

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

450 at Massachusetts event:
‘Free five Cuban revolutionaries!’

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 41 OCTOBER 30, 2006

Lift sanctions on Korea! U.S. imperialism hands off! No to acts of piracy! All U.S. troops and weapons out of Korean peninsula!

We urge working people to demand that the U.S.-crafted sanctions just imposed on north Korea by the UN Security Council be lifted, and that no “inspections” of north Korean cargo take place. We should demand: Withdraw all U.S. troops and weapons from the Korean peninsula!

As the October 11 statement by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee that we featured in last week’s

EDITORIAL

issue noted, “With some 10,000 weapons in its nuclear arsenal and nuclear-armed warships in the Pacific, it is Washington that poses the threat of nuclear annihilation to the people of Asia and the world. It is the U.S. government, not the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), that has entered the fifth year of its war in Afghanistan and is nearing its fourth year of combat in Iraq.

“And it is Washington and its allies who for half a decade, through the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative, have imposed their ‘right’ to board ships and seize cargo—to carry out piracy on the high seas—against any country the imperialist rulers label a ‘rogue nation.’ Washington’s demands for ‘inspection’ of all cargo in or out of north Korea—a de facto naval blockade, an act of war by any standard—ups the ante on the

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Reuters/You Sung-Ho

Protesters demand an end to U.S. threats against Korea in Seoul, south Korea, October 13, the day before the UN Security Council imposed brutal sanctions on the north.

UN Security Council approves harsh sanctions on north Korea

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

October 18—In a major diplomatic victory for the U.S. government, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously October 14 to impose harsh sanctions and inspect all cargo going to and coming from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The resolution “cannot be construed

otherwise than a declaration of war,” said an October 17 statement from north Korea’s foreign ministry. The DPRK “wants peace but is not afraid of war.”

The resolution invokes Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows for “enforcement” of its provisions through military action or breaking diplomatic

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Immigrant workers at Houston restaurant chain fight firings

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

HOUSTON—Nearly 100 undocumented employees of Café Express in Houston and two other cities in Texas have sued the chain and the Houston law firm Boyar & Miller P.C. for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and other charges. The workers were fired by Café Express for lacking permanent resident status, according to the suit they filed September 15.

Café Express had established a sponsorship program with immigration authorities in which the restaurant and the Boyar & Miller law firm would file citizenship applications for the employees. In return, the company would deduct \$25 from the workers’ weekly paychecks to cover legal expenses.

In July, Café Express sent a letter to lead plaintiff Jamie Chávez, who worked at a Dallas-area location, and other workers saying their applications could not be successfully completed. The workers were also told that unless they could prove they had submitted applications on their own by April 30, 2001, they would be fired on September 15, according to court documents.

The workers are seeking damages for the money deducted from their paychecks, as well as lifetime wages and legal fees. The lawsuit also calls

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Solidarity with Korea nets new ‘Militant’ readers

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

“A co-worker had bought copies of the *Militant* a couple of times in the past, but had declined to subscribe,” wrote Sarah Ullman October 17, a garment worker in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and member of UNITE HERE Local 187. “Last Friday she bought the paper at the plant gate. Betsy Farley, another *Militant* supporter who works with me, went outside at the break today where our co-worker was having lunch with her husband. Both said they were interested in the paper and decided to subscribe.”

Farley sent a follow-up note a day later. “Another co-worker at the same

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N.Y. attorney, two legal aides sentenced to jail in ‘terror’ case

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK, October 16—Attorney Lynne Stewart was sentenced here today to 28 months in prison, following her conviction in February 2005 on frame-up charges by Washington of “conspiracy to provide material support to terrorist activity” and “defrauding” the government. Stewart will remain free as long as the appeal of her sentence is going on.

The decision was met with a sense of relief by Stewart and her supporters. The government had sought a 30-year sentence. Some 200 backers of her defense campaign clapped and cheered outside the courthouse when the judge’s ruling was announced.

“We can claim a victory, by going home and being able to continue the fight to appeal the sentence,” Stewart told supporters after the hearing. “I am staying out until after an appeal that I hope will vindicate me, that I hope will make me back into the lawyer

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Goodyear tire strikers win solidarity

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON, October 16—“We are getting a lot of support on our picket line from other workers in this area,” Joe Wyatt told the *Militant* today in a telephone interview.

Wyatt, a tire builder at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. plant in Tyler, Texas, is editor of *The Stretch*, the newsletter of United Steelworkers Local 746L. The local has nearly 1,000 members at that plant.

The Steelworkers there are among the 15,000 employees of Goodyear who went on strike October 5 at 12 tire plants across the United States and four factories in Canada. The U.S. plants are located in Alabama, Kansas, Ohio, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The workers struck to oppose the company’s attempt to cut wages, do away with retiree medical benefits,

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Bosses’ profit drive kills 40 coal miners in U.S. this year

BY CLAY DENNISON

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—Coal mine fatalities across the United States continue to mount this year. Forty coal miners have died on the job so far since January 1, the highest number in five years and nearly twice the 22 coal miners killed last year. Wilson Maxwell, a miner at the Oak Grove mine here, said the high death toll is the result of “the push by companies to produce at whatever the cost while coal prices are high.”

Joe Seay, a roof bolter at the D&R Coal No. 2 mine in Knox County, Kentucky, became the 39th miner killed this year when he was crushed October 6 by a six-foot piece of rock. He was working in an area of the mine where the coal seam was only 24 to 31 inches high, less than three feet. Miners work on their hands

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'Journal of Chinese Overseas' reviews book by three Chinese-Cuban generals

The following was published in the November 2006 issue of the Journal of Chinese Overseas. The Journal is published twice a year, in May and November, by National University of Singapore (NUS) Press in Singapore.

The author, Li Anshan, teaches international studies at Peking University. He has also written the book *A History of Chinese Overseas in Africa* (Beijing, 2000) and other studies on the subject.

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IN REVIEW

Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution. By Armando CHOY, Gustavo CHUI and Moisés SÍO WONG. New York, London, Montreal, Sydney: Pathfinder, 2005. 216 pp.

BY LI ANSHAN

This is a story about the resettlement, evolution and reform of the Chinese in Cuba, "a story largely unknown outside Cuba" (p. 3), and a story of the Cuban people. The three story-tellers, whose ancestors migrated to and settled in Cuba in early times, took part in the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro, became important leaders in the revolution and are now engaged in the important reform and transformation of Cuban society.

More importantly, this is a history of the evolution of Cuba from a dictatorship to a socialist country as told by the Chinese Cubans from their perspective. It is a history about the ordinary people,

their suffering, their struggle, their revolution and creation. The person who carried out the interview is Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of *New International*, a magazine promoting the study of Marxist politics and theory.

The book is divided into three parts. Part 1, "The difference is a socialist revolution: Chinese in Cuba," is an introduction of the Chinese Cubans in general and the three revolutionary protagonists in particular. The three interviewees give us a lucid picture of why and how they became part of the revolution.

Part 2, "Strengthening the revolution," deals with the fight against the threat to the Cuban Revolution abroad and at home. The discussion of the internationalist mission to Angola (1975-91) is especially interesting as it discloses the ideal, goal and result of the mission and the response it aroused. According to Fidel Castro, "They (the US and its supporters) planned to take hold of Cabinda, with its oil, before November 11 [1975]; to seize Luanda before November 11 [1975]. And to carry out this scheme, the US government launched South African troops against Angola..." (p. 79).

Part 3, "The special period and beyond," is about the food crisis in the early 1990s and the initiatives taken by the Cuban people in dealing with it.

The Appendix includes three speeches, two by Fidel Castro and one by Nelson Mandela, about the Cuban internationalist mission in Angola. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom, and justice,



Bohemia

Members of Chinese New Democracy Alliance rally Sept. 2, 1960, in Havana. Banner reads: "Resident Chinese support the Cuban Revolution and its leader Fidel Castro!"

unparalleled for its principled and selfless character" (p. 179). The "Glossary of individuals, organizations, and events" is useful especially for those who want to make a detailed study of the subject.

Apart from being an oral history which reveals many stories told by insiders involved in the Cuban Revolution, the book is unique in two other respects.

The authors come from a special background and the content has a strong ideological orientation. The three authors are Chinese Cubans, all members of the Rebel Army and actively involved in the fight against the US-backed Batista dictatorship. They are all founding members of the Communist Party of Cuba, and all currently occupying important positions in the Cuban government.

Armando Choy, a founding member of the July 26 Movement in 1955 and leader of the guerrilla war, is now president of the State Working Group for the Cleanup, Preservation, and Development of Havana Bay. Gustavo Chui, actively involved in the July 26 Movement's urban underground in Santiago during the first part of the revolutionary war, now serves as the leader of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, a national organization founded in 1993 which began in Pinar del Rio as a pilot project in 1990.

Moisés Sío Wong, leader of the first Youth Brigade in Havana, came under the command of Gerardo Abreu (*Fontan*) soon after the founding of the July 26 Movement in 1955, and having worked closely with Fidel and other leaders, is now president of the National Institute of State Reserves.

A convincing picture of Cuban history and society unfolds as one reads the book. The Chinese in Cuba not only worked

very hard in order to survive, they also took an active part in the War of Independence. Although there are glimpses of the history of Chinese immigrants in Cuba in the early days, it is the detailed account of the personal experiences in the Cuban revolution and reform that forms the core of the book and gives it its strength.

For example, General Sío Wong gives an illustration of his service under three great figures, viz. his work under Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra, his experience in "Ciro Redondo" Column 8 under the command of "Che" (Ernesto Che Guevara), and seven years' work in collaboration with Raul Castro.

The narration is deeply moving and exudes a strong sense of idealism and responsibility for the Cuban people and mankind in general.

Although there are striking descriptions of the anti-Batista struggle, the guerrilla war and the socialist revolution,

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Our History Is Still Being Written



THE STORY OF THREE CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong—three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban

ancestry—threw themselves into the great proletarian battle that defined their generation. They became combatants in the clandestine struggle and 1956-58 revolutionary war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship and opened the door to the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$20.

www.pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Solidarity with Goodyear tire strikers

The 'Militant' provides on-the-scene coverage of the strike by 15,000 Goodyear tire workers in the United States and Canada. The workers and their union, the United Steelworkers, are standing up to company demands for wage, pension, and health coverage cuts. Don't miss a single issue!



Steelworkers on strike at Goodyear plant in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 8.

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N.Y. attorney Lynne Stewart sentenced to 28 months



Militant/Róger Calero

Lynne Stewart addresses supporters October 16 after her sentencing outside courthouse in lower Manhattan, New York.

Continued from front page that I was.”

Stewart, along with Ahmed Abdel Sattar and Mohammed Yousry, were convicted on charges of “aiding” a group the government had designated as “terrorist,” and of violating prison restrictions in helping their client, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, to transmit messages to his followers in Egypt.

Sattar, a former postal worker, was sentenced to 24 years in prison. He had been convicted of allegedly negotiating by phone with a backer of Abdel-Rahman to end a cease-fire by the latter’s group in Egypt. U.S. District Judge John Koeltl said he imposed this sentence, and not the life term the prosecution had requested, “because no one was killed or injured as

a result of the crimes,” AP reported.

Yousry, Stewart’s Arabic translator, was given 20 months. The prosecution had asked for 20 years.

Between 1994 and 2002, Stewart, 67, was a defense lawyer for Abdel-Rahman, a Muslim cleric who is blind and who was convicted on charges of conspiracy to bomb the World Trade Center in 1993 and attack other city landmarks. He was sentenced in 1996 to life in prison, plus 65 years. His trial was mired with violations of his rights as a defendant, and he faced brutal treatment in prison.

Washington had hailed the conviction of Stewart and her co-defendants as a major victory in its “war on terror.”

Then—Attorney General John Ashcroft brought the indictment, claiming the three had violated the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, months after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. During the trial the prosecution was allowed to play as evidence videotapes of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden meeting with one of Abdel-Rahman’s sons.

“The government’s characterization of me and what occurred is inaccurate and untrue,” Stewart wrote in a letter to Koeltl September 26. “It takes unfair advantage of the climate of urgency and hysteria that followed 9/11 and that was re-lived during the trial.”

Stewart and her attorneys had asked the court to impose no prison time, pointing to her poor health.

Judge Koeltl said the charges she was convicted of could have “potentially lethal consequences,” and called them “extraordinarily severe criminal conduct.” He handed down the sentence pointing to Stewart’s “extraordinary personal characteristics,” including decades of work as a defense lawyer.

Some of the big-business media, especially the conservative press, vilified Stewart and ridiculed her sentence. “Joke’s on us. Laughing traitor gets a pass,” was the front-page headline of the October 17 *New York Post*. An editorial in the *Investor’s Business Daily* the next day, headlined, “The Laughing Traitor,”

said Stewart got a “slap on the wrist.”

“The government is disappointed in the sentences imposed today,” said Michael Garcia, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, in a statement he released October 16 after the judge’s ruling. “We will be exploring our appellate options.”

Socialist candidate: Drop sentences! Reverse convictions!

The following statement was issued October 16 by Róger Calero, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New York.

I join with others in demanding that the sentences Federal Judge John Koeltl handed down today against attorney Lynne Stewart, translator Mohammed Yousry, and legal aid Ahmed Abdel Sattar be dropped and their convictions overturned. They are a travesty of justice. Stewart and her co-defendants were framed-up by the government to further the U.S. rulers’ “war on terror.”

These prosecutions legitimize outrageous attacks on the Sixth Amendment right to meaningful access to legal counsel and on freedom of speech. The convictions and sentences send a clear warning to attorneys, paralegals, and translators considering representing accused “terrorists”: You could be next!

The ultimate target is working people. The flagrant violation of lawyer/client privilege reflected in laws and regulations used to prosecute Stewart and her co-defendants is a direct attack on the ability of workers and others to defend themselves from government persecution.

The Socialist Workers campaign also denounces the attempts by capitalist media to vilify Lynne Stewart, ridiculing her sentence as “getting a pass.”

We say drop the outrageous sentences! Reverse the convictions!

Goodyear tire strikers

Continued from front page and impose other concessions.

“Last Thursday [October 12] we had more than a dozen unionists from other plants join our line,” Wyatt said. “Every day people come by to give us support. We get donations of everything from sodas to rain ponchos.”

“But the company hasn’t budged at all,” he said, in an indication this may be a long fight. “There has been no word from them since we went on strike.”

The steelworkers ended their day-to-day extensions of a three-year contract, which expired in July, and walked out when it became evident negotiations were going nowhere.

On top of wage and benefit cuts, Goodyear, the largest U.S. tire manufacturer, is threatening to close a number of plants, including the one in Tyler.

Goodyear ranks third in tire sales worldwide, with more than 100 plants in 29 countries. After threatening bankruptcy in 2003, Goodyear won acceptance from the union for deep concessions. These included a plant closure in Alabama as well as wage, pension, and health-care cuts. Goodyear sales rebounded to record-breaking levels in 2005, at \$19.5 billion.

Strikers say the company is now trying to cut wages and benefits and is planning thousands of layoffs, using the rationalization that it must offset competition from rivals abroad.

“We keep our picket line going 24-7,”

said Wyatt. “We are asking for solidarity. We can’t let them win this.”



BY JOHN STEELE

COLLINGWOOD, Ontario, October 14—During a visit today to the picket line at the Goodyear Tire hose plant here, a couple of hours north of Toronto, strikers told the *Militant* that at an October 11 union meeting, attended by almost all of the 200 members of United Steelworkers Local 834, workers turned down unanimously the company’s “final offer.”

At a meeting strikers held at a Goodyear plant in nearby Owen Sound, which manufactures belts, the vote was similar, workers said.

The belts and hoses produced by the workers are used primarily by the auto assembly industry.

Strikers said the bosses are demanding a \$3.50 per hour wage cut, aim to reduce the starting rate to \$12 an hour, and eventually bring all wages down to that level. Also on the chopping block is the cost-of-living clause and the plant-wide seniority system. The last strike at the plant here took place in 1997 and lasted three weeks.

40 coal miners killed on the job in U.S. in 2006

Continued from front page

and knees in such mines. Seay was 56 years old and had more than 23 years of mining experience.

According to press reports, D&R Coal has been cited 14 times by Kentucky mine inspectors for various safety violations since 2005 and another 30 times by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

Jerry McKinney, a mine supervisor at the Jim Walters Resources No. 7 mine in Brookwood, Alabama, was the most recent fatality on October 11. McKinney was also killed by a roof fall while inspecting a portion of the mine that was no longer being actively worked. According to one Jim Walters miner, who spoke to the *Militant* on the condition of anonymity to avoid possible reprisal by the company, many of the miners there are upset about the supervisor’s death because it took the company almost 24 hours before it determined that McKinney was missing. Miners at No. 7 say a search for him was conducted only after his wife called the mine to inquire about McKinney on Thursday morning, October 12.

Dennis Hall, director of public relations for Jim Walters Resources, was

quoted in the October 13 *Tuscaloosa News* as saying about McKinney’s death, “He was a supervisor so he worked different types of shifts. Normally I think he worked days, but we don’t know what shift he worked [Wednesday]. We’re trying to pin that down.”

The United Mine Workers union is participating in an investigation of McKinney’s death.

MSHA also identified the 38th miner killed this year after it reclassified the electrocution death of Richard Cox on May 4 at Consol’s Buchanan No. 1 mine in Virginia. Cox was 40 years old and was working on the surface for a contractor at the mine.

Another 23 miners in metal and other non-coal mines have been killed on the job this year, according to MSHA.

Suicides at Sago Mine

Meanwhile, two former employees of the Sago coal mine in West Virginia committed suicide in August and September. Mine dispatcher William Chisolm and John Nelson Boni, a fireboss, shot themselves in separate incidents. Both worked January 2, the day of the explosion at the Sago Mine that killed 12 miners, and were at the center of the

investigation around the disaster.

Boni had told federal inspectors he had detected low levels of methane, a gas emitted from coal that is explosive above a 5 percent concentration, in the area of the blast five days earlier. He reported this to a supervisor but nothing was done.

Boni had also told investigators he had signed a form certifying that he received safety training even though he had not attended the required safety class, according to the September 27 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. He said Al Schoonover, the mine’s safety director, had asked him to sign the form. Bennett Hatfield, the president of the International Coal Group that owns the Sago Mine, said the incident was a “misunderstanding.”

As the dispatcher, Chisolm was responsible for monitoring carbon monoxide alarms. He had told investigators that such an alarm had sounded 20 minutes before the explosion and that he had instructed an electrician to check it out.

Clay Dennison is a coal miner in Alabama and member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2133. Tony Lane, a coal miner in the Pittsburgh area, also contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Report from the Medical School of the Americas in Cuba. Speakers: Lillian Holloway, fourth-year student at Medical School of the Americas; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 27. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (near corner of 8th Ave.; use north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

U.S., Australia Hands Off Korea! Speaker: Bob Aiken, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 28, 6:00 p.m. 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718-9698.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The New Zealand–China Free Trade Agreement. Fri., Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m. Suite 3, upstairs, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Tel.: (9) 276-8885.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Scotland garment workers on strike counter boss threats

EDINBURGH, Scotland—"We'll be here until we get our pay raise" said striker Bessie Roy, while on the picket line October 12, day five of a strike by knitwear workers at Mackinnon Mill at Coatbridge, near Glasgow. Roy and other strikers described their anger at how the previous day Paul Gerrard, a director of Edinburgh Woollen Mill, had called them into the works canteen to tell them not only that they would not get a pay increase but if they continued with their action the plant would be closed. The 110 members of the Community trade union began their protest actions September 28 and are now striking two days each week. They have received warm solidarity from other workers. Strikers described how a coachload of pensioners coming to the company's retail store turned back after seeing the picket line. They then signed a petition in support of the trade unionists' fight.

—Peter Clifford

Transit workers in Ontario strike over company's cutback demands

OSHAWA, Ontario—Some 300 bus drivers, mechanics, and clerical workers, members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 222, went on strike against the Durham Regional Transit System here October 5. Management is demanding extensive benefit cuts for both retirees and active employees, and that workers give up their cost-of-living adjustment clauses and the right to refuse the contracting out of many full-time jobs.

On the picket line October 15, a number of workers expressed anger over the company's refusal to negotiate with the union. "Their first offer was their final offer. We want them to get back to the table,"

said striker Ray Kelly. Strikers report that they are getting a lot of support from fellow CAW members on their way to work at GM's two big auto plants nearby. In addition, retired unionists who used to work for the Toronto Transit Commission and the Durham region have joined the picket lines.

—Beverly Bernardo

Teachers rally in Miami to demand pay increases

MIAMI—Several thousand Miami-Dade County teachers, members of the United Teachers of Dade union, rallied in front of area schools and the building where the school board was meeting on October 11. They chanted, "More than praise, we need a raise," to press their demand for a pay increase during negotiations over a proposed three-year contract.

A new teacher in Miami-Dade receives \$34,200. The school board, headed by former New York school superintendent Rudy Crew, has offered to increase pay by a just couple of thousand dollars. Teachers say this is lower than New York, Chicago, and neighboring Broward County. The top pay for a veteran teacher is \$62,225.

Jessica Soria, 25, a teacher for three years, said, "The union is asking for \$40,000. They should give at least \$37,000 to match Broward. I've thought about moving because of the low pay and the increasing workload." Soria said that while the class size is supposed to be a maximum of 25, her class has 31 students.

—Maggie Trowe

450 at Massachusetts event: 'Free Cuban 5!'



Militant/Ted Leonard

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, October 6—More than 450 people attended a program today at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on the fight to free five Cuban revolutionaries. The Cuban Five, as they are known, are serving draconian sentences in U.S. prisons after being framed-up by Washington and convicted on charges that include "conspiracy to commit espionage" for Havana.

Opening the meeting, Nalda Vigezzi of the Boston-based July 26 Coalition said the event was being held on the 30th anniversary of the bombing of a Cuban commercial airliner over Barbados. The meeting backed the demand on Washington by Caracas to extradite to Venezuela Luis Posada Carriles, a Cuban-American rightist and naturalized Venezuelan citizen linked to numerous attacks against Cuba, including the 1976 bombing of the Cuban airliner that killed 73 people. While the U.S. government has refused Venezuela's demand to extradite a self-described mass murderer, panelists pointed out, it has fought every attempt to release the Cuban Five. The "crime" of the five men was that in order to defend their country's sovereignty they entered rightist Cuban-American groups. These organizations had a record of violent attacks on Cuba carried out from U.S. soil with Washington's complicity.

Speakers included Alicia Jrapko of the International Committee to Free the Cuban Five; Salim Lamrani, editor of *Superpower Principles: U.S. Terrorism against Cuba*; National Lawyers Guild president Michael Avery; and professor Noam Chomsky.

The meeting also heard greetings from Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban Five, who is serving a double life term. The other four, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González, are serving terms ranging from 15 years to life.

—JOHN HAWKINS

Solidarity with Korea nets new readers

Continued from front page

plant renewed her subscription three weeks ago," Farley said. "She attended a Militant Labor Forum with Ma'mud Shirvani speaking on the Middle East and capitalism's world disorder. Last Sunday she joined a door-to-door subbing team to respond to Washington's stepped-up threats against Korea."

Other reports like these are coming in, showing that campaigning with last week's *Militant* has begun to net new readers interested in solidarizing with the people of Korea who confront onerous economic and military pressures by U.S. imperialism.

"We sold three subs in a working-class district off tables with big signs saying, 'U.S. Hands Off Korea!,'" said Jacquie Henderson, a *Militant* supporter in Houston.

"We sold another four at the Librarians of Color convention in Dallas, along with 17 copies of the *Militant* and 23 books and pamphlets on revolutionary working-class politics. Part of that were five copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* (see article on p. 2). Each new *Militant* reader took the deal of the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of 'Education Reform' Under Capitalism* at the special price of \$1 with a subscription."

"We sold seven subscriptions on the basis of campaigning for 'U.S. Hands Off Korea!'" wrote Cecelia Moriarity, a *Militant* supporter in Seattle. "Two longshoremen, one

worker at Boeing, and four other workers in the Yakima valley were among those who signed up."

Let's keep this up! The special sales effort *Militant* distributors started October 14 can be extended using this issue, as Washington and its allies are taking further steps to isolate

and squeeze north Korea. Getting the *Militant* around, including at picket lines outside Goodyear plants, can also help win solidarity with the strike by 15,000 Steelworkers in North America.

Militant Fund

BY PAUL PEDERSON

At week five of the eight-week effort to raise \$90,000 to finance the *Militant*, nearly half is in hand. A concerted effort is needed in the remaining three weeks to collect \$15,000 per week, to bring the drive home in full and on time.

The campaign in New York got a boost last week, reported local fund director Róger Calero.

"Manuel Sanchez, a supporter of the paper, organized a Sunday afternoon get-together at an apartment in the Bronx with family members who have subscribed or expressed interest in the paper," Calero said. After a delicious meal, 15 people watched *With our Memory in the Future*, a documentary of the Federation of Cuban Women about the gains women in Cuba have made since the victory of the socialist revolution there, and heard an appeal for the fund.

"We raised \$165 in contributions and signed up three new subscribers," Calero said. At a Militant Labor Forum two days earlier people donated \$1,700. The event heard Calero and Argiris Malapanis, the *Militant* editor, speaking on "U.S. Hands Off Venezuela."

Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive Sept. 9 – Nov. 7 ♦ Week 5 of 8

Country	Quota	Sold	%
SWEDEN	37	29	78%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh**	55	44	80%
London*	100	77	77%
UK Total	155	121	78%
NEW ZEALAND	60	42	70%
CANADA	130	86	66%
AUSTRALIA	50	31	62%
UNITED STATES			
Albany, NY	20	14	70%
Philadelphia	130	88	68%
San Francisco	75	47	63%
Newark	150	94	63%
Birmingham	115	68	59%
Atlanta	100	59	59%
Des Moines	175	102	58%
Washington, DC	105	60	57%
Chicago	100	56	56%
Houston	100	56	56%
Boston	120	65	54%
Miami	170	91	54%
San Diego, CA	6	3	50%
New York	300	144	48%
Seattle	80	38	48%
Twin Cities	160	75	47%
Amherst, MA	10	4	40%
Tampa, FL	10	4	40%
Los Angeles	145	56	39%
Pittsburgh	60	23	38%
Detroit	10	3	30%
U.S. Total	2,141	1,150	54%
ICELAND	18	7	39%
OTHER		1	
Int'l totals	2,591	1,467	56%
Should be	2,600	1,625	63%

* increased quota, ** twice

\$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive Sept. 9 – Nov. 7 ♦ Week 5 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
AUSTRALIA	1,200	812	68%
NEW ZEALAND	2,500	1,495	60%
CANADA	3,500	2,025	58%
UNITED STATES			
Washington, D.C.	2,800	2,075	74%
Boston	3,500	2,220	63%
Des Moines	2,200	1,332	61%
New York	13,000	7,868	61%
San Francisco	8,500	4,949	58%
Miami	2,500	1,407	56%
Atlanta	5,500	2,848	52%
Birmingham	3,500	1,810	52%
Philadelphia	3,500	1,715	49%
Houston	3,200	1,300	41%
Seattle	7,000	2,835	41%
Twin Cities	4,800	1,880	39%
Newark	3,500	1,280	37%
Chicago	5,000	1,788	36%
Pittsburgh	4,200	1,032	25%
Los Angeles	8,200	1,940	24%
Detroit	1,200	25	2%
Albany	120	0	0%
Amherst	60	0	0%
San Diego	50	0	0%
OTHER		500	
U.S. total	82,330	38,803	47%
FRANCE	250	100	40%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	1,300	640	49%
Edinburgh	500	60	12%
UK total	1,800	700	39%
ICELAND	450	166	37%
SWEDEN	500	85	17%
Int'l totals	92,530	44,186	49%
Goal/Should be	90,000	56,250	63%

Iowa teenager fights gov't attempts to deport her

BY EDWIN FRUIT
AND MARY MARTIN

DES MOINES, Iowa—"After my arrest, I heard from my sister that there was going to be a demonstration against me being deported. I looked out the window at the Polk County jail and saw people protesting who I didn't even know and who didn't know me!" Estephanie Izaguirre, 18, said in a September 16 interview here.

"After five days I got released," Izaguirre said. "I decided then I wanted to spend my life helping other people in the same situation as me." Izaguirre came here from Honduras at age 12 without her parents to live with her sister, Reyna Jasso. Under a legal provision for orphaned children, Izaguirre was in the process of gaining permanent residency status. She is now under threat of deportation.

On June 1, five days after Izaguirre graduated from East High School here

and three days after her 18th birthday, immigration officials notified her attorney, Jim Benzoni, that they wanted to see her to "complete paperwork," which she and her attorney assumed was in order to obtain her green card.

Instead, when she appeared before immigration officials, the teenager was arrested and told she would be deported, stemming from an order issued when she had been 12 years old for failure to appear at an immigration hearing in Texas.

In 2001, when she crossed into Texas from Mexico, she was picked up by the border cops, who subsequently released her to the care of a family friend who pledged to deliver Izaguirre to her sister in Iowa. The cops said she would be notified about a future immigration hearing. In Iowa, however, the two sisters never received a notice to appear at a hearing in Texas. In fact, immigration officials have on record that the letter was returned



Militant/Edwin Fruit

Estephanie Izaguirre (left) and her sister Reyna Jasso are fighting government threats to deport Izaguirre to Honduras. She has lived in Iowa since she was 12 years old.

undelivered. Izaguirre and her lawyer will appeal the deportation order at a November 7 immigration hearing.

At a September 8 Militant Labor Forum here on "Defending Immigrant Rights," Jasso explained the campaign that was carried out to bring attention to Estephanie's case. A high school friend, Estrella Serrano, told Jasso, "We need

to do something."

Serrano and Jasso organized a protest outside the jail. They had gone to the local media, the offices of Iowa governor Thomas Vilsack, and the two U.S. senators in Iowa to request help. Around 50 people attended the rally, including Sen. Thomas Harkin. On June 6 Izaguirre was released.

Tentative accord ends five-month teachers' strike in Mexico

BY NAOMI CRAINE
AND MICHAEL ORTEGA

LOS ANGELES, October 14—Thousands of striking teachers and others continue to occupy the center of Oaxaca, the capital of the southern state of Oaxaca, despite a tentative accord with federal authorities that was announced October 9. Over the previous week Mexican troops had massed in a threat of intervention against the teachers, and remain concentrated in the state. The protesters say they will continue their actions until the governor, Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, resigns.

The strike started May 22 when 70,000 teachers, members of Section 22 of the national teachers union SNTE, walked off the job demanding higher wages and better working conditions. Teachers in Oaxaca state are among the lowest paid in the country.

The fight expanded after a failed attempt by the police to break up the teachers' encampment in the state capital June 14. After that assault, a coalition of political, student, union, indigenous, and other organizations formed the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO). Thousands of protesters occupied the capital's main plaza, took over several radio stations, and are blockading City Hall and state offices.

Underlying these class tensions are the social conditions in Oaxaca, one of the poorest states in Mexico. It has the highest rates of infant mortality, death during childbirth, and malnutrition in the country. Living conditions are even worse for the large indigenous population, which also faces systematic discrimination. In recent years these conditions have led to numerous peasant struggles for land, and workers' demands for improved conditions and against police brutality.

Enrique Rueda, head of the teachers union in Oaxaca, said October 3 that the SNTE would not take part in negotiations until Gov. Ulises Ruiz resigns because "we can't sit at the same table with those who have always repressed and exploited the people." Ruiz belongs to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which dominated the Mexican national government for 70 years. Many in the protest coalition are supporters of

the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), one of the three main bourgeois parties along with the PRI and the National Action Party (PAN).

The strike and protest movement have become a national issue. On October 3, Section 18 of the SNTE announced that its members in Michoacán, a nearby state, would launch an indefinite strike if the government used military repression against the Oaxaca strikers and APPO. The teachers union in 14 other states has also pledged to join such a work stoppage. On October 12 dozens of students began an occupation of Oaxaca's Autonomous University Benito Juárez in support of the protests.

The bosses and government stepped up their pressure against the strikers. Employers in Oaxaca carried out a 48-hour "strike" September 28–29 de-

manding the government act to crack down on the protests, which have cut into the tourist industry. President-elect Felipe Calderón demanded that incumbent Vicente Fox put an end to the conflict before Calderon assumes office December 1. Both are members of the PAN.

Governor Ruiz ordered the teachers to return to work as of September 26, although virtually none obeyed, and cut off the wages the strikers had continued to collect until then.

Fox stated October 2 that "as long as there is the possibility of reaching an agreement we're going to insist on it," but if a deal isn't reached, "breaking the law must always be impeded and should be punished."

Over the previous weekend, hundreds of soldiers and navy troops massed at

the Oaxacan port of Salina Cruz and began patrolling the area, including marching a good distance inland toward the capital city. Protesters reported that military helicopters were carrying out low flights over their camps. They responded by building barricades with bags of cement and tree trunks.

The tentative agreement between Section 22, APPO, and Abascal reportedly includes that state authorities would release 18 jailed teachers and their supporters and drop charges against 300 others, and that the Mexican Senate would consider the proposal to remove Governor Ruiz. Before the agreement was even discussed by the rank-and-file union members, however, police resumed their attacks and harassment of the protesters and the occupation and protests continue.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY, PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 30, 1981

In opposition to the desperate social and economic conditions facing Colombia's working people and to the repressive policies of the Colombian government, tens of thousands of workers throughout that Latin American country laid down their tools October 21 in a twenty-four-hour general strike.

One of the central demands of the strike was the lifting of the state of siege that has been in effect in Colombia almost continuously for the past thirty years. Under it, the police have wide powers to break up strikes and demonstrations and detain political activists or trade unionists without charge. Its provisions for incommunicado detention facilitates the use of torture against political prisoners.

The strikers also demanded the release of all political prisoners, an end to widespread layoffs in the textile and other industries, wage increases of up to 50 percent, an end to the government's austerity policies and cuts in social services, and price controls on food and other day-to-day necessities.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 29, 1956

The political revolution of the East European working class against Kremlin-sponsored bureaucratic rule scored a major advance in Poland and then broke out in full force in Hungary this week. It was a week of events completely dominated by mass meetings and direct actions of workers and students in the two countries.

In Poland, these mass actions forced the plenum of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party (CP) to meet Oct. 19 through 21 and to successfully defy an ultimatum to again allow the Kremlin to handpick its leading body, the Politburo.

In Hungary, fighting still raged today in the streets of the capital city of Budapest, where last night police opened fire on mass demonstrations of students, workers, and Hungarian soldiers who were hailing the Polish events and demanding a new government in their own country. The demonstrators, say the Oct. 24 *N.Y. Times*, shouted slogans such as "Do not stop half way: Away with Stalinism," "Independence and Freedom," "Hurrah for the Poles."

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

November 7, 1931

The 14th anniversary of the Bolshevik Russian Revolution is at hand; and the proletariat of the entire world cheers the first working class to achieve power over the capitalist class. The heritage of the October Revolution, precious to the toiling millions everywhere, must be preserved.

In 1848 Marx and Engels, in the immortal *Communist Manifesto*, exultantly cried: "A spectre is haunting Europe—the spectre of Communism." With the Russian Revolution of November 1917, this spectre became a reality of the modern world, the first death-thrust of the unsheathed proletarian sword in the body of imperialism.

The major act of the Russian proletariat, in the program of revolution, was the seizure of political power as a class; it established state power; it set up the dictatorship of the proletariat which, as Marx proved in the *Criticism of the Gotha Program*, was the necessary transition measure employed by the working class in the long, hard road toward the establishment of a genuine Communist society.

UN council slaps sanctions on north Korea

Continued from front page

ties. A clause preventing immediate military action under the UN banner helped secure approval of the resolution by both Moscow and Beijing. Washington drafted the document after the north Korean government announced October 8 it had conducted a nuclear bomb test.

The resolution calls on all states to inspect cargo to or from north Korea. It orders Pyongyang to abandon all its "existing nuclear programs" and weapons programs "in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner." It also bans the import or export of material or equipment that could be used to make nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, heavy military equipment, spare parts, and materials deemed "luxury items." It orders all states to freeze the assets and ban travel of any individuals accused of supporting north Korea's weapons program.

"These are very tough sanctions, they're among the toughest ever imposed on any country by the United Nations," said U.S. undersecretary for political affairs Nicholas Burns October 16. The broad scope of the sanctions means that a number of household items can be banned if Washington or its allies claim they can be used as components for "weapons of mass destruction."

"The DPRK totally rejects the unjustifiable resolution," said Pak Gil-yon, north Korea's ambassador to the UN, right after the Security Council vote. "It is gangster like for the Security Council to have adopted today a coercive resolution while neglecting the nuclear threat and moves for sanctions and pressure of the United States against the DPRK," said Pak, who walked out of the room.

Washington, which holds the world's largest nuclear arsenal and is also the only government to have ever used nuclear weapons in warfare, maintains 30,000 troops on the Korean peninsula and nuclear-armed warships in the surrounding waters. In recent months, it has

tightened financial sanctions against the DPRK and increased military collaboration with its allies in the Pacific.

NBC reported today that Pyongyang has informed Beijing of intentions to conduct "a series of underground nuclear tests."

"We have... many nuclear arsenals surrounding us, in South Korea and in nearby Japan," north Korea's deputy director of Foreign Affairs Li Gun told ABC news. "And they have had new exercises."

Beijing begins inspections

"This is a Security Council resolution, under Chapter VII, Article 41, and, therefore, the resolution has to be implemented," Wang Guangya, China's ambassador to the UN, said October 16. Wang had said immediately after the vote that his government would not enforce the cargo inspections. But the next day, Chinese customs agents were stopping and inspecting trucks bound for north Korea in the border town of Dandong.

"Inspections yes, but inspections are different from interception and interdiction," said Wang.

The DPRK receives 70 percent of its food and fuel from China, its largest trading partner.

The *New York Times* said October 16 that some Chinese banks near the border with north Korea had begun refusing to handle cash remittances to and from the DPRK. In July, the Bank of China froze north Korea's assets. In October 2005 Washington blacklisted eight north Korean firms they accused of counterfeiting for Pyongyang. Banks in Vietnam, Japan, and Singapore all followed suit. The combined measures have nearly eliminated Pyongyang's access to hard currency and therefore its ability to trade.

Choo Kyu-ho, spokesman for south Korea's foreign ministry, said October 16 that Seoul "will go ahead" with joint economic ventures with Pyongyang. Seoul has pledged to "faithfully implement" the Security Council resolution,

Choo said, but "we judged that the contents...do not directly affect the economic cooperation programs."

A new 'coalition of the willing'

U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice arrived in Tokyo today for a tour of Japan, China, south Korea, and Russia. "Rice plans to seek commitments from China and other North Korean neighbors for a sweeping inspections program to monitor all cargo shipped to or from the would-be nuclear power," reported the October 17 *Chicago Tribune*. The action, it said, "amounts to a virtual blockade—albeit one imposed on the ports, frontiers and airfields of North Korea's trading partners rather than on the seas surrounding the nation."

In pushing for the resolution, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said Washington would seek to "increase its defense cooperation with allies, including ballistic missile defense" as part of enforcing the measures.

Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said October 15 that Washington would use the UN resolution to explore forming a "security" alliance in Asia parallel to NATO.

"We finally have the right coalition of states to put enormous pressure on north Korea to reverse its course," Rice said on *Fox News Sunday*. Asked if Washington would put together another "coalition of the willing" to carry out the "interdiction" of shipments into and out of north Korea, Rice replied, "We believe that there may be other steps that will be necessary given North Korea's behavior."

The Japanese government is driving ahead its own punitive measures. Before the Security Council resolution was adopted, Tokyo decided to deny entry to its ports to all vessels from north Korea. It also banned all imports from north Korea and barred north Korean citizens from entering Japan. Shoichi Nakagawa, chairman of the ruling party's Policy Research Council, urged a discussion on developing a nuclear arsenal in Japan.

Japan's foreign minister, Taro Aso, said Tokyo would provide "logistical support" to U.S. vessels inspecting north Korean cargo based on a 1999 law freeing up Japanese military forces to collaborate with U.S. forces in an "emergency situation in surrounding areas."

Washington and Tokyo have collaborated in stopping and boarding north Korean ships under the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) since 2003. The PSI establishes the "right" of imperialist governments or their allies to stop, board, inspect, and confiscate cargo of any vessels they accuse of carrying "suspect" materials.

Military moves

The *New York Times* cited anonymous military officials October 9 saying the Pentagon has "quietly shifted" substantial numbers of air force bombers and other warplanes from the United States to Asia in the event of a naval blockade or other action against north Korea.

Australia's prime minister, John Howard, announced that his government was considering offering up Australian warships to participate in any naval blockade of north Korea directed at enforcing the resolution. On October 16 Canberra banned all north Korean ships from docking at Australian ports.

Beijing urged some caution. "We must



be careful that it won't be carried out in such a way like a quarantine, searching every ship going in and out of a country," Wang told the press October 16. "Most countries consider that an act of war."

Meanwhile, Democrats in the United States are criticizing the Bush administration from the right. Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean accused the White House of taking "its eye off the ball." He argued that Iran and north Korea, not Iraq, should be the main targets of the U.S. "war on terror."

"Democrats believe we need a new direction that acknowledges the facts on the ground and makes fighting and winning the war on terror the top priority," Dean said.

Book review

Continued from page 2

it is the depiction of what is happening in Cuba today that I find most appealing. In the early 1990s, the food crisis threatened to derail the revolution. The reader is given a vivid account of how creative and resilient the people and government were in taking measures "to save the revolution," such as allowing the free circulation of the dollar, expanding international tourism, and creating "organoponic" gardens (for the cultivation of agricultural products with organic material and biological controls), etc. In order to produce more food for the people, permission was given to workers to share the profit as an incentive.

"How is it possible that you, a descendent (sic) of Chinese, occupy a high government post, are a deputy in the National Assembly, and a general of the Armed Forces? How is that possible?" This is a question asked of Sio Wong in 1999 by the president of ISSCO (International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas) which was holding the International Conference on the Chinese Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean in Havana. The same question may well be put to the other two authors who also hold important positions in the Cuban government. The answer seems to lie in the nature of Cuban society. "The revolution eliminated discrimination based on the color of a person's skin."

"Here discrimination—against blacks, against Chinese, against women, against the poor—was ended" (p. 75).

Although it is not an academic study, the book does provide valuable material on the Chinese in Cuba. Moreover, illustrated by contemporary photos, it has vigor and vividness, is full of the participants' insight, and puts across an idealism badly needed in a world of materialistic pursuits.

The book may be a history "still being written" as the title suggests, it has already struck a chord with me.

Remarks by British officials on banning veil spark controversy

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Former British foreign secretary Jack Straw stirred controversy by declaring October 6 that he opposed women wearing veils.

Straw, the Labour member of parliament for Blackburn where one in five are Muslims, said he had asked women constituents visiting him to remove their veils. When he was asked the next day whether he would prefer women in general not to wear veils he said "yes." Straw indicated he did not favor a legal ban.

The head of the Commission for Racial Equality, Trevor Phillips, and Harriet Harman, the government's constitutional affairs minister, backed Straw.

"If I were [a] head teacher," Phillips said, "I would probably say that veils should not be worn in the classroom."

Oliver Letwin of the Conservative Party opposed Straw. "Muslim women who want to wear a veil should be able to wear a veil," he said.

Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra of the Muslim Council of Britain asked, "Does Mr. Straw mean that people should give up certain cultural and religious customs and practices simply because a vast majority of the country do not share them?... That is saying that one culture or one way

of life is superior to another."

The day after Straw's remark a woman in Liverpool had her veil torn from her face by a man chanting racist abuse. The former chair of Liverpool's Islamic Institute, Akbar Ali, blamed Straw's comments for inciting the attack.

There have been attempts to force women who are Muslim not to wear the veil. Aishah Azmi, 24, a bilingual teaching assistant at a West Yorkshire school, was suspended for refusing to remove her veil in class. "She should be sacked," said Phil Woolas, the government's Race and Faith minister, according to the October 15 *Sunday Mirror*. "She has put herself in a position where she can't do her job."

Authorities at the Imperial College here have banned students from wearing the veil, claiming alleged "security concerns raised by the terrorist incidents." The local Student Union supports this position. The Federation of Student Islamic Societies opposes the ban.

The governments of Turkey and Tunisia have banned the veil in public, as has Paris for French public schools.

British prime minister Anthony Blair joined the debate October 17, saying the veil is "a mark of separation," but stopping short of calling for its banning.

Albany, N.Y., student daily covers socialist campaign

Printed below are major excerpts from an article that originally appeared on the front page of the October 9 Albany Student Press, the student daily at the State University of New York at Albany. The article was headlined, "UAlbany Junior enters race for lt. governor: Running on socialist ticket, student campaigns on workers-rights platform." Reprinted by permission.

BY RACHEL BRUNE

A history major and socialist activist at UAlbany is standing up for his beliefs and entering New York State's political fray as a candidate for lieutenant governor.

Running on the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) ticket, 20-year-old junior Ben O'Shaughnessy is campaigning on a platform of supporting workers rights, immediate legalization of undocumented workers and the internationalization of the working class.

"Our campaign doesn't necessarily start with New York state," O'Shaughnessy said. He and fellow members of the Young Socialists have distributed copies of the socialist newsweekly "The Militant" in the coal fields of West Virginia and Kentucky in addition to raising awareness of socialism on college campuses.

The Young Socialists are the youth auxiliary to the SWP which offers a working-class alternative to the "capitalist political parties" according to O'Shaughnessy, who explained that achieving a spot on the gubernatorial ballot was not easy.

"It was a massive effort that we launched in the summer," he said. Although 15,000 signatures are needed for petitioning to be included on the ballot, the SWP made sure to collect at least 30,000.

"It's a pretty undemocratic process," said O'Shaughnessy. The young candidate also spoke against "undemocratic laws" that limit young people's participation in the democratic process.

However, the general trend of voting participation shows young adults of voting age to be one of the smallest voting demographics.

"Young people don't see that there's anything offered for them in mainstream politics," O'Shaughnessy said.

The socioeconomic structure, according to socialists, is of a class of billionaires who own and produce the wealth of the world while exploiting the working class, which includes farm, factory, and service workers.

"We're there on the front lines of the class struggle," he said.

O'Shaughnessy says that the working class is "a class that has no borders," and believes that it is the "only class capable of bringing change to real life."

In 2006, youths ranging in age from 18 to 29 were more likely than older voters to not be registered with a political party, according to information from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning

and Engagement. In addition, in the 2004 presidential election, only 47 percent of voters from ages 18 to 34 voted, as compared to 66 percent of voters 25 and older.

"Young people are open to new ideas all the time," O'Shaughnessy said. "As a student, you're at a transitional period in your life."

O'Shaughnessy, a member of the Young Socialists National Steering Committee, also believes that young people are attracted to a revolutionary movement.

The SWP gubernatorial candidate is Maura DeLuca, a 27-year-old garment worker. For several weeks, members of the Young Socialists have manned tables in the UAlbany Campus Center to pass out information and flyers including biographies of the candidates and a short list of the issues for which they fight.

O'Shaughnessy focused much of the explanation of his issues on the internationalization of the working class. He describes the struggle for global working rights as "a crisis caused by imperialism." SWP is working for a revolution in all workplace settings including farms, restaurants and work settings.

On the topic of foreign policy, O'Shaughnessy explained that the party supports the internationalist working class, and the freedom of all sovereign countries to develop their own energy. The SWP specifically opposes any threat to North Korea or Iran in reaction to these countries developing nuclear capabilities.

When posed the question of how his party would allay fears that the countries in question would develop nuclear weapons to use against the United States, O'Shaughnessy said that "we need to build solidarity across borders."

The capitalist class has a tendency to frame things as us versus them," O'Shaughnessy said. The threat to Iran in return for the country's development of nuclear technology in defiance of the rest of the world is, he believes, a result of the imperialist effort to keep oppressed countries in that state.

"We defend the right of any country to pursue nuclear energy," O'Shaughnessy said. . . .

When asked about whether he considered himself an idealist, O'Shaughnessy answered no.

"Marxism is not an ideology," O'Shaughnessy said. "[It's a] generalization of the forward line of march of the working class. . . ."

"We run in the elections to offer our platform as an alternative to the two big capitalist parties," O'Shaughnessy said. "And the small capitalist parties."



Albany Student Press/Amanda Brune

Ben O'Shaughnessy, 20, Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor in New York, at State University of New York in Albany, where he is a student. He is campaigning on a platform to support unionizing all workers and legalizing all immigrants, and to demand "U.S. hands off Korea!" and withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Socialist Workers Party candidates in 2006

Alabama	Clay Dennison, Governor Karl Butts, Commis. of Agriculture
California	Lea Sherman, U.S. Senate James Harris, Governor Chauncey Robinson, Sec'y of State Gerardo Sánchez, U.S. Cong., 8th CD Naomi Craine, U.S. Cong., 34th CD Michael Ortega, U.S. Cong., 35th CD David Arguello, U.S. Cong., 51st CD Joel Britton, San Francisco Bd. of Educ.*
Florida	Bernie Senter, U.S. Senate Omari Musa, Governor Margaret Trowe, U.S. Cong., 18th CD Eric Simpson, U.S. Cong., 17th CD Ruth Robinett, Fl. State Rep. Dist. 109
Georgia	William Arth, Governor Lisa Potash, Lt. Governor Eleanor García, U.S. Cong., 5th CD
Illinois	Dennis Richter, Governor Christian Castro, Lt. Governor Alex Alvarado, U.S. Cong., 4th CD Laura Anderson, U.S. Cong., 7th CD
Iowa	Diana Newberry, Governor* Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor* Frank Forrestal, Sec'y of Agriculture Helen Meyers, U.S. Cong., 3rd CD*
Massachusetts	John Hawkins, Governor Laura Garza, U.S. Cong., 8th CD*
Minnesota	Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Senate Nelson Gonzalez, Governor Tom Baumann, Lt. Governor Tom Fiske, U.S. Cong., 4th CD Julian Santana, U.S. Cong., 5th CD
New Jersey	Angela Lariscy, U.S. Senate* Brian Williams, U.S. Cong., 13th CD*
New York	Róger Calero, U.S. Senate* Maura DeLuca, Governor* Ben O'Shaughnessy, Lt. Governor* Martín Koppel, State Att'y General* Willie Cotton, State Comptroller* Nancy Boyasko, U.S. Cong., 11th CD
Pennsylvania	Ved Dookhun, U.S. Senate Osborne Hart, Governor Tony Lane, Lt. Governor Cindy Jaquith, U.S. Cong., 14th CD John Staggs, Pa. State Rep. Dist. 198*
Texas	Amanda Ulman, U.S. Senate Steve Warshell, Governor Anthony Dutrow, U.S. Cong., 18th CD
Washington	David Rosenfeld, U.S. Senate Connie Allen, U.S. Cong., 7th CD
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*Confirmed on ballot

Canadian gov't apologizes for its role in deporting and torture of citizen

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

TORONTO—On September 20 the House of Commons voted unanimously to apologize to Maher Arar for the Canadian government's role in his deportation from the United States and his torture in Syria. The apology came after a public inquiry headed by Justice Dennis O'Connor concluded that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had passed false information to U.S. authorities suggesting Arar and his wife Monia Mazigh had ties to al-Qaeda.

In September 2002 U.S. authorities arrested Arar, a 36-year-old telecommunications engineer, in New York and deported him to his native Syria even though he was a Canadian citizen traveling on a Canadian passport. During a year in prison in Damascus, Syria, Arar was tortured into false confessions of links to "terrorism," the *Toronto Star* reported.

Arar's fight for justice has drawn attention to other examples of how Canada's rulers are using the "war on terrorism" to attack the rights of working people.

Kassim Mohamed, a former Toronto school bus driver, was jailed in Egypt for two weeks in 2004, missing the birth of his child, after Canadian authorities "investigated" him for "terrorism," although he was never charged.

Canadian officials say that based on Section 38 of the Canada Evidence Act, as amended by the 2001 "Antiterrorism Act," they do not have to reveal any information about their "investigation" against Mohamed. He has demanded a letter from the federal government "indicating that he is not suspected of being a terrorist," the *Star* reported.

In a related case, a federal court is holding a bail hearing for Mahmoud Jaballah, an Egyptian-born man who was arrested and jailed without charges five years ago. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service has accused Jaballah of being a member of al-Jihad, which it says is a "terrorist" group, and of orchestrating several bombings in East Africa. Neither Jaballah nor his lawyer have been allowed to see the evidence against him.

Cuban Revolution: 'unbearable challenge to imperialism'

Below is an excerpt from *Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution: A Marxist Appraisal*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The author, Joseph Hansen, was a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States until his death in 1979. From 1937 to 1940 he served as secretary to exiled Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky. In 1960 Hansen visited Cuba and upon his return helped launch the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He returned to



Bohemia

August 1960, rally in Havana to support nationalizations by Cuba's revolutionary government of properties owned by monopolies from imperialist countries.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Cuba in 1967 to attend the founding conference of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity. Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JOSEPH HANSEN

The Cuban revolution has proved to be deepgoing. Beginning with the simple political objective of overthrowing Batista's army-police dictatorship, it rapidly disclosed its tendency to revolutionize economic and social relations and to extend its influence throughout Latin America and beyond.

The main force opposing the logical development of the Cuban revolution

is American imperialism. But the measures it has taken in attempting to stem the revolution and eventually suffocate it have had the opposite effect of spurring it forward.

The new Cuban government that took power in January 1959 has played a positive role up to now in the development of the revolution. First it secured its governing position by smashing the old armed forces and the police. It supplanted these with the rebel army, a new police largely recruited from the ranks of the revolutionary fighters, and later it set up a people's militia almost entirely proletarian and peasant in composition. It rapidly undertook a radical agrarian reform. This has two forms: (1) division of the land among the peasants on a limited private ownership basis (the land cannot be sold or mortgaged); (2) cooperatives closely tied to government planning. The emphasis has been on the side of the cooperatives. By last fall the government initiated planning of industry and control of foreign trade. A new stage was opened with the ex-

propriation of land held by the sugar interests. Most recently, in response to the pressure of American imperialism, measures of expropriation have been extended to important foreign industrial holdings (principally American), and a virtual monopoly of foreign trade has been instituted.

A significant indication of the direction of movement of the Castro government is its tendency to establish friendly relations not only with the so-called neutral powers but with the Soviet bloc. This includes trade pacts that cut across the long-established trade pattern with the U.S. More important, however, is the tendency to emulate the planned economic structure of the Soviet countries.

The Castro government has proved that its responses to the mass revolutionary movement in Cuba and to the counterpressure from the U.S. are not simply passive. The new government has courageously defied American imperialism, resisting blandishments, threats, and reprisals. On the domestic

side, it has repeatedly mobilized the Cuban workers and peasants in political demonstrations, in taking over landlord and capitalist holdings, in disarming the forces of the old regime, and in arming the people.

The direction of development on the political side has been demonstrated in the series of crises surmounted by the government since it took power. At first it put bourgeois democratic figures in key positions (finances, foreign trade, diplomacy, even the presidency). With each crisis induced by the interaction of imperialist and revolutionary pressures, these figures either turned against the government or were pushed out, being replaced by active participants in the preceding civil war, however youthful and inexperienced in their new duties.

The bourgeois outposts in such fields as the press, radio, and TV have suffered a parallel liquidation. On the other hand, workers' and peasants' organizations, including political tendencies, have been granted freedom of expression on the one condition that they support the revolutionary measures taken by the new government.

The Castro leadership began in 1952-53 as a radical petty-bourgeois movement, but one that took its revolutionary language seriously. It organized and led an insurrection. In power it sought (a) to bring the various revolutionary tendencies together in a common front by giving them due representation in government offices and by opposing any witch-hunting, and (b) to form a coalition with the remnants of the bourgeois-democratic movements that had survived the Batista dictatorship. The coalition, in which these elements were a minority unable to set policy, proved to be unstable. The defection of Miro Cardona a few weeks after he was appointed ambassador to the United States epitomized the instability of the coalition at the same time that it appears to have marked its end.

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OFFER GOOD UNTIL OCTOBER 31

U.S. hands off Korea! Lift sanctions!

Continued from front page

danger of military strikes against the DPRK on land as well.”

Washington, the only government ever to have used nuclear weapons, is hypocritically seizing on north Korea’s nuclear test to assemble another “coalition of the willing,” stretching from Tokyo to Seoul, Beijing, Moscow, and across Europe. As part of the U.S. rulers’ “long war,” Washington will try to use this coalition to reverse the defeat the imperialist armies suffered in Korea in 1953.

As the SWP statement said, only weeks after unleashing nuclear bombs on the people of Japan in 1945, the U.S. rulers, in flagrant disregard of Korea’s sovereignty, carved the country into two, with the complicity of the Stalinist regime in Moscow and Stalinist parties around the world. “In the northern half the workers and farmers deepened the revolutionary mobilizations that had swept the entire peninsula at the end of World War II, carrying out a radical land reform, expropriating the capitalists and landlords, and establishing a workers state.

“In 1950 Washington invaded north Korea under the United Nations flag in an effort to destroy the DPRK and deal blows to the unfolding revolution in China. Not only did the U.S. government threaten the use of nuclear weapons during the Korean War, it murderously flattened—literally flattened—the north and set it ablaze through bombardment. By 1953, however, the U.S.-led invaders had been pushed back to Korea’s 38th parallel by the combined forces of Korean and Chinese troops, dealing U.S. imperialism its first military defeat in history.”

The just-imposed sanctions are aimed at starving the Korean people into submission, and, failing that, laying the groundwork for future military action ultimately aimed at re-establishing capitalism in north Korea and elsewhere in Asia.

The Korean people know well the atrocities leveled under the UN flag during the Korean War. It is that flag that today flies over the thousands of U.S. troops stationed at or near the so-called De-Militarized Zone to maintain the forcible partition of Korea against the will of most of its people—north and south.

The governments of Russia and China treacherously voted for the UN Security Council resolution. In fact, Beijing lost no time, beginning the next day to search north Korean cargo

trucks at the border. Aglow from that diplomatic coup, the U.S. rulers are now on a concerted campaign to muscle other governments in the region into enforcing the onerous trade bans and blatant violations of the DPRK’s sovereignty the Security Council ordered.

“As a simple matter of national sovereignty, working people in the United States and elsewhere have a fundamental class interest in supporting the DPRK’s right to self-defense,” explained the SWP statement last week. It also rightly called for solidarity with the DPRK’s stand for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and all Asia and the Pacific.

As that statement said, the imperialist rulers attack with ferocity those who refuse to bow to their dictates. Just as they won’t forget the defeat the Korean people handed them in the 1950s, they have never forgiven the workers and farmers of Cuba for making the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

“The Cuban people and their communist leadership continue to set a revolutionary internationalist example for toilers worldwide in linking the defense of their own sovereignty and socialist conquests at home to the advance of popular struggles in other countries,” it said, noting that Cuba’s communist leadership has rejected developing nuclear arms. “We don’t need them,” Cuban president Fidel Castro said in a 2005 speech. “Even if they were accessible, how much would they cost and what sense would it make producing a nuclear weapon with an enemy that has thousands of nuclear weapons?”

The U.S. nuclear arsenal cannot be matched. Only revolutionary advances by the toilers and victorious socialist revolutions can push back their rapacious march toward war and bring about true nuclear disarmament. A successful battle by workers and farmers in the United States to wrest power out of the hands of the war-makers will be decisive in preventing the imperialist rulers from unleashing their nuclear arsenal in Asia or elsewhere.

Along that line of march, we should offer unwavering solidarity to our Korean brothers and sisters who say: Lift the sanctions! No to “inspections” of north Korean cargo! U.S. troops and weapons out of the Pacific! Denuclearize the region! Korea is one!

Celebrate life of Puerto Rican fighter Jorge Farinacci

The following is a message sent by Róger Calero, for the Socialist Workers Party, and Maura DeLuca, for the Young Socialists, to an October 13 meeting in New York to celebrate the life of Jorge Farinacci, a leader of the Socialist Front in Puerto Rico. Farinacci, a long-time leader of the movement for independence of Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule, died August 26 after a battle with cancer. The event was held at the Martin Luther King auditorium of the Service Employees International Union Local 1199.

The Socialist Workers Party sends fraternal solidarity to your meeting commemorating the life of comrade Jorge Farinacci, a leader of the Socialist Front. A victorious struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico, of which Farinacci was a long-time leader, is in the deepest interests not only of the people of that nation but of the vast majority of the U.S. population.

Working people in the United States and Puerto Rico have

a common enemy: the imperialist rulers of the United States and their worldwide system of oppression and exploitation. We have a common stake in defending the Cuban Revolution, whose workers and farmers have opened the socialist revolution in the Americas and stood down Washington’s threats for nearly half a century. And we have common class interests in supporting resistance by working people in Puerto Rico, the United States, and around the world.

Above all, we share the conviction—a conviction to which Jorge Farinacci dedicated his political life—that the ruling families of U.S. finance capital will no more grant independence to the Puerto Rican people short of revolutionary struggle than willingly cede power to the workers and farmers of the United States.

We join with you in our commitment to this fight. Free all Puerto Rican political prisoners now! Independence for Puerto Rico!

Immigrants

Continued from front page

for special damages because the workers cannot qualify for U.S. residency now, preventing them from becoming U.S. citizens.



Houston cops work with ‘la migra’ to harass undocumented workers

In a related development, Houston authorities, taking advantage of the recent shooting death of a city cop, have taken steps to increase cooperation between the Houston Police Department (HPD) and the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

City officials said the September 21 death of police officer Rodney Johnson, who was allegedly shot by undocumented immigrant Juan Leonardo Quintero, expedited the new policy, but the change was coming. “That did provide an additional impetus to bring this to conclusion, but it was in the works anyway,” Mayor William White said at an October 1 news conference announcing the new policy.

Houston cops will now hold people arrested for traffic violations or other minor crimes if warrant checks show they are wanted by federal agents for defying an order to leave the country or for returning after being previously deported. The cops will also allow immigration agents unfettered access to the city’s two jails, as they have had in Harris County, and officers will start asking all arrestees whether they are citizens. Fingerprints of anyone booked without proper identification will be checked against a national fingerprint database.

A host of officials from the police department and city council, and some advocates for immigrants’ rights, backed White and police chief Harold Hurtt as they unveiled the procedures, which took effect immediately. The previous policy stated that police were not to ask people stopped for traffic violations and other minor incidents about their immigration status. Under existing U.S. laws, being in the country without proper documents is a civil offense.

Condemning the city and the cops, Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the state’s 18th District, spoke out October 6 against the moves. “The HPD has a long history of victimization, brutality, and murder against workers—especially Blacks, Latinos, and immigrants. This includes today’s killing by Taser of 31-year-old Herman Carroll,” he said. “These new policies are attacks by Democratic and Republican officeholders that have emboldened rightists like the Minutemen. Such efforts are demagogically couched as targeting ‘illegals’ and ‘lawbreakers.’ But their real aim is to intimidate and push back not only immigrant labor but all workers.”

“The purpose of these new cop procedures, the ICE raids, deportations, and the restrictions on the rights of immigrants,” continued Dutrow, “is not to expel most undocumented immigrants but to maintain a layer of workers more vulnerable to exploitation. That’s why working people should back efforts to unionize all workers, U.S.- and foreign-born, and champion the demand voiced loudly by millions: Unconditional legalization of all immigrants now!”

—S.W.

LETTERS

Mine safety, black lung

The September 11 *Militant* article “Black lung disease affecting younger miners” left out some details reported in a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study. Reporting on it, the article noted that “despite an overall decline in cases of black lung” since 1969, more coal miners were “contracting the disease at a younger age.”

The study also showed more concrete evidence that the hard-fought gains won by miners on reducing exposure to coal dust have deeply been eroded, especially in small (nonunion) mines that dominated its “hot spots.”

The fact that the disease showed up among younger miners, the researchers concluded, suggested exposure to “higher concentrations of dust” than in the past. Translated, the government was letting coal bosses get away with murder, especially in mines of 50 or less where black lung incidence was highest.

In fact, a follow-up NIOSH study in southwestern Virginia suggested conditions could be getting worse. It found 9 percent of the 328 miners screened had “evidence of rapidly progressive pneumoconiosis,” compared with 3 percent in the original study’s national sample

Both the *Militant* article and

the studies’ authors speculated that the problem is that the exposure limit of 2 milligram per cubic meter of respirable particles is too high and should be cut in half as recommended by NIOSH in 1996.

But the problem spotlighted by these studies isn’t that the standard is too high, which it may well be. The results point to long-standing violations of current standards.

In this regard, it should be noted that since the 1969 Coal Act, coal companies have been primarily responsible for coal-dust sampling. A 1993 series in the Louisville, Kentucky, *Courier-Journal* documented that the government had for 20 years known coal companies

cheat on these samples.

Lastly, the *Militant* article said black lung “could be prevented by properly ventilating coal mines.” According to an April 2000 NIOSH research report, however, “water sprays remain the most widely used technology for limiting exposures to respirable dust.”

Karl Butts
Birmingham, Alabama

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 or your full name.