

[for P.C. members]

Report on Black Work in Atlanta

by James Harris

[The following is an excerpt from James Harris's report on Black work in Atlanta.]

Recruitment and Membership

At this point, we have thirteen Black Trotskyists in Atlanta. We expect that number to increase by one or two in the next two weeks. Three of these comrades are in the SWP exclusively, three are in the SWP and YSA, and seven of them are in the YSA. Four are women and eight of them are college students.

Recently we have done a great deal of recruiting, with five of these comrades joining in about a month after Oberlin. We face a tremendously open situation here due to a lack of serious opponents. The antics of the October League are often so sectarian and hysterical that healthy independents are immediately turned off by them. Also the broadness of our political approach far outreaches that of the Maoists. These new recruits have seen us involved in things ranging from the E.R.A., the abortion movement, international questions, and NSCAR. This has impressed them very much.

The vehicle we directly used to recruit all of them was a weekly socialist discussion group that the YSA set up. This allowed us to answer their major questions in an easy relaxed way and at the same time to maintain a weekly contact with all of them.

. . . Since I wrote the first part of this another Black male college student from Atlanta U. joined.