to receive enough delegate votes for the presidential nomination, he has earned the right to be the vice presiden-

tial choice. As Congressman Louis Stokes of Ohio, expressing the sentiments of the Congressional Black Caucus, pointed out, "In the last 20 years with white candidates on the ticket, and no Blacks, Democrats have only held office for four years. In the last election, with two white candidates on the ticket, we lost 49 of the 50 states. We can't do worse than that." In fact, a Dukakis-Jackson ticket would tap the enthusiasm of a newly enlarged Democratic Party, which is necessary to beat George Bush in November.

With nearly seven million popular votes, the Jackson campaign is in a strong position to fight for a progressive platform that actively pursues peace and that makes adequate budget commitments to health care, education, the war against drugs, and a workers' bill of rights. And this fight will be key to moving the Democratic platform to the left, to prevent Dukakis from capitulating to conservative pressures.

Already, Jackson has persuaded the party to declare South Africa a terrorist state, indicating the amount of pressure and influence his strong showing has given him.

Looking toward the future

While Jackson is preparing his delegates and supporters to fight at the July 18-21 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, he is also planning ahead — looking towards broadening and institutionalizing the mass social base which moved into action to support his candidacy and progressive politics in this country.

In an effort to further broaden and empower this new majority, on June 8 Jackson announced a huge drive to register two million new voters between now and the November election, which could provide the margin of victory against Bush.

Looking beyond the presidential race, Jackson also announced on June 8 the crea-





Jackson has stood with family farmers against foreclosures, with workers against plant closings, and with all people fighting for justice.

by no means tired."

tion of a political action committee (PAC) to support progressives in local, state and national races. Drawing upon Jackson's impressive fund-raising base and seasoned staff, this PAC will have a major impact on future local, state and national elections.

In the next few years, progressive representatives in state legislatures and the Congress will help draw the city, county and district lines.

Historically, districts have been gerrymandered to dilute Black and Latino voting strength. More fairly drawn, districts could reshape politics in several major cities, including key Southern cities, New York and San Francisco. Overall, the Jackson candidacy has set in

motion progressive social forces which will have an important impact on the 1989 elections and beyond.

Jackson has emerged from the campaign as the leader of a new progressive alliance. Bringing together workers, farmers, students, Blacks, Latinos, Asians and other people of color, and whites, he has infused the people with hope. With his solid basis of support among African Americans, the most progressive force in U.S. politics, and with growing support among Latinos and Asians (Jackson won 36% of the Latino vote in California and 46% of the Asian American vote), stronger ties with the trade unions and workers, and support from women, peace activists, gays and lesbians, and environmentalists, Jackson has proven that a new majority exists and is growing strong enough to reverse the misery and anxiety the people have suffered under Reaganism and right-wing rule.



Esai Morales, Jackson supporter and co-star of the film "La Bamba."