

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Socialist candidates in Miami
back fights by truckers, taxi drivers**
—PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 69/NO. 41 OCTOBER 24, 2005

New Orleans cops assault Black man

Airing of video forces officers' suspension

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

New Orleans police officers brutally beat Robert Davis, a 64-year-old man, in the French Quarter of the city October 8. Another cop roughed up an Associated Press Television News (APTN) producer for filming the assault. The videotape of the cops' actions quickly hit television screens around the world. Three of the officers involved were suspended from the force without pay, after being charged with battery.

The incident is the latest example of police brutality and racism that working people in New Orleans were subjected to before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina—and then Rita—devastated the city. A number of cops were also involved in looting sprees, according to other video and eyewitness accounts.

The APTN tape shows a cop striking



AP

Cops beat 64-year-old Robert Davis, a retired school teacher, on Bourbon Street in New Orleans October 8. Brutal beating was caught on videotape by Associated Press Television News reporters. The AP producer on the scene was also roughed up by a police officer.

Davis, a retired New Orleans school teacher, at least four times in the head as he stood on Bourbon Street. Davis, who is Black, was dragged to the ground by four policemen who punched and kicked him in the face. The footage shows blood streaming down his body onto the sidewalk.

"A fifth officer ordered APTN producer Rich Matthews and the cameraman to stop recording," reported the Associated Press. "When Matthews held up his credentials and explained that he was working, the officer grabbed the producer, leaned

Continued on page 7

Teamsters expand organizing independent truckers in South

Hiring halls to open in Charleston, Savannah

BY JAMES HARRIS

CHARLESTON, South Carolina—The Teamsters union is widening its efforts to organize independent truckers and other drivers at the ports along the East Coast. Teamsters organizers said they plan to open a hiring hall here October 22 and a similar one in Savannah, Georgia, the following week. The Charleston and Savannah ports are among the largest container ports in the United States.

These steps follow initial successes of a nationwide campaign that began September 17 in Miami. The Teamsters there have signed up more than 500 owner-operators, most of whom have been dispatched to jobs in that area through the union hiring hall in Miami.

The union has begun setting up its hiring hall here in the headquarters of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), which has a militant record in the recent past. In the year 2000, unionized dockworkers in Charleston beat back efforts by the bosses to unload ships with nonunion labor.

"I think we are having great success," Teamsters Port Division representative Jim Stewart said in an October 8 phone interview. Stewart told the *Militant* he was on route to Savannah from Charles-



Militant/Elle Garcia

James Harris (left), Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, shows *Militant* October 8 to trucker at roadside stop on highway from Atlanta to Charleston, South Carolina, where Teamsters union is opening effort to organize owner-drivers.

ton. There are about 4,000 independent truckers in the Charleston and Savannah areas who would be eligible to join the Teamsters, Stewart said. The union has already collected hundreds of profiles of drivers who have indicated

Continued on page 7

Striking airline mechanics fight denial of jobless pay

BY TOM FISKE
AND NELSON GONZALEZ

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Up to 75 mechanics on strike against Northwest Airlines participated in a benefit concert here on October 5 at their strike dispatch center. This was followed four days later by a Sunday afternoon hog

roast, out of which more than 100 mechanics organized to take part in a day of expanded picketing at the Lindbergh Terminal and Northwest maintenance facilities.

Picketing at all locations was up to the maximum legally allowed. The strikers were asking working people not only to honor their picket lines but to support their latest fight, to reverse a court ruling denying mechanics who have walked out unemployment benefits.

Spirits were high as strikers waved and talked to people in passing cars,
Continued on page 7

Meat packers, taxi drivers, truckers snap up 'Militant' subscriptions

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Militant readers have sold nearly 1,100 subscriptions to the paper in the first three weeks of the eight-week circulation campaign. With such progress it is now possible to hit the 1,500

mark—the original goal for the entire effort—by next week: only halfway through the drive. Sales to meat packers, taxi drivers, and truckers were the feature of last week.

"Yesterday's highlight was the plant gate sale at the meat-packing plant where Diana Newberry works," reported Frank Forrestal from Los Angeles in an October 8 note. Newberry is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council District 14 in L.A. "A bunch of her co-workers were socializing in the company parking lot. We showed them the campaign literature and the *Militant*. Four decided to subscribe. We had a back-and-forth

Continued on page 4



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Ross Hogan (right) and Becca Williamson sell *Militant* October 7 at gate of Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, Minnesota. Twenty-seven workers bought paper.

GM auto parts supplier files for bankruptcy; to slash wages, jobs

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—The largest U.S. auto parts supplier, Delphi, announced October 8 it has filed for bankruptcy protection. Company executives had been threatening for weeks they would do so unless the United Auto Workers (UAW) agreed to reopen its contract and accept huge cuts in wages and benefits, which the company may now try to impose unilaterally. The Delphi bosses have also asked their former parent company, General Motors, for a bailout estimated at \$6 billion.

Delphi is seeking to cut wages for
Continued on page 3

Also Inside:

New Zealand: timber workers walk out for wage increase 2

Using UMWA T-shirts, Co-Op miners in Utah promote organizing struggle 3

Brooks, Alberta: Meat packers strike Tyson slaughterhouse to press fight for contract 7

U.S. rulers target Iran, Syria, 'radical Islamic jihadism' 9

New Zealand: timber workers walk out, demand wage increase

BY PATRICK BROWN

RUAKAKA, New Zealand—Striking timber workers turned back company attempts to take trucks through their picket line here September 30. They held placards reading, “5 percent in ’05” and “Stand tall at Carter Holt Harvey,” the owner of Futurebuild LVL, the plant they struck September 23. Some 200 members of the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Workers Union (EPMU) are fighting for shift and meal allowances and a 5 percent wage raise.

The truck drivers refused to cross the picket line after union members “parked their cars across the road and stood in front of the trucks,” said EPMU organiser Robert Popata. The union members then met and voted to extend their strike indefinitely, he said. Union delegate (shop steward) Ross Candy said they have signed up three of the truck drivers to the union.

On October 7, some 80 workers marched through Auckland to the company’s head office to press their demands. Workers began their *hiko*i (Maori for march) the previous day at their picket line here in Ruakaka, 100 miles to the north, driving for stretches and marching through towns on the way. “Watch out Carter Holt Harvey, here we come!” they sang, to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming ’Round the Mountain.”

The bosses at Carter Holt Harvey, New Zealand’s largest forestry company, have refused contract talks while the strike is on. They are offering a 3 percent wage increase—the starting rate

is around \$14 an hour (NZ\$1=US 70 cents)—and are demanding the return of one week of the four weeks’ annual holiday in the union contract.

The picket at the factory goes around the clock. An EPMU caravan (trailer) and a National Distribution Union bus provide shelter at the site. The nearby port and oil refinery at Marsden Point ensure a traffic of trucks and other vehicles, many of which toot their support. Local workers, farmers, and store-holders are providing solidarity.

Terry Coggan contributed to this article.



Militant/Terry Coggan

Striking timber workers from Ruakaka, New Zealand, perform *haka* (Maori war dance) October 7 outside head office of Carter Holt Harvey, at end of 100-mile *hiko*i (march) into Auckland. The workers struck the company’s Futurebuild LVL plant September 23.

Iceland: shipyard workers fight for back pay

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ AND ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

AKUREYRI, Iceland—Workers at the Slippstöðin shipyard here in northern Iceland took action September 30 to demand back pay. They prevented goods the bosses had sold from being moved off the premises once word spread that income from the sale would not be used to pay back wages, but instead would go towards paying off debts held by Landsbanki Íslands bank.

Workers moved swiftly to ground a truck that had been sent to fetch welding rods and other equipment bound for the Kárahnjúkar dam construction project, welded the door shut, and parked a crane in front of it. They then closed off the entire premises and took turns standing guard in four-hour shifts.

“We stopped working on Friday morning when it became clear that we wouldn’t get our wages,” said Thorsteinn Haraldsson, a shop steward at Slippstöðin. Many workers receive monthly wages, and are owed for all of September, while others get paid every two weeks.

The company had been in “moratorium” since September 13, which allows it to hold off debt payments but not take loans. Slippstöðin filed for bankruptcy a few hours after the workers took action. The moratorium was due to expire October 4. “There is something wrong with laws that say a company can not go into more debt during a moratorium, but in fact allow it to pile up debts to workers,” said Haraldsson. “They knew a while ago that they weren’t going to pay us, but said nothing.”

The action ended the next day, October 1, after a meeting with Hilmir Hilmisson, the chairman of the board of Slippstöðin. Workers said they became convinced that all company income will be seized by Landsbanki. They let the truck go, but kept an eye on all movement of other goods from the premises until October 3, when the North-East District Court accepted the company’s application for bankruptcy

proceedings. “About 100 people work here and we are members of several different unions,” explained Gísli Bergsson, another shop steward at Slippstöðin. “That includes Eining-Idja—a general workers union—and the metal workers, carpenters, and office employees unions. About 60–70 workers have signed up to take shifts.”

A state fund that is supposed to insure employees’ back wages when a company goes into bankruptcy pays a maximum of 250,000 Icelandic kronur (\$4,070) per worker. Shipyard workers who had worked a lot of overtime in September are owed more than that. And it can take weeks and sometimes months to receive payments from this fund.

On October 10 new owners announced that the company was being reopened, rehiring 45 workers and promising to hire more.

At the end of September two shrimp processing companies in the northeastern part of the country, St-ryta and Íshaf, announced layoffs of more than 50 workers. A third shrimp factory, Sigurdur Ágústsson in Styk-kishólmur in the west, announced it will be closing down at the end of the year, eliminating 25 jobs.

THE MILITANT

Behind social disaster in Gulf Coast

Working people have taken initiatives across the Gulf Coast to help each other confront the social disaster imposed on them by the government at all levels after recent storms. The ‘Militant’ brings you their stories—which point to humanity’s future—in their own words. Don’t miss a single issue!



Oil worker Rick Courtney tours damaged trailer park in Lake Charles, Louisiana, October 1.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr500 • New Zealand, NZ\$10 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

VOL. 69/NO. 41

Closing news date: October 12, 2005

Editor and circulation director:

Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Arrin Hawkins, Martin Koppel, Luis Madrid, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and June.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.

E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Subscriptions: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send \$80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send \$65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$50 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address. **France:** Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kronor for one year. Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Utah miners use T-shirt to promote union fight

BY DAVE FERGUSON

PRICE, Utah—Flyers prominently posted in the offices of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 22 here encourage visitors to buy a T-shirt to support the efforts by coal miners at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, to organize a union. The T-shirt that was made for the second anniversary celebration of the struggle reads: “Co-Op Miners—UMWA Local 9957 District 22 Here We Come!—United Mine Workers of America” in both English and Spanish.

“UMWA District 22 and the Co-Op miners would like to thank you for attending the August 21, 2005, picnic,” read a letter that was sent to supporters of the Co-Op miners’ struggle by Mike Dalpiaz, international vice-president of UMWA District 22. This mailing included the flyer advertising the T-shirt along with a front page article from the August 30 *Emery County Progress* entitled “Carry on—Two year battle continues for Co-op miners.”

The miners’ strike began on Oct. 3, 2003, when 75 miners set up picket lines outside the mine. They had been fired and locked out two weeks earlier for trying to organize a union to change the abusive conditions at the mine.

Following a 10-month strike, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that the miners were illegally fired for union activity and ordered their reinstatement. The miners were fired a second time eight days prior to a union election on Dec. 17, 2004.

All along, the miners won solidarity

from the labor movement, especially from union locals in the West. In response to the miners strike victory, the Co-Op owners filed a retaliatory lawsuit charging the miners, the UMWA, and many who supported or reported on their struggle with defamation.

The fight against this lawsuit, and solidarity from the labor movement, continue today. Carpenters Local 22 from San Francisco recently sent a message of support to the miners that it adopted at a local meeting in September. Luis Sánchez, a member of this local, had attended the August 21 picnic in Utah. The miners continue to fight for a union. They are demanding their reinstatement and that the NLRB count the votes from the union election.

Send orders for the T-shirts to Co-Op miners c/o UMWA District 22, 525 E. 100 S., Price, UT 84501. T-shirts are \$10.00 plus \$2.50 for postage. Make checks out to Co-Op Miners Fund.



Emery County Progress

Co-Op miner José Contreras with UMWA T-shirt promoting union-organizing struggle

Delphi declares bankruptcy; to slash wages

Continued from front page

skilled workers from an average of \$30 an hour to \$19. Wages for production workers would be cut from an average of about \$26 an hour to between \$10 and \$12. Cost-of-living allowances would be eliminated. Vacations would be cut from six weeks to four, and holidays reduced. Health-care payments by production workers would be increased to match that being paid by salaried employees. A jobs bank that currently pays the wages of workers on long-term layoff would be eliminated.

Delphi also want to consolidate, phase out, or sell the majority of plants over the next three years, according to a UAW Local 292 negotiations update.

The union reported that Delphi had taken the position that regardless of what the UAW agrees to, GM must provide billions in financial support. GM created Delphi as a separate company in 1999. By allowing the parts supplier to go into bankruptcy, the *Wall Street Journal* said, GM could end up owning the better part of a restructured Delphi with a workforce paid less than half of

current wages.

GM is also asking the UAW for concessions in health care. Heavily weighted towards production of large sports utility vehicles and trucks, GM lost \$2 billion in the first half of 2005. Delphi, which does half its business with GM, lost \$4.8 billion last year. Standard and Poor’s credit rating agency lowered Delphi’s credit rating to triple C minus, two notches below junk bond level, the *Detroit News* reported.

“If Delphi files bankruptcy,” said the union prior to the filing, “the above proposal they made to the UAW will look better than the restructuring proposal it submits to the courts. It is clear that in one form or another, there is a restructuring of Delphi forthcoming.”

The UAW represents 25,000 workers at Delphi in 38 U.S. plants. The parts supplier has 185,000 employees worldwide in 38 countries—nearly 150,000 of whom are unionized. Delphi had already announced plans to cut 8,500 jobs, including 3,000 in the United States. The bankruptcy filing affects only the company’s U.S. operations.

Ford retakes parts plants; to cut wages, jobs

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Ford Motor Company announced October 1 that it had taken back 23 unprofitable plants from a failing parts supply company that Ford created in 2000. The plants have been placed into a temporary Ford-run company, Automotive Components Holdings (ACH). Ford said it will attempt to sell them within a year.

As a result, some 18,000 production workers in the United States and another 2,000 in Mexico who have been transferred from the parts supplier, Visteon, to ACH face losing their jobs and/or seeing substantial wage cuts. With the transfers, the number of Visteon’s hourly employees covered by the United Auto Workers (UAW) contract will drop from 17,400 to 5,000 and the average wage will plummet from \$38 an hour to \$17, according to the Associated Press.

Under the deal, 5,000 UAW members will be offered buyouts. Two ACH plants in Chesterfield and Ypsilanti, Michigan, are slated to be closed. The two plants have 200 and 950 workers respectively.

The move is part of a \$550 million bailout to buttress Ford’s chief parts supplier, reported the Associated Press. In 2000 Ford spun off Visteon Corporation, its former parts division. Ford remained Visteon’s primary customer, accounting for almost two-thirds of its business.

Other cities in Michigan where plants may be involved in the deal are: Utica, Sterling Heights, Plymouth, Ypsilanti, Saline, Milan, and Monroe. There are

also plants involved in Sandusky, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Nashville, Tennessee; and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ford and Visteon have been negotiating the deal with top officials of the UAW for more than a year. With Visteon threatening bankruptcy, union leaders signed a two-tier wage agreement in May 2004 that cut wages for new hires at the parts supplier by as much as \$10 an hour. The contract also required new hires to pay higher health-care costs.

Massey refiles ‘defamation’ suit against UMWA

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH—Massey Energy and its president, Donald Blankenship, have refiled a \$300 million defamation lawsuit against the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and two other organizations following the dismissal of the initial complaint against the union by a judge in Virginia.

Defendants include the political advocacy group West Virginia Consumers for Justice, and the *Charleston Gazette*, the main daily in West Virginia. Blankenship alone is suing the newspaper.

The suit alleges that the defendants “coordinated release of false and defamatory statements about Massey Energy” after a federal judge in Kentucky approved the bankruptcy filing of Horizon Natural Resources last year, which Massey bought.

Massey claims the defendants made public statements and aired television commercials that falsely said Blankenship fired Horizon workers and

eliminated their benefits and that he had been convicted of contaminating West Virginia’s drinking water.

“We report Massey coal problems simply factually,” said *Gazette* editor James Haught in response to the charges.

Massey is the nation’s sixth-largest coal producer. Its operations are centered in the central Appalachian coalfields. It is the largest coal producer in West Virginia.

“The voice of working people is always being restricted,” Allen Hess, a retired coal miner in Virginia, told the *Militant*. “We don’t have the resources, the law is against us. You should be able to express your opinion and get it printed.”

“They aim to scare everybody into shutting up—no one should shut up,” said Judy Bonds, of Coal River Mountain Watch, a community organization in Coal River, West Virginia, where Massey has a number of operations.

Utah coal company presses retaliatory lawsuit

BY PAUL MAILHOT
SALT LAKE CITY—C.W. Mining Company, owner of the Co-Op coal mine, and its allied International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU) submitted their final written reply September 30 to the *Militant* newspaper’s motion to dismiss the company’s lawsuit. Attorneys for the company claim to have met all the requirements to sustain charges of defamation, conspiracy, invasion of privacy, and other allegations against the paper. The *Militant* is a prominent target of the harassment lawsuit because of its nearly weekly coverage of the more than two-year-long battle for a union at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah.

Some 120 defendants were initially named in the suit, filed in September 2004. They included the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), individual Co-Op miners, newspapers and reporters who covered the Co-Op struggle, and numerous unions, union members, and others who have backed the miners’ fight. The first hearing on the suit was held in June 2005. At that time presiding judge Dee Benson ordered the coal company’s lawyers to rewrite their brief “if they want to keep this alive,” because the lawsuit was unclear as to who was being sued and for what.

Because the company failed to serve many of the defendants, and as a result of the latest round of replies by the coal bosses, those still being sued are the UMWA and its international officers, 16 Co-Op miners, Utah Jobs with Justice, the *Militant*, and Salt Lake City’s two

main dailies—the *Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News*.

On September 30, the company dropped from the lawsuit the Utah AFL-CIO, the group’s president, Ed Mayne, and a local of the oil workers union based here.

C.W. Mining’s latest response to the *Militant* is in answer to the brief by Randy Dryer and Michael Petrogeorge, attorneys for the newsweekly, who on August 16 renewed the request that the case against the paper be thrown out. The *Militant*’s attorneys explained that the coal company’s lawyers still have not presented a valid defamation claim and utterly failed to follow Judge Benson’s instruction to clearly explain who was being sued and for what.

In their September 30 briefs, C.W. Mining and the IAUWU claim the judge only asked for clarity on who they are suing. The plaintiffs state the judge didn’t ask for specifics on why particular statements published in the *Militant* or other papers are defamatory.

In an exchange with the company’s lawyers at the June hearing, however, the judge read a quote by one of the newspapers cited in the lawsuit, which said, “Union leaders said labor tensions between the operators of C.W.M. and their workforce resulted in a lockout of 75 workers.” Addressing the company lawyers, the judge asked, “Just tell me with that one, what is defamatory about that?” After the C.W. Mining attorneys repeatedly fumbled for an answer, the judge again asked, “Pretend I’m a juror. Tell me why that is defamatory.”

Working people snap up ‘Militant’

Continued from front page
exchange on the conditions in the plant—speedup, low wages, injuries, bosses treating workers like dogs, the fights going on for unionization, etc. In addition, three workers bought a copy of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* pamphlet.” (See special

offer for new subscribers on page 7.)

A 20-person team, including eight Young Socialists, sold 48 subs and 200 copies of the paper during a four-day effort aimed at meat packers in Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. In Norfolk, Nebraska, where unionized meat packers have been fighting against company harassment, 10 subscriptions were sold. In Storm Lake, Iowa, where workers at a Tyson plant have been fighting to organize a union, nine workers subscribed.

In New York, 26 cab drivers subscribed during three visits to the two main airports. On the first, campaigners forgot to bring books with them in addition to papers. On the second visit, they brought a stack and sold them out.

Sales at ports to independent truckers continue to be a highlight. Campaigners in Newark, New Jersey, upped their quota to 200 after selling over 100 subs in three weeks, 16 of them to truck drivers at the docks. In London, campaigners report a similar interest in the paper among lorry (truck) drivers.

This week subbing teams are planned at Michigan’s auto parts plants, Utah’s coalfields, and New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana hit by recent hurricanes. Many *Militant* supporters will also be mixing it up at the Millions More Movement rally in Washington, October 15.

Every reader can help sell subs. To join a team, contact the distributors nearest you (see page 8).

N.Y. cab drivers protest imposition of spying device



Militant/Dan Fein

Cab driver speaks with *Militant* supporter Willie Cotton (right) at New York’s LaGuardia Airport October 9. Six days earlier more than 100 taxi drivers rallied in city to protest plans to place global positioning tracking device in their cabs.

“This lawsuit needs to be focused,” said the judge in ordering the company lawyers in June to rewrite their complaint. “People need to know what they are sued for, what they did wrong.”

In another attempt to claim that C.W. Mining has suffered as a result of the *Militant*’s reporting, company lawyers again cite negative statements about the mine owner by the Catholic bishop of Salt Lake City and others. But they don’t offer any explanation showing that those cited had ever even read the paper before making their comments.

C.W. Mining continues to press its charge of a conspiracy by all the defendants in the case, with the exception of the two Salt Lake City newspapers, which are only charged with defaming the company. The coal bosses’ lawyers

say they don’t have to show “when the supposed meeting of the minds occurred” to plan and carry out the conspiracy. They claim C.W. Mining should not be expected to explain this point “before conducting discovery,” pushing for court approval of an intrusive and costly legal process through which the *Militant* and other defendants would be forced to expend enormous time and financial resources in responding to company requests for information.

The two Salt Lake City dailies and the *Militant* have until October 14 and October 17, respectively, to file further briefs supporting their motions to dismiss the case. Attorneys for the UMWA, Co-Op miners, and Utah Jobs with Justice have requested that the court grant them until October 21 to respond.

\$13,000 needed weekly to meet goal of Socialist Workers party-building fund

BY ANGEL LARISCY

At the end of week four of the SWP Party Building Fund, collection of pledges is nearly \$14,000, some \$22,000 short of what is needed to be on target. While the pace of collections picked up last week, an average of \$12,600 needs to be sent in weekly for the remaining six weeks of the drive to make the goal.

The target is to raise \$90,000 by November 20 to help finance the work of the Socialist Workers Party. Meetings to discuss the change in the political situation in the United States, reflected in the success of the *Militant* subscription drive and the increased openings to build a revolutionary party, are taking place around the country.

“A program benefiting the party-building fund in San Francisco featured a talk on Iran by Doug Nelson, who took part in an international team at the 18th Tehran International Book Fair in May,” said Betsey Stone in an October 9 note. “The talk by Nelson took up the escalating attacks by the

U.S. and other imperialist countries against Tehran as they try to block Iran’s development of nuclear energy. Those present contributed \$400, bringing the total collected so far to \$3,030 out of a goal of \$9,500.”

In a similar note the same day, Frank Forrestal wrote from Los Angeles, “We collected more than \$2,000 at the *Militant*

Labor Forum tonight, so I think we have the ball rolling now.” The next day fund supporters in Los Angeles increased their quota from \$8,500 to \$9,500. The \$2,000 they collected is not reflected on the adjacent chart yet because it hadn’t arrived as of press time.

All fund supporters are encouraged to emulate Los Angeles, since another \$7,100 is needed in increased local quotas to meet the \$90,000 goal.

To pay on pledges made or to make a contribution, write your check or money order to the SWP and send it to the party at 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

\$90,000 SWP Party Building Fund Sept 11–Nov 20: Week 4 of 10

	Pledge	Collected	%
Philadelphia	3,000	970	32%
New York	12,500	3,821	31%
San Francisco	9,500	2,310	24%
Houston	3,500	800	23%
Des Moines	1,500	315	21%
Newark	4,000	650	16%
Atlanta	5,500	825	15%
Birmingham	2,000	290	15%
Los Angeles	9,500	1,250	13%
Miami	1,700	200	12%
Washington	3,000	320	11%
Twin Cities	4,500	320	7%
Price, UT	1,700	110	6%
Chicago	5,000	280	6%
Boston	3,300	160	5%
Seattle	7,000	295	4%
Pittsburgh	3,500	120	3%
Salt Lake City	700	0	0%
Other	1,576	936	59%
TOTAL	82,976	13,972	16%
Goal/should be	90,000	36,000	40%



Militant/Paul Pederson

New York fund chart on display

Who hires the ‘experts’?—Housing, jobs, education, child care. The needs don’t begin



Harry Ring

to scratch the surface in the wake of the storms. But from the outset those who are on the take have been busy. “Already

money is being wasted, experts say,” reports the *Miami Herald*. A top federal cash dispenser bleats: “There’s no doubt, no question, there’s going to be fraud, waste, abuse.” There already has been.

Cops? Hardly Ever—“New Orleans Police Investigate Possible Looting by Officers”—Hurricane news headline.

Irish youth moving ahead—A poll in Ireland confirmed a

dramatic drop in Catholic church attendance—particularly by young people, between 18 and 24. A report from Dublin, capital of Ireland, said that among youth two out of 10 attend services. This shrinkage is attributed to the revelations of sex abuse scandals among the clergy. The survey reached more than 1,000 people, young and old.

They love humanity—According to the *National Catholic Reporter*, Rev. Rob-

ert Cushing was cut off from his Georgia parish because he went to Japan to apologize to the people there on the 60th year after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Cushing declared the U.S. war against Japan was “unjust,” sparking the demands for his ouster.

A filthy racist—You would think that some “liberal” Congress member would demand a warrant to lock William Bennett behind bars. Recently,

he spewed racist venom on his weekly radio call-in program, “Good Morning America.” Replying to a caller on crime, Bennett exhibited a diseased tongue and dented brain. His caller asked why crime is dropping.

Bennett replied, “I do know that it’s true that if you wanted to reduce crime, you could... abort every Black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down.” In Congress, several Democrats suggested that Bennett “apologize.”

U.S. gov’t appeals ruling annulling convictions of Cuban 5

BY ERIC SIMPSON

MIAMI—On September 28 the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Alexander Acosta, asked the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review its August 9 decision voiding the convictions of five Cubans—known world wide as the “Cuban Five”—for conspiracy to commit espionage for Havana. The court had also ordered a new trial.

Acosta claimed the “decision in this case is contrary to the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States and of the Eleventh Circuit.” The Department of Justice waited until the last moment before a September 29 dead-

line to make its appeal, after having received a 30-day extension.

A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit overturned the conviction of the Cuban Five in August and ordered a new trial. The U.S. attorney is demanding that the full, 12-judge court review that ruling and reverse it. Such reviews are rare, according to lawyers for the five, and especially unlikely given the unanimity of the conclusions of the three-judge panel and the extent of documentation their ruling was based on.

The three judges ruled that the defendants did not receive a fair trial in Miami. In upholding their appeal,

the panel found that “pervasive community prejudice” against the Cuban government created an atmosphere where they were “unable to obtain a fair and impartial trial.”

Andrés Gómez, director of *Areíto Digital*, explained the new situation to a group of supporters of the five Cuban revolutionaries who gathered in the offices of Radio Miami a few days after the government requested that the 11th Circuit review its earlier ruling. “The original decision was very solid,” Gómez said. “It simply called for a change of venue. If the 11th Circuit Court rejects the U.S. attorney’s appeal and the ruling stands, the

government will have to decide if it wants to file new charges and retry the five. But remember, if the government wanted to go to a new trial, they would not have appealed the ruling.

“If the full court accepts the government’s appeal, they will issue a whole new decision, and that could take a long time, during which our heroes will stay in jail,” said Gómez.

The five—Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino—are serving from 15 years to a double life term. They were arrested in 1998 and convicted in a June 2001 frame-up trial in Miami of conspiracy to commit espionage, to act as unregistered foreign agents, and—in the case of Hernández—to commit murder. The five had been gathering information on ultrarightist Cuban-American groups that have organized violent attacks on Cuba from U.S. territory with Washington’s complicity. These groups were funded and in some cases created by the U.S. government.

Gómez called for a picket line outside the immigration and customs building on 79th St. and Biscayne Blvd. in Miami, for October 15 to demand “Free the Five! Not One Day Longer!”

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: The Militant.
2. Publication No.: 0349-040.
3. Filing Date: 9/30/05.
4. Issue Frequency: Published weekly except one week in January and June.

5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 50.
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$35.
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (*Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4*) (*Not printer*): 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (*Not Printer*): The Militant Publishing Association 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (*Do Not Leave Blank*). Publisher (*Name and Complete Mailing Address*): The Militant Publishing Association, 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Editor (*Name and Complete Mailing Address*): Argiris Malapanis, 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Managing Editor (*Name and Complete Mailing Address*): none.

10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (*Do Not Leave Blank*): The Militant Publishing Association, 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Susan LaMont, 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None.

12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Does not apply.

13. Publication Name: The Militant.
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 26, 2005.

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: a. Total No. Copies (*Net Press Run*): 3,515. b. (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscribers Stated on Form 3541 (*Include advertiser’s proof and exchange copies*): 1,440; (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions (*Include advertiser’s proof and exchange copies*): 73; (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 1,448; (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 10; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation [*Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4)*]: 2,971; d. Free Distribution by Mail (*Samples, complimentary, and other Free*): 36. e. Free Distri-

bution Outside the Mail (*Carriers or other means*): 64. f. Total Free Distribution (*Sum of 15d and 15e*): 100; g. Total Distribution (*Sum of 15c and 15f*): 3,071. h. Copies Not Distributed: 443; i. Total (*Sum of 15g and 15h*): 3,514; j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (*15c divided by 15g times 100*): 97%. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date. a. Total Number of Copies (*Net Press Run*): 3,662; b. (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscribers Stated on Form 3541 (*Include advertiser’s proof and exchange copies*): 1,083; (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions (*Include advertiser’s proof and exchange copies*): 63; (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 1,923; (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 16; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation [*Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4)*]: 3,085; d. Free Distribution by Mail (*Samples, complimentary, and other free*): 37.

e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (*Carriers or other means*): 97. f. Total Free Distribution (*Sum of 15d and 15e*): 134; g. Total Distribution (*Sum of 15c and 15f*): 3,219; h. Copies Not Distributed: 443; i. Total (*Sum of 15g and 15h*): 3,662; j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (*15c divided by 15g times 100*): 96%.

16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the October 24, 2005, issue of this publication.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Argiris Malapanis, Editor (signed). Date: 9/30/05.

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 24, 1980

BUFFALO, N.Y.—A broadly sponsored rally condemning the racist murders of six Black men and the attempt on the life of a seventh was slated here October 19 in front of city hall.

Four Black males were shot to death during a two-day period in September by the so-called “22-caliber killer.”

Two weeks later, in a 48-hour period, two Black cab drivers were murdered. In a particularly ghoulish manner, their bodies were mutilated, with their hearts extracted.

A day later, a white man tried to strangle a Black patient at the Erie County Medical Center with a cord.

There has not been a single arrest in these seven cases. The Black community is in a state of shock and outrage.

The call for the Buffalo Unity Day rally is a response to the deep-going concern within the Black community, which comprises a third of the city’s 355,000 population.



October 24, 1955

October 19—The eyes of the most conscious representatives of capital and labor are focused on New Castle, Hagerstown, and Richmond, Indiana, where the strikebound Perfect Circle Corporation has resumed operations with scabs under National Guard protection after police and company thugs had shot down peaceful CIO United Automobile Workers pickets.

“The strike’s significance spreads far beyond the boundaries of these three small Indiana towns,” writes the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 18. And this spokesman for the Wall Street money sharks adds, some businessmen regard Perfect Circle “as the leader of a crusade, fighting for the worker’s right to hold a job without belonging to a union.”

Prominent among those who have enlisted in Perfect Circle’s “right to work” crusade, according to general manager Prosser, are the scabs.



October 1, 1930

What does the essence of “social fascism” consist of? And wherein lies its difference from avowed Fascism? Up to now the Marxists were of the opinion that it is democracy which is the “outward” disguise of the class dictatorship—one of its possible disguises. The political function of the present social democracy is the creation of precisely such democratic disguises. In nothing else lies its difference from Fascism which, with *other* methods, *other* ideology, in part also with another social basis, organizes, insures and protects the same dictatorship of imperialist capital.

Fascism as well as social democracy are bourgeois parties, and not bourgeois in the general sense, but such as protect sinking capitalism, which sustains itself less and less, not only with democratic forms, but also with the least firm legality. That is precisely why the social democracy is condemned to sink down to nothing, giving way to Fascism at one pole and to Communism at the other.

Miami: socialist candidates back struggles by truckers, taxi drivers

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

MIAMI—Omari Musa, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, and Eric Simpson, who is running on the SWP ticket for city commissioner in District 5, have been actively campaigning among working people. They have extended support to striking taxi drivers in Broward County and independent truckers organizing into the Teamsters union here.

Both candidates are on the ballot for the November 1 elections and have received significant media coverage.

On October 8, Simpson and SWP campaign supporters brought the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*, to taxi drivers on strike in Ft. Lauderdale, just north of Miami. Two drivers subscribed and 20 bought copies. One driver—wearing a T-shirt defending Father Gerard Jean-Juste, imprisoned in Haiti for his opposition to the U.S.-backed rightist regime—said he would spread the word about the SWP campaign.

Simpson and his seven opponents in the District 5 race have been speaking at a series of forums sponsored by People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (PULSE). At one such forum October

5 in Overtown, a mostly Black community, many of the 60 people present expressed anger at the lack of affordable housing and increased difficulties in making ends meet. They were responding to a proposed \$200 million Crosswinds housing unit, built on city land, that many fear will promote gentrification, pushing housing costs up and forcing current residents out.

When someone asked, “What do you consider to be affordable housing?” Simpson said: “An example is Cuba where by law no one pays more than 10 percent of their wages in rent. We need housing working people can afford, but we need jobs too. The SWP campaign calls for a massive federally funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages.”

An interview with Simpson published in the October 5–11 *Miami Times*, a weekly directed to the Black community, said, “We’re running a campaign based on the fighting capacity of the working people.” He thinks the working class of Miami needs trade unions that are political to rally for their cause.... “There are two Miamis—one for the rich and one

for the poor.”

Musa addressed 10 members of the executive board of the firefighters union October 6. “Our collective power is what forces the bosses to give in to our demands,” said Musa. “Workers need to organize unions and use them to fight. We support the striking Northwest Airlines workers and the independent truckers organizing themselves into the Teamsters at the port. We also point to the need to build a labor party, based on the unions, that fights in the interests of working people year around.”

The September 16 *Nuevo Herald*, the main Spanish-language daily here, published an article with a photo of Musa in his campaign office in Little Haiti. His party’s platform, the *Herald* article concluded, “includes demanding federal aid for the victims of Hurricane



Militant/Katie Schmidt

Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Miami-Dade County Commissioner District 5, campaigns October 8 among striking taxi drivers in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Katrina and other natural disasters; solidarity with striking unionists; support for the Cuban leader Fidel Castro and Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez; and withdrawal of the U.S. armed forces from Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti, and the naval base at Guantánamo, Cuba.”

Nicole Sarmiento contributed to this article.

Appeal to our readers

Since Hurricane Katrina, the *Militant* has spent over \$6,000 to send reporters to the Gulf Coast to provide coverage like the articles on this page, with your help. Please continue to give generously. Send your contributions to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Evacuation killed more than storm in Texas

BY JOSE ARAVENA
AND STEVE WARSHELL

BEAUMONT, Texas—“It took me 18 hours to get to Dallas, which usually takes six,” said Charles Singleton, describing the chaotic evacuation September 24 as Hurricane Rita approached. Singleton, a retired longshoreman, was among workers gathered at the International Longshoreman’s Association (ILA) Local 21 hall here. The city was

slammed with the full destructive force of Rita’s 120 mile-per-hour winds.

Members of the local were barbecuing and opening their hall as a shelter for those who had lost their homes in the storm. “My local has always provided for people in times of crisis by offering food and a place to stay, whether you’re a member or not,” Singleton said.

As of October 2, the union hall was one of the few buildings here with elec-

tricity. “The only reason we have power is because we happen to be on the same electrical grid as the banks downtown,” said John Henry Reuben, a longshoreman with 31 years in the union, whose home was destroyed in the storm. “The first thing they want to protect is their money.”

As of September 30, the *Houston Chronicle* put the death toll from Rita at 107. None of these deaths were caused by the storm itself. Most perished in the anarchic evacuation of 2.5 million from Houston and East Texas as hundreds of thousands were stuck in massive traffic jams in soaring summer heat. “If that storm had hit Houston a lot of people would have been stranded on the highway when it struck,” Singleton said.

Alvino Hernandez, a cutter in a sewing plant, was among the thousands who were unable to make it out of the city. Stuck in traffic for 15 hours, his car ran out of gas. “A farmer gave me enough gas to get me back to Houston,” he said, where he waited out the storm.

Seeking relief, as many as thousands of evacuees have lined up daily outside the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) office in Houston to register. On September 28, more than 20 people required medical attention for heat exhaustion after waiting in line all day. The offices closed at 1:00 p.m.

“I’ve been coming here for six days in a row and I still don’t have anything to show for it,” said Melody Beasley, a worker from Beaumont. The home she rented was destroyed in the storm.

Like tens of thousands of others along the Gulf Coast, Beasley is facing an uphill fight to get aid because of previous scrapes with the cops and courts. “Because I served a six-month sentence in Texas on a drug-related charge, I’ve been denied food stamps and housing in many of the apartment complexes that FEMA sends people to.” Instead, she explains, “they just tell me to go to the food bank and the Salvation Army.”

Gulf Coast farmers face deeper crisis after Rita

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON
AND ANTHONY DUTROW

GUEYDAN, Louisiana—“Welcome to my refugee center,” said Jenny Broussard, as she opened the back door of her farmhouse. “We have a big generator for electricity and we always have room for people.” About a dozen people are staying at the Broussard family home here in Vermilion Parish, southwestern Louisiana, an agricultural area of the state that was devastated when Hurricane Rita struck September 24.

Jenny Broussard and her husband Leonard farm rice on 300 acres of land in southwest Louisiana. “Like everybody else, we lost our crop,” she said. “The rice shoots were beginning to head out, almost ready for harvest. The wind sheared the heads right off.”

This was the year’s second crop. “We pay for fuel and other costs with the first crop. We count on the second to buy seed and supplies for next year,” she said. “It’s going to be hard.”

The region’s agriculture and forestry lost an estimated \$472 million from the storm, on top of \$1 billion in losses from Hurricane Katrina. For small farmers, this blow compounds the crisis they already face, as the costs for fuel and fertilizer have doubled recently, while the prices they get for crops have remained the same or, in some cases, declined.

“It takes a lot of fuel to farm rice,”



AP/Charlie Riedel

Farmers herd cattle out of flooded marshland near Montegut, Louisiana, September 26. Small farmers in Louisiana face a crisis compounded by the hurricanes.

Broussard explained. “And the equipment is very expensive. You just keep patching it up for decades to keep it running because it costs so much.”

Leonard Broussard described the effort his wife and others organized to help those evacuated from the New Orleans area following Katrina. “A bunch of them worked together,” he said. “They took over a park and building in Cameron Parish. Got people places to sleep. Cooked meals day after day.” Referring to government officials, FEMA, and the Red Cross, he said, “We never saw any of them. The only help people

got was what was organized here.”

Small farmers in the area also worked together to rescue cattle and horses from the flooded Cameron Parish, which bore the brunt of the 20-foot storm surge from Rita. “Lots of cattle and horses drowned in the marshes,” Leonard explained. “We hauled cattle for three days straight.” He said they rigged up barges to haul the cattle up the Intercoastal Waterway system to dry pasture. “One farmer led a group that saved 1,500 to 2,000 head of cattle. Farmers in Cameron say we helped them keep 80 percent of their cattle alive.”

Truckers in S. Carolina

Continued from front page

they'd like to join. A driver who joins the union has to officially terminate current leasing agreements with shipping companies.

According to a flyer produced by the Teamsters Port Division in Miami, "To get the protection offered to workers under United States Labor Law, you must insist on being hired as an employee owner-operator, not as an independent contractor."

Owner-operators face rising fuel and maintenance prices. Leasing agreements allow the companies to determine what they pay drivers for a trip. The bosses have also been collecting fuel surcharges from customers of up to 20 percent because of the rising cost of diesel. But the money never gets to the drivers, independent truckers here said.

A fact sheet distributed by the Teamsters port division says: "Since trucking deregulation in the early 1980s, port drivers have faced the lowest wages in the industry (rates have actually declined over the last 20 years), while they must shoulder the ever-surging costs of insurance, maintenance, and fuel. Like share-croppers in the old American South, port drivers assume all the risk for a fraction of the gain and consequently have the highest turnover (over 150 percent) of any truck driver in the United States (unionized trucker

turnover rate is 2–3%). The average independent port driver has no health insurance, no pension, no paid vacations or holidays, and after expenses grosses between \$7.00 and \$8.00 per hour."

"The port authority brags that they provide 120,000 wonderful jobs in the area," said Stewart, referring to Savannah. "But these are 120,000 temporary jobs at minimal pay. People are barely getting by. One of the things they are really worried about is that if the truckers are organized maybe the inside workers will be next. This really scares them."

"A lot of drivers are not making enough to stay in business," said Arthur Chisolm, a longtime owner-operator in the Charleston area and one of the Teamsters working to set up the hiring hall. "They do what they have to do to get by—they borrow money, they buy gas by guessing what they need to make a trip."

Bill Campbell, an owner-operator also working on the hiring hall, said

Hundreds honor Puerto Rican independence fighter



AP/Brennan Linsley

Elma Beatriz Rosado Barbosa, widow of Puerto Rican independence fighter Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, speaks at his funeral ceremony September 27 in Naguabo, Puerto Rico. His killing by FBI agents four days earlier sparked protests.

the fight to organize truckers in the area was not a new one. He has been involved in organizing activities for years. "It has lost me two jobs, thousands of dollars,

and almost my family," Campbell said. "I've let runs sit at the port to pass out flyers for the union. But this is a fight we are going to win."

New Orleans cops beat Black man bloody

Continued from front page

him backward over a car, jabbed him in the stomach and unleashed a profanity-laced tirade."

The cops charged Davis with public intoxication, resisting arrest, battery on a police officer, and public intimidation. After being treated for possible skull fractures at a hospital he was put in jail. Davis is suing the police department for his injuries.

The following day, three cops—Stuart Smith, Lance Schilling, and Robert Evangelist—were arrested and charged with battery. They were released on bond after their trial date was set for January 11, and suspended without pay.

In an interview aired October 11 on the ABC-TV's "Good Morning America," Davis said that he was not intoxicated and never resisted arrest. "I haven't drank for over 25 years," he stated. Davis said he had returned to New Orleans to check on his family's property and had just asked a police of-

ficer about buying cigarettes. The cops responded by attacking him, he said.

"I do remember there was a white lady in the crowd screaming, 'The man didn't do anything. The man didn't do anything. Stop!'" Davis told the ABC news program. "I would like to thank her for her intervention."

State authorities announced October 7 they were investigating allegations that New Orleans cops looted a car dealership, taking nearly 200 cars—including 41 new Cadillacs—as Hurricane Katrina approached, AP reported.

Stacy Rosa, a paramedic from Columbus, Ohio, traveled to Louisiana to help out after Katrina hit.

"One of the worst experiences I had was being assigned to respond to 911 calls at a police station in New Orleans," Rosa told *Militant* reporters in an October 1 interview. "An emergency call would come in and we would jump up to go but the cops wouldn't let us. They would say it was after curfew or it was too dangerous. We knew what we needed to do but they wouldn't let us."

Rosa described how cops would

walk into the police station with garbage bags full of cigarettes and liquor, "They would brag about how they got the stuff," she said. "It was sick."

Workers who stayed in the city said some police were looting unoccupied homes, CNN reported. At the Amerihost Inn and Suites, where cops were stationed during the storm, hotel owner Osman Khan said he saw police steal a generator from Tulane University Hospital next door. As part of their looting spree, a group of eight cops would "leave [at] 9 or 10 at night and come back 4:30 in the morning" with "everything from Adidas shoes to Rolex watches," Khan told the news agency.

Meanwhile, it has now become clear that some working-class neighborhoods of the city, like the Ninth Ward, were so heavily flooded and polluted that they may have to be razed entirely. As of October 7, the confirmed death toll in Louisiana from Hurricane Katrina is 1,021 state officials said. Of these only 93 have been publicly identified. More than 200,000 homes have been destroyed in the city of New Orleans alone.

Alberta: unionists strike meat plant

**BY JOHN STEELE
AND DAVID ROSENFELD**

BROOKS, Alberta—Members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 401 walked off the job October 12 at the Tyson-owned Lakeside Packers. The union called the strike to fight for a first contract at Canada's largest cattle slaughterhouse. Workers here voted in August 2004 to be represented by the union.

Plans for a July 20 strike were aborted when the Alberta provincial government declared the strike illegal and ordered a 60-day "cooling-off period." Gil Dufresne, a shop steward, said this move "stopped us cold. Then the company launched open efforts to get rid of union supporters."

At the end of the 60 days a government mediator submitted a proposed contract, which workers voted to accept. But Tyson rejected the pact and submitted its own proposal.

UFCW Local 401 president Douglas

O'Halloran branded Tyson's offer an insult and raised the specter of a long strike. He is calling on the Alberta government to use emergency powers to impose a settlement. Without such a step "the strike will go on forever until we run out of bodies," he said.

The mediator's proposal and Tyson's counteroffer both recognize the union as the workers' representative. Tyson's proposal would squeeze more out of workers and includes union-weakening provisions. Tyson has petitioned the government to organize a vote on its proposal.

Some members of the union's bargaining committee told the *Militant* that they would vote "no" on Tyson's proposal, but they would not campaign among the membership for a rejection. If Tyson's proposal were accepted, "that is when the real work to organize and strengthen the union starts," said Reuben Mayo, a member of the bargaining committee.

Special offer For new 'Militant' subscribers

**The Working Class and the
Transformation of Learning \$3 \$1**

**Cuba and the Coming American
Revolution \$13 \$5**

*Two new issues of Marxist magazine
'New International':*

**"Capitalism's Long Hot Winter
Has Begun" in NI 12.**

"Our Politics Start with World" in NI 13.

\$30 \$25 for both

www.pathfinderpress.com

Striking airline mechanics

Continued from front page

gave out flyers to passengers entering and leaving the terminal, and engaged scabs at other locations.

The mechanics' daily picket lines have also continued to hold strong, despite increased hardships from a seven-week-long strike.

On October 3 an unemployment law judge ruled that the strikers were ineligible to collect jobless benefits because, "the terms were not so onerous that the workers had to leave their jobs," and that the final contract offer was "reasonable." This refers to the company's demand that the mechanics on strike accept a 25 percent pay cut, a pension freeze, and a layoff of half of the 4,400 members of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), the union representing the mechanics, cleaners, and custodians who walked out August 19. Northwest Airlines subsequently filed for bankruptcy protection and upped its demands for wage and benefit cuts, not just from the strikers but from its entire workforce.

In a move that strikers say is aimed at creating divisions among their ranks,

the same judge granted the cleaners and custodians unemployment benefits.

"Why not us?" asked Tom Nelson, one of the striking mechanics. "Northwest Airlines is trying to make us pay for striking. I think they've been putting pressure on the government and this is the result."

"The inconsistency screams out for an appeal," said Nick Granath, the attorney for AMFA. Granath said the union is planning an immediate appeal of the ruling against the mechanics.

"I'm making plans to continue this fight," said Lonnie Johnson, a mechanic with 16 years at Northwest. "Most of my friends who are mechanics are planning to do the same. To date only 40 have crossed. It's up to us to continue the fight."

The officialdom of other unions at the company—including the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and pilots—are not supporting the AMFA strike. A number of IAM members and flight attendants, however, have refused to cross the picket lines in solidarity with their striking brothers and sisters.

‘Racism: a world, not just an American, problem’

Printed below are excerpts from one of Malcolm X's final speeches, given at the Corn Hill Methodist Church in Rochester, New York, Feb. 16, 1965. Malcolm was felled by an assassin's bullet just five days later. The excerpts are taken from February 1965: The Final Speeches by Malcolm X, published by Pathfinder Press. Copyright © 1992 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

MALCOLM X IN HIS WORDS

BY MALCOLM X

Many of you probably read last week I made an effort to go to Paris and was turned away. And Paris doesn't turn anybody away. You know anybody is supposed to be able to go to France, it's supposed to be a very liberal place. But France is having problems today that haven't been highly publicized. And England is also having problems that haven't been highly publicized, because America's problems have been so highly publicized. But all of these three partners, or allies, have troubles

Hear Puerto Rican Independence Fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda



October 29
7:00 P.M.
San Ambrosio
Episcopal Church
6th and Venango
North Philadelphia

Luis Rosa and Rafael Cancel Miranda (center) at San Ambrosio church in March 2004

for information call
(215) 455-2682

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

GEORGIA

Atlanta
War and Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialism: Some Experiences from World War II and the Korean War. A Benefit for the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund Speaker: Tom Leonard, veteran leader of the SWP who sailed as a merchant seaman at the end of World War II. Sun. Oct. 23, Luncheon, noon; program, 1 p.m. 2791 Lakewood Ave. SW. tel: 404-768-1709.

NEW YORK

Manhattan
The Place of the Revolutionary Party in the Struggle for Socialism. Benefit for the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund Fri. Oct. 21. Dinner 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. 307 W. 36th Street, 10th Floor (north elevators). tel: 212-649-2249.

CANADA

Toronto
Thirty-fifth Anniversary of Ottawa's Sending Troops to Quebec under War Measures Act; Ten Years After 1995 Referendum on Quebec Sovereignty: Why Question of Quebec's Independence Remains at Center of Politics in Canada Speaker: Michel Prairie, Communist League. Fri. Oct. 21. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 program, \$5 dinner. 2238 Dundas St. #201 tel: 416-535-9140

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch
Cuba, Venezuela, and Washington: The Sharpening Conflict in the Americas Speaker, Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League. Fri. Oct. 21, 7 p.m. 287 Selwyn Street, Spreydon tel: 03-365-6055.

in common today that the Black American, or Afro-American, isn't well enough up on...

And you should ask yourself why should a country like France be so concerned with a little insignificant American Negro that they would prohibit him from going there, when almost anybody else can go to that country whenever they desire. And it's primarily because the three countries have the same problems...

And that common problem is the new mood that is reflected in the overall division of the Black people within continental France, within the same sphere of England, and also here in the United States. So that—and this mood has been changing to the same degree that the mood on the African continent has been changing. So when you find the African revolution taking place, and by African revolution I mean the emergence of African nations into independence that has been going on for the past ten or twelve years, has absolutely affected the mood of the Black people in the Western Hemisphere. So much so that when they migrate to England, they pose a problem for the English. And when they migrate to France, they pose a problem for the French. And when they—already here in the States—but when they awaken, and this same mood is reflected in the Black man in the States, then it poses a problem to the white man here in America...

So I had to give you that background, in order for you to understand some of the current problems that are developing here on this earth. And in no time can you understand the problems between Black and white people here in Rochester or Black and white people in Mississippi or Black and white people in California, unless you understand the basic problem that exists between Black and white people—not confined



Malcolm X speaking Feb. 16, 1965, at the Corn Hill Methodist Church in Rochester, New York.

to the local level, but confined to the international, global level on this earth today. When you look at it in that context, you'll understand...

But we also realize that the problem facing Black people in this country is so complex and so involved and has been here so long, unsolved, that it is absolutely necessary for us to form another organization. Which we did, which is a nonreligious organization in which—is known as the Organization of Afro-American Unity, and it is so structured organizationally to allow for active participation of any Afro-American, any Black American, in a program that is designed to eliminate the negative political, economic, and social evils that our people are confronted by in this society. And we have that set up because we realize that we have to fight against the evils of a society that has failed to produce brotherhood for every member of that society. This in no way means that we're antiwhite, antiblue, antigreen, or antiyellow. We're antiwrong. We're antidiscrimination. We're antisegrega-

tion. We're against anybody who wants to practice some form of segregation or discrimination against us because we don't happen to be a color that's acceptable to you...

We are living in a society that is by and large controlled by a people who believe in racism, and practice segregation and discrimination and racism. And you can see by the pattern that this society follows all over the world. Right now in Asia you have the American army dropping bombs on dark-skinned people. You can't say that—it's as though you can justify being that far from home, dropping bombs on somebody else...

It's racism. Racism practiced by America. Racism which involves a war against the dark-skinned people in Asia, another form of racism involving a war against the dark-skinned people in the Congo...as it involves a war against the dark-skinned people in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Rochester, New York.

So we're not against people because they're white. But we're against those who practice racism. We're against those who drop bombs on people because their color happens to be of a different shade than yours. And because we're against it, the press says we're violent. We're not for violence. We're for peace. But the people that we're up against are for violence. You can't be peaceful when you're dealing with them. [Applause]

Further Reading— February 1965: The Final Speeches

Contains the speeches Malcolm X gave the last three weeks of his life.
\$18.95



www.pathfinderpress.com

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: bhmswp@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 380846. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@aol.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 12 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@yahoo.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St., West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip:

07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEWYORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@yahoo.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@gmail.com
Pittsburgh: 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@evl.net
UTAH: Price: 80 W. Main St., Suite 207. Zip: 84501. Tel: (435) 613-1091. utahswp@yahoo.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-1315. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@yahoo.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@bigpond.com

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kbreykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauack@paradise.net.nz

Christchurch: 287 Selwyn St., Spreydon. Postal address: P.O. Box 7103. Tel: (3) 365-6055. E-mail: clchch@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@telia.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: clondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: First Floor, 3 Grosvenor St., Haymarket. Postal code: EH12 5ED. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

Jail New Orleans cops in brutal beating!

The brutal beating of a 64-year-old retired teacher by New Orleans cops is indicative of the attitude authorities at all levels have shown toward working people afflicted by recent storms.

Only the filming of the incident and its quick airing on television screens worldwide forced police officials to suspend three of the officers involved and charge them with battery. All the cops involved should be immediately fired, tried speedily, convicted, and jailed under the maximum sentence.

All charges against Robert Davis, the man they assaulted, should be dropped and he should be awarded the damages he is seeking against the police for his injuries. Even if one were to doubt Davis's statement that he hasn't had a drink for 25 years, the charge of "public intoxication" on Bourbon Street, where this has been commonplace, is ludicrous. The videotape also shows that the charges of resisting arrest and attacking a cop are nothing but an attempt to turn the victim into the criminal. This is a police department, like others, with a record of brutality and racism.

Other news reports have shown that not only criminal gangs but cops engaged in looting while tens of thousands of working people struggled to save their lives and those of others after Katrina.

These are further signs of the contempt for working people and callous disregard for their conditions and very survival that officials demonstrated before, during, and after the recent storms—from the local police

department to city hall, state house, and all the way up to the White House.

The cops protect and serve the interests of the ruling rich. Brutality and corruption go with the territory.

While the wealthy and middle-class professionals got out of New Orleans before Katrina hit, along with anyone else able to leave on their own, tens of thousands of workers and their families were left behind, most of them Black. No effort was made by the government at any level to evacuate those least able. The press documented times when cops obstructed working people using post office vehicles or other means to get out of harm's way. As a result hundreds were killed by the indifference of those whose wealth is based on exploiting our labor.

Only the actions of workers and farmers—helping each other during evacuations, getting and distributing food and water to those in need—saved thousands of additional lives from being lost. These initiatives show that the working class can transform itself from a class aware of its oppression, into one conscious of its worth. A class that can reorganize society into one based on the needs of the vast majority, not the profits of a few.

Politicians from the twin ruling capitalist parties have been pointing the finger at each other in an effort to cover up the responsibility of both Democrats and Republicans for the social disaster they imposed on millions along the Gulf Coast the last six weeks.

Beating Davis bloody adds insult to injury. The brutal assault should be punished accordingly.

End imperialist threats against Korea

We use part of our editorial space this week to publish the following message to the Workers' Party of Korea sent October 7 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Olympia Newton of the Young Socialists.

On the occasion of the October 10 sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send revolutionary greetings. We affirm our solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people's struggle to restore a united and sovereign Korea, forcibly divided by Washington in 1945.

We oppose Washington's arrogant and hostile course, under the cover of the so-called six-party talks, to pressure the DPRK to relinquish its right to develop the nuclear technology and facilities needed to power accelerated agricultural and industrial development. The imperialist countries of the United States, Japan, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom—who together produce nearly 70 percent of the world's total nuclear-supplied electricity—treat with contempt the most basic rights of national sovereignty, as they decree which governments can and which cannot develop particular ways to produce energy. In doing so, these hypocritical imperial regimes have effectively nullified the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty they themselves imposed.

Today, from within the vanguard of the working class, we see a shift in the political situation in the United States, as growing numbers of workers—those already in unions, those seeking to organize unions, and those who simply decide it's time to fight back or be squeezed to death—resist the grinding conse-

quences of intensifying capitalist competition on their wages, job conditions, and right to medical care and retirement benefits. Together with other workers and farmers, as well as youth attracted to this resistance, these working people are not only looking for effective ways to stop the bosses' years-long whittling away of standards of life and conditions of work. They are also increasingly open to clear proletarian answers, to communist answers as to why the employer assaults against working people and the labor movement continue to accelerate—not only at home but abroad. Open to the fact that working people can become makers of history, not merely its victims.

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists explain that the spreading depression conditions and expanding wars and war preparations humanity now confronts are an inevitable result of the workings of the world capitalist system. And we point to the ongoing partition imposed on your country as a product of the bloody and rapacious culmination of imperialism's last major world crisis—concluding in Washington's strengthened domination of its Allied rivals coming out of World War II.

On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, we demand an end to the threats by Washington and other imperialist powers against the DPRK, the withdrawal of U.S. forces and U.S. nuclear arms of any kind from your soil and waters, support for your call for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and an end to the use of food and energy as political weapons against the Korean people. We are committed to support the restoration by the Korean people of a united and sovereign country and remain confident Korea will be one!

U.S. rulers target Iran, Syria, Islamic jihadism

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—In what the White House billed as a major address on “the war on terror,” U.S. president George Bush accused Iran and Syria of state-sponsored terrorism. Bush also took the occasion to appeal to all “responsible Islamic leaders” to join him in denouncing and isolating what he called radical Islamic jihadism. Much of the press coverage of Bush's October 6 address at the National Endowment for Democracy pointed to a solidifying consensus in the ruling class and its twin parties—the Democrats and Republicans—on the U.S.-led war in Iraq and the broader “fight against terrorism.”

“State sponsors like Syria and Iran have a long history of collaboration with terrorists,” Bush said. “The U.S. makes no distinction between those who commit acts of terror and those who support and harbor them, because they're equally as guilty of murder.”

Washington has been pressuring Damascus to prevent armed groups loyal to the Baathist regime of deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from using Syrian borders to launch attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

Drawing a sharp line throughout the speech between Islam and jihadist groups, Bush said, “Some call this evil Islamic radicalism. Others militant jihadism. Still others Islamo-fascism. Whatever it's called, this ideology is very different from the religion of Islam.”

Playing on the increasing political isolation of groups like Al Qaeda in Iraq, Bush appealed to bourgeois regimes and others to embrace Washington's approach. “The time has come for all responsible Islamic leaders to join in denouncing an ideology that exploits Islam for political ends and defiles a noble faith,” he said.

An indication of the growing isolation of Baathists and their allies is a letter from Ayman al-Zawahiri, said to be second in command of Al Qaeda. According to the *New York Times*, the letter warns the group's top leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, that attacks on civilians and videotaped executions by his followers jeopardize Al Qaeda's broader goals.

Meanwhile, the *New York Times* exemplified the response of liberals to Bush's speech in editorials and related articles. In an October 7 opinion column, Thomas Friedman wrote in the *Times* that the “president's speech...was excellent. He made clear, better than ever, why winning in Iraq is so important to the wider struggle against Islamo-fascism.” Friedman took issue with Bush for “never asking for any sacrifice, any military draft, any tax hikes or any gasoline tax.”

“The Quiet Consensus on Iraq” was the headline of a feature article in the October 7 online edition of the conservative magazine *National Review*. “The Howard Dean/Michael Moore/Cindy Sheehan fringe of the Democratic party so far has made almost no inroads into mainstream party thinking,” said the *Review*. This failed “because most Democratic stalwarts—senators Kerry, Clinton, and Biden—themselves voted to remove Saddam. And these erstwhile supporters of the war can offer nothing much different on Iraq now except to harangue about the need for more allies or more multilateral/UN help.”

LETTERS

Lena Baker

On August 30, Lena Baker was granted a posthumous pardon by the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles. Sixty years earlier, the board had rejected her application for clemency and Baker was electrocuted on March 5, 1945.

A Black woman, Baker was convicted of murdering her white employer by an all-white, all-male jury. Her trial lasted less than one day. Baker's only defense was her own statement in which she pleaded self-de-

fense. Her court-appointed lawyer called no witnesses.

Baker had been hired to care for Ernest Knight, a Cuthbert, Georgia, grist mill owner, who had broken his leg. In her trial statement, Baker told of the abusive treatment she had suffered from Knight. On the night of the fatal shooting, Baker said her employer threatened her with a gun. She got the gun away from him but he grabbed a piece of iron. “I didn't know but what he meant to hit me with it. I believe he would have killed me if I had

not done what I did,” she said.

The pardon did not absolve Baker of the crime. But it said not granting clemency was “a grievous error as this case called out for mercy.”

*Cheryl Goertz
Atlanta, Georgia*

Cypriot Stalinists in WWII

During WWII the most influential organization of workers and farmers on Cyprus was the Communist Party, re-founded in 1941 as AKEL. Looking to Moscow for leadership, it sus-

pended demands for self rule to support the war efforts of their colonial masters in London. The majority of their leadership and 800 members enlisted in the Cyprus Regiment, under British command. They claimed this was the road to sovereignty. This was the polar opposite of what the Puerto Rican nationalists did, which the *Militant* recently reported.

After the war no independence came. Not even unemployment compensation for returning soldiers. In 1960 Cyprus became

independent, with institutionalized communal divisions and immense British bases.

*Natasha Terlexis
Athens, Greece*

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.