

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Cubans celebrate anniversary
of revolutionary war
—PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 71/NO. 30 AUGUST 20, 2007

Rightists picket Iowa Militant Labor Forum

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

DES MOINES, Iowa—More than two dozen rightists picketed the July 20 Militant Labor Forum here, carrying signs saying “Deport Illegal Aliens” and “We Are Americans.” The forum, titled “Stop the raids! Legalize all immigrants now!” was organized to protest the recent *migra* arrests of workers at the Swift plant in nearby Marshalltown.

Iowa SWP launches election campaign, responds to rightists
—See p. 7

Many of the pickets wore yellow Minuteman t-shirts. They chanted anti-immigrant slogans on bullhorns and waved placards at passing traffic. Among the pickets was the Iowa Minuteman Civil Defense Corps director, Craig Halverson.

The forum was part of a weekly series of workers’ political meetings organized by supporters of the *Militant* newspaper here. It had been publicized in the local media.

The rightists were campaigning for Colorado Congressman Thomas Tancredo, who is running for the 2008 Republican Party presidential nomination. They parked a large truck plastered

Continued on page 7

Washington recruits Sunnis to ground war, political bloc quits Iraqi gov’t

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, August 1—The largest Sunni Arab bloc quit the Iraqi government today, as Washington enlists greater help from Sunni militias in its latest military offensive.

The departure of the Sunni Accordance Front from the cabinet highlights the challenges Washington faces in forging a stable client regime from among Sunni and Shiite capitalists vying for control of the country’s wealth. The U.S. military is making measured progress on the ground.

Washington’s top general in Iraq, David Petraeus, said on ABC News July 30 that large numbers of U.S. troops will be needed there for at least two more years.

Petraeus said he and his staff are working on a plan to achieve “localized security” in Baghdad and other areas by June 2008. To attain this goal the military is expanding recruitment and funding of residents in Sunni areas as local security forces. Many of those joining come from Sunni militias that previously fought the Iraqi government, U.S. troops, and Shiite militias.

The expanded recruitment plan builds off Washington’s success in securing

Continued on page 9

Minnesota meat packers fight to defend union

Dakota Premium Foods bosses campaign to decertify local won in two-year struggle



Militant/Ben O’Shaughnessy

Dakota Premium Foods workers and other union members prepare *The Workers Voice*, an in-plant newsletter, at UFCW Local 789 hall July 31. From left: Ricardo Orozco, Tibursio Cortes, Local 789 union representative Rafael Espinosa, and Rebecca Williamson.

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON
AND RÓGER CALERO

South St. Paul, MINNESOTA—Bosses at the Dakota Premium Foods beef slaughterhouse here are on a campaign to decertify the union. The anti-union drive comes in the midst of contract negotiations between the company and United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789, which represents the 200 plus workers in the plant.

“This fight to maintain the union at Dakota has high stakes for meatpackers and for the labor movement in the entire Midwest,” said Julian Santana, a worker in the kill department. “If the company breaks the union, other meatpacking companies in the area will be emboldened to do the same.”

The contract expired June 30. Leading up to the expiration, two pro-company workers began circulating

Continued on page 9

Court overturns anti-immigrant law in Hazleton, Pennsylvania

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA, July 27—A federal judge struck down anti-immigrant legislation yesterday that had been enacted by the local government in the northeast Pennsylvania city of Hazleton.

One city ordinance denied business licenses to companies that hire undocumented immigrants. Another set up a city agency to review immigration documents of renters to deny them housing.

In the 206-page opinion, district court judge James Munley wrote that he would issue a permanent injunction against enforcement of the Hazleton measures. He said they conflict with federal law.

“The City could not enact an ordinance that violates rights the Constitution guarantees to every person in the United States, whether legal resident or not,” the judge wrote.

“It is a beautiful day,” Anna Arias, president of the Hazleton Area Latino Association, said at a press conference after the ruling. She asked Mayor Louis Barletta not to appeal.

The suit against the act was brought by the Puerto Rican Legal Defense

and Education Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). This ordinance was the first of many anti-immigrant measures that have been proposed or passed throughout the country. It has been copied by at least

Continued on page 5

Australia gov’t takes over Aboriginal communities

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Protests were held July 14 in cities across Australia and in New Zealand against a sweeping move by the Australian government to take control of Aboriginal communities. Australian prime minister John Howard announced June 21 the takeover of 73 Aboriginal communities in Australia’s Northern Territories.

Hundreds joined rallies in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra, and Alice Springs, as well as Auckland

Continued on page 8

Troy Davis, framed up in Georgia, wins stay of execution

BY CHERYL GOERTZ

ATLANTA, July 18—Troy Anthony Davis was scheduled for execution by lethal injection yesterday for a crime that he did not commit. He received a 90-day stay of execution at the eleventh hour.

Davis, a 38-year-old African American, has spent over 15 years on death row after being framed up for the murder of a white policeman.

With no murder weapon or physical evidence, the case against Davis relied on witness accounts. Seven of nine witnesses produced by the state have since recanted their testimony. Many, like witness D.D. Collins, gave graphic descriptions of being coerced by police to testify against Davis.

“[T]he police put me in a small room and some detectives came in and started yelling at me . . . I told them . . . that I didn’t see Troy do nothing,” Collins, who was 16 at the time, wrote in a 2002 affidavit recanting his testimony. “They were telling me that I was an accessory to murder and that I would pay like Troy was going to pay if I didn’t tell them what they wanted to hear.”

Of the two that have not recanted,

Continued on page 6



Troy Davis (center) with sisters Ebony Davis (left) and Martina Correia in 2003.

Also Inside:

- Int’l events will discuss Thomas Sankara’s legacy 2
- Workers and farmers hard hit by floods in England 3
- Workers in Virginia protest immigration crackdown 4
- 1967 Newark rebellion was part of Black rights struggle 6

Int'l events will discuss Thomas Sankara's legacy

BY DOUG NELSON

An international conference commemorating the 20th anniversary of the assassination of Thomas Sankara will take place October 11–14 in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso in West Africa. The conference will be the final stop of a caravan leaving Mexico City and traveling through Europe and Africa.

The caravan, conference, and other activities will discuss the relevance and political legacy of Sankara and the 1983–87 revolution he led. Events commemorating his death will take place around the same time in Canada, France, Italy, Mali, Senegal, and the United States, including an October 13 commemoration in Toronto.

Under Sankara's leadership, peasants and workers in Burkina Faso established a popular revolutionary government and began to fight the hunger, illiteracy, and economic backwardness imposed by imperialist domination, and the oppression of women inherited from millennia of class society.

"Today we find that the same problems that brought the revolution in Burkina Faso in 1983 are still undermining people's lives in Burkina Faso and around the world," said Issaka Herman Traoré, a member of the National Organizing Committee for the conference, in a July 14 phone interview from Ouagadougou.

"Therefore we need to look at Sankara's political thought and ideas today to work together and bring solutions for all those struggling against imperialism, neoliberalism, and globalization."

The conference will have more than a dozen workshops including: "Who Is Sankara?"; "Sankara and Participatory Development"; "Sankarism and Environmental Protection"; "Sankarism and Promotion of Women,

Youth, and the Elderly"; "Sankara and Globalization"; and "What Is Sankarism, 20 Years Later?"

An "appeal for the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the assassination of President Captain Thomas Sankara," posted on a website of Sankara supporters, www.thomassankara.net, said, "If we would like to advance towards an 'alternative world,' it is of utmost importance to call the world's attention to Africa's struggles and resistance and to bring back the massive actions of Thomas Sankara."

On Oct. 15, 1987, Sankara was assassinated in a counterrevolutionary coup by troops loyal to Capt. Blaise Compaoré, who remains the president of Burkina Faso today. As the coming conference and related events around the world demonstrate, however, Sankara's ideas remain very much alive.

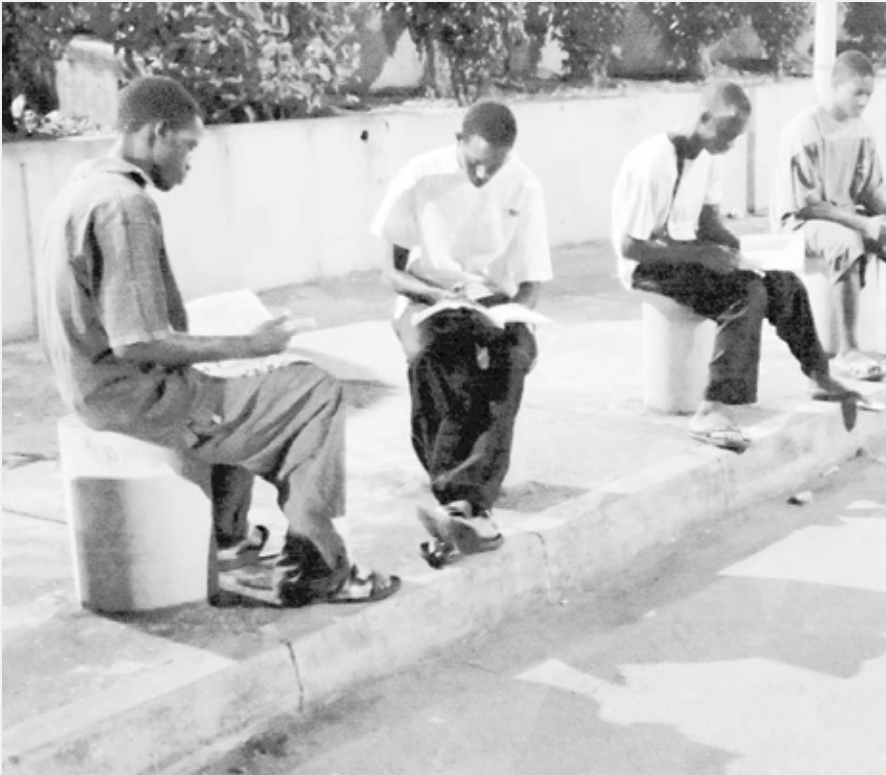
The appeal concludes, "Let's make this year of 2007, declared 'year of Sankara' by those who are reclaiming this heritage, a year of study, reflection, struggle against impunity and organization for the struggles of tomorrow."

For information on the conference and related activities, contact: Grila at admin@grila.org (Canada), Kassim Polo at kasspolo@yahoo.fr (Britain), or Amadou Diallo abaillo@yahoo.fr (South Africa).

Books and pamphlets containing Sankara's speeches and other information about the Burkina Faso revolution can be found at Pathfinder Press's website, www.pathfinderpress.com. On October 1 Pathfinder will release expanded editions in French and English of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, a comprehensive collection of his speeches and interviews.

Michel Prairie contributed to this article, reporting from Toronto and Paris.

Studying by the light of the airport in Guinea



AP/Rebecca Blackwell

The airport parking lot in Conakry, Guinea, fills up at night with students. They go there to study because it's the only place with lights on. Despite vast resources of gold, diamonds, iron ore, and rivers, only 20 percent of the 10 million people in that West African coastal country have access to electricity. Those who do often experience power cuts. "I used to study by candlelight at home, but that hurt my eyes," Mohamed Sharif, 18, told the Associated Press. "So I prefer to come here."

—TOM BAUMANN

Books on party-building, Marxism popular at U.S. Social Forum

BY DOUG NELSON

Over 400 Pathfinder titles were sold June 27–30 at the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta. The bulk of them were books and pamphlets geared toward building the communist movement today.

Thousands attended workshops and

PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

presentations during the event on a wide range of political and social questions. Many were introduced there to Pathfinder books and the *Militant*.

Leading the titles sold were the 100 copies of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. Popular

were the two most recent issues, featuring the articles "Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun" and "Our Politics Start with the World."

Sixty-seven participants bought copies of the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*.

Books that contain the most important political lessons of the Cuban Revolution were also very popular. Over 80 such titles were sold. These included *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* (42), *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* (22), and *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* (17).

Two pamphlets, *The Communist Manifesto* and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, were also in demand, each with 10 copies sold.

The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 30

Closing news date: August 1, 2007

Editor: Olympia Newton

Managing Editor: Paul Pederson

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Martín Koppel, Doug Nelson, Ben O'Shaughnessy, Jacob Perasso, and Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in July, and two weeks in August.

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@mac.com

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 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 \$45 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 76 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

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

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 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\$50 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.

THE MILITANT

'A herald for our movement'

"When we are continually under siege from the corporate media and its right-wing propaganda, the 'Militant' is a beacon for us all. The 'Militant' is the herald for our movement!"

—Dean Hyde



Dean Hyde is an organizer for the National Distribution Union and district councillor in Hastings, New Zealand.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

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, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

N.Y. meeting celebrates Cuban Revolution

BY WILLIE COTTON

NEW YORK—"Cubans believe a better world is possible, and the Cuban Revolution is proof of that," said Rodolfo Benítez, chargé d'affaires for Cuba's mission to the United Nations, at a July 27 meeting here in solidarity with revolutionary Cuba.

About 200 people attended the event. It celebrated the 54th anniversary of the opening battle of what became a revolutionary struggle by workers and peasants in Cuba for political power.

On July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro led a group of revolutionaries in an attack on the Moncada army barracks in Santiago de Cuba. That action launched the war, led by the July 26 Movement and the Rebel Army, that overthrew of the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and established a workers and farmers government.

This year's celebration honored the life of Vilma Espín, who died June 18 in Havana. Espín was a leader of the underground work of the July 26 Movement in eastern Cuba. She fought in the Rebel Army, and was later president of the Federation of Cuban Women from its founding in 1960. She was also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The event also marked the 40th anniversary of the CIA-organized assassination of Cuban-Argentine revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara.

Benítez outlined the history of the attack on the Moncada barracks, as well as the gains of the Cuban Revolution over nearly half a century. "They have not been able to make us surrender through hunger and disease," he said. Cuba has successfully stood up to 45 years of U.S.-led aggression, he noted. What makes this possible is that "we made a socialist revolution."

Leonard Weinglass gave an update on the legal defense of the Cuban Five, for whom he is one of the main attorneys. These five Cubans—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, René González, Fernando González, and Antonio Guerrero—were convicted on trumped-up charges of "conspiracy to commit espionage" for Cuba, "con-

spiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent," and, in the case of Hernández, "conspiracy to commit murder." They were sentenced to terms ranging from 15 years to a double life sentence.

Ben Ramos of the Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban Five read messages sent by Fernando González and René González. He urged those in the audience to join in a month of coordinated actions in defense of the Cuban Five from September 12 to October 8.

"In Cuba I was treated with dignity," said William Maher, a volunteer firefighter in New York whose journey to Cuba for free medical treatment was depicted in the film *Sicko!* He contrasted this with the callousness he encountered in the profit-based U.S. medical system. Also speaking was John Feal, who helped arrange Maher's visit.

Other speakers included Sandra Levinson, executive director of the Center for Cuban Studies in New York; Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Víctor Toro, a political activist who is fighting U.S. government efforts to deport him to Chile; long-time Puerto Rican independence fighter and former political prisoner Antonio Camacho Negrón; and Larry Hamm of the People's Organization for Progress in Newark, New Jersey.

Eddie Beck contributed to this article.

Cubans mark anniversary of revolutionary war



Reuters/Claudia Daut

Some 100,000 people gathered in Camagüey, Cuba, July 26 to show their commitment to defending Cuba's socialist revolution. July 26, Cuba's national holiday, celebrates the launching of the Cuban Revolution on that date in 1953.

Cuba's acting president, Raúl Castro, addressed the crowd. "We need to bring everyone into the daily battle against the very errors that worsen objective difficulties derived from external causes," he said, referring to the U.S. economic embargo. His speech focused on the challenge of increasing agricultural and industrial production, eliminating waste, and remaining true to the principles of Cuba's socialist revolution.

Reports in the big-business press expressed disappointment that little has changed in Cuba since Raúl Castro assumed greater governmental responsibility after Fidel Castro stepped down from leadership responsibilities due to health problems last July.

"They speculate about an alleged paralysis of the country and even about an ongoing 'transition,'" Castro told the crowd. "But no matter how much they shut their eyes, reality demolishes those stale, old dreams."

—PAUL PEDERSON

Workers, farmers hard hit by England floods

BY PAUL DAVIES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE, England, July 30—Widespread flooding has hit the livelihoods and living conditions of working people in the counties around the Severn and Thames rivers. The Environmental Agency described the deluge as "the worst in modern times."

The government estimates 10,000 people were evacuated from their homes, and 43,000 homes were without power. Two days after the flooding much of Tewkesbury, a city in Gloucestershire, a county in southwestern England, remained underwa-

ter.

Patrick Quarrie, a care worker from the nearby city of Gloucester, said the flooding had a disproportionate impact on working people. "If you're living pay check to pay check you can't just replace what you have lost," he said. "You're left to fend for yourself."

Quarrie explained that there had not been enough water to bathe the elderly people that he looks after. Around 140,000 homes in Gloucestershire have been without water supplies for the past eight days, after a water treatment plant was flooded. Seven years ago the government had instructed utility companies to provide adequate flood defense or move their facilities off the flood plain.

The *Times* on July 23 said there were "long queues outside supermarkets, as panicked residents tried to stockpile supplies of bottled water."

The basement flat of Nepalese restaurant worker Dil Basnit in Gloucester was flooded. Basnit described how upstairs neighbors he had not known before the flood gave him somewhere to stay for two nights.

Some people complained about the response of local authorities. "What upset me was that despite all the warnings, the council dropped off sandbags on Saturday when we had already been flooded," said Tracey Fisher, a school catering assistant in Tewkesbury.

Nicola Newman, also from Tewkesbury, explained how the construction of her home provided weak defense against flooding—pointing to the low position of air vents. She said that an area manager from the shop she works in wanted workers to wade through the water to work.

The village of Upton and Severn was

cut off by the flooding when mobile flood barriers did not arrive on time. The Environmental Agency later admitted they would have been too small anyway.

Jim Alpen, a Gloucestershire farmer and forestry worker, explained that a neighboring farmer had lost an entire year's crop in the floods. "Some farmers have to use their winter feed to sustain cattle now and others face months trying to drain waterlogged land." In Hereford and Worcester, north of Gloucester, many dairy farmers had to pour away milk because tankers could not reach them.

Rob Keene, a farmer in the town of Over Farm in Gloucestershire, lost his entire potato crop that had cost £30,000 to plant. Keene, who farms 800 acres, is not certain his corn will survive the flooding either. "The government should offer farmers some kind of aid so we're not forced into excessive borrowing and interest payments just to survive," he said.

Strawberry pickers at S and A Produce near Hereford told *Militant* reporters that farm bosses had reduced their hours and they had not received a full week's wage. The workers, mostly from Eastern Europe, live in caravans on the farm. Two years ago they organized a protest against pay and conditions, blocking a road in the area.

Some companies have sought to cash in on the problems created by the flooding. The *Times* reported that South West Trains told its workers to sell more expensive tickets to passengers forced to take diversions because of the flooding.

Björn Tirsén and Caroline Bellamy contributed to this article.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Join the Fight Against Dakota Premium Foods Union Decertification Attempt of UFCW 789. Sat., Aug. 4. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation, \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 1311 1/2 E Lake St. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

FLORIDA

Miami

'Credit Crisis' on Wall Street Shows Capitalism's Growing World Disorder. Speaker: Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 10. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 8365 NE 2nd Ave., 2nd Floor. Tel.: 305-756-4436.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Forty Years Later: The Detroit and Newark Black Rebellions. Film and speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 10. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 3926 Mission. Tel.: 415-584-2135

NEW YORK

New York

A Hidden Chapter of the Civil Rights Movement: The Lowndes County Freedom Party. Speaker: John Benson, who went to Lowndes County Alabama in 1966, as a

Young Socialist Alliance leader and *Militant* reporter. Sat., Aug. 18. Dinner, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. 307 W 36th St. 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

March for Legalization of Undocumented Immigrants. Sat., Aug. 18. Gather at noon at Olympic and Broadway. Sponsored by the March 25 Coalition, Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, SEIU Local 721 Latino Committee, May 1 National Movement, and others.

NEW YORK

New York

Socialist Educational Weekend: The Second American Revolution: Marx and Engels on the U.S. Civil War. Presenters: Dave Prince and Maura DeLuca. First Class: Sat., Aug. 18, 4 p.m. Second Class: Sun., Aug. 19, 11 a.m. 307 W 36th St. 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

CANADA

Montreal

Quebec Social Forum. August 23–26 in Montreal, Quebec. For information visit: www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/social/2007/

Notes to Young Socialists from behind prison walls

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

Below are excerpts of letters sent to the YS national center from four prisoners locked up across the United States.

June 30, 2007

Dear Young Socialists,

I write in regard of more information regarding the Young Socialists organization. I'm a big fan of socialism. Well not a fan but a believer. I think it's the only way to make the world a better place. We as believers of socialism need to show the world to understand that socialism is good and capitalism is wrong.

You may wonder how I came about your address, well that question can be easily answered. While reading *Revolution in the Congo* I ran into your ad. Most of my books are purchased through Pathfinder. Pathfinder helps fellow inmates like me who don't have much funds to buy books. It offers good discounts to inmates.

Well I would like to find out more on socialism. I hope me being a prisoner won't affect me in any way. We all make mistakes, but we learn from them.

Sincerely Yours.

A prisoner

Susanville, Georgia

July 2, 2007

I just finished reading the *Revolution in the Congo* and I found this address on joining the Young Socialists. I would like to join y'all. I'm in prison because of the bad life I was living, but I changed my life, and I study Marxism-Leninism, and I'm interested in this struggle.

Like our brother Che Guevara said that he challenges us to politicize the organizations we belong to and ourselves. That's what I'm doing.

[Che] challenges us to join the front

lines of struggles, small and large, to become a different kind of human being as we strive together with working people of all lands to transform the world. That's what I'm doing. I've been studying a lot for two years already. I have studied the Cuban Revolution a lot.

Please write me back and give me information on this struggle.

Your brother in the struggle,

A prisoner

Midway, Texas

July 8, 2007

Please send more information on the socialist movement. While I would not quite consider myself a "Youth" at my age of 29, I am no doubt an advocate, activist, and comrade in the struggle.

I look forward to hearing from you.

The fight continues,

A prisoner

Oakwood, Virginia

July 8, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm 23 years young, a prisoner here in Michigan currently serving 35–50 years. I can't portray myself as some saint whose been "rehabilitated" in these three and a half years I've been consigned here. However, through deep introspection, unrelenting solitary time in the hole, and extensive reading, I've reached a pinnacle of political and social consciousness which has afforded me the opportunity to really identify and seek out who's been my enemy for a long time.

I plan on studying other subject matter, but as for now, I've been delving into material by George L. Jackson, Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Frantz Fanon, Noam Chomsky, Sergei Nechaev, etc. I look for strategy and ideology from these revolutionaries, but at this very moment in solitary confinement, I've been using their material as a safety valve to help combat my disgust, and that sense of shallowness prison breeds.

I'm looking to establish strong ties with serious people; if your organization can assist me, whether it be through books, advice, referrals, or comradeship, I would appreciate it immensely.

In love and solidarity,

A prisoner

Illinois 'migra' law sparks protest

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

WAUKEGAN, Illinois—The city council here voted July 16 to participate in a federal program giving local cops the powers of immigration police. Three thousand people, overwhelmingly Mexicans, protested in front of City Hall as the vote was being prepared.

The decision empowers Waukegan cops to start deportation proceedings for undocumented immigrants they arrest. It is based on a section of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act that allows state and local governments to collaborate with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Hundreds of cops in riot gear, on horseback, and buzzing overhead in helicopters failed to dissuade thousands from protesting here.

"Forget Iraq, Waukegan has its own private war with the Mexicans!" read a sign carried by one of the protesters. Chants of "*¡Sí, se puede!*" and "U.S.A! U.S.A!" came out of loudspeakers. The organizers of the protest included the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Casa Mexiquense, Centro Sin Fronteras, the Tonatico Social Club, Latinos Unidos, and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Many local businesses supported the action.

Just north of City Hall about 50 people gathered to back the anti-immigrant measures. "Stop the invasion," read one of their signs. The Minutemen Project and Americans for Legal Immigration were among the organizers of the rightist rally.

Workers pack Virginia meetings protesting immigration crackdown



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, Virginia, July 29—Thousands of immigrant workers and their supporters voted at three separate meetings here this week to boycott non-Latino-owned businesses August 27–September 3. The boycott is part of ongoing protests against a July 10 county resolution deputizing local cops as immigration agents.

The meeting pictured above was held in the town of Woodbridge. A similar meeting in Manassas had to be moved outside to accommodate a crowd of over 1,000.

Immigration "will never stop," said Roberto Bautista, a machine maintenance worker originally from Honduras, in a July 15 interview. They are just trying to scare people."

One of his neighbors, who is U.S.-born, said he supports the measure because his wife was injured in a hit-and-run accident with "an illegal."

The resolution also asks county staff to study which government services can be denied undocumented workers under state and federal law. Supervisors in neighboring Loudon County passed a similar measure July 17. "Traditional thinking is that if you are born in America you are entitled to education.... We've got to rethink that," Eugene Delgaudio, the measure's sponsor, told WTOP News.

Workers at the Prince William County meetings proposed caravanning to Loudon County in a show of support. Wilbert Chavez, 32, a carpeting worker originally from El Salvador who has lived in the United States for 13 years, said he is looking forward to the protests. "I only came here to work," he said.

—SETH DELLINGER

Immigration agents arrest hundreds in Texas raids

BY ANTHONY DUTROW AND AMANDA ULMAN

FARMERS BRANCH, Texas—Immigration agents rounded up 274 workers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in house-to-house searches between July 16–21. Half of those picked up were immediately deported to Mexico. "We come here just to work, and most of us have no papers," said Virgilio Pérez Carmana, a 36-year-old construction worker in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas.

One hundred twenty-one people with alleged connections to street gangs were arrested in another immigration roundup the same week. Some were charged with immigration violations, others were U.S. citizens. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) dragnet centered in Dallas and included a wide swath of northern Texas. "We don't deserve this, we're not terrorists," said José de Jesús Avalos, a forklift driver here in Farmers Branch. "We go to work every day."

Local cop agencies from at least half a dozen cities aided ICE agents in the house-to-house sweep. The raids in this Dallas suburb come on the heels of an ordinance prohibiting landlords from renting to undocumented immigrants here. A June 19 injunction has prevented the city from implementing the law. One hundred other cities around the country have similar laws pending.

"Businesses are paying a big price for the laws against undocumented

workers," said Guillermo Estrada, 30, a maintenance worker here. Many immigrants left Farmers Branch after the ordinance was passed. "Look at this place," he said, pointing to a large apartment complex. "They had 150 empty apartments and had to introduce a \$99 a month move-in special," he said. "And now you can get a three bedroom for a couple of hundred less."

Estrada said he has experienced "a lot of racism. They arrested me without a warrant, just because I'm Latino," he said.

"In all parts of Dallas the cops stop you just because you are Hispanic," Pérez explained. "They ask you for you license and proof of insurance because they know you don't have them and that you will have to pay fines of \$600 or \$800."

"These raids are bad for everybody, of all cultures," he said. "We all need to unite to stop this."

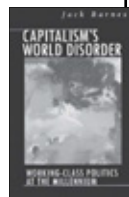
Bernadino Flores contributed to this article.

www.pathfinderpress.com

Capitalism's World Disorder

Working-Class Politics at the Millenium
by Jack Barnes

\$24



ON THE PICKET LINE

New Zealand miners win raises, return to work after lockout

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, July 21—A three-day lockout of more than 200 coal miners at state-owned Solid Energy's Rotowaro mine in the North Island ended today. Members of the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU) voted unanimously to accept an improved pay offer.

The lockout sparked a wave of strikes at Solid Energy mines nationwide. Miners at nearby Huntly East mine, and at Spring Creek, Terrace, Ohau, and New Vale mines all struck in support of the Rotowaro unionists.

"This was only achieved through the combined strength of miners from across the country working together," EPMU national secretary Andrew Little said in a press release.

More than 800 miners around the country have joined rolling strikes and overtime bans to press for a wage increase as part of a new collective agreement. In early July, miners at Spring Creek and Terrace struck for 11 days. Rotowaro miners won a night shift allowance of NZ\$10 a night (NZ\$1 = US\$0.77), a production bonus, and a

4.5 percent wage increase. They had been seeking a 5 percent increase.

—Terry Coggan

UK postal strikers oppose attacks on pay, jobs, union

LONDON, July 12—Tens of thousands of postal workers held a 24-hour strike today across the country. It was their second one-day walkout in two months.

The Communication Workers Union (CWU) reported a 90 percent turnout of its 130,000 members, with limited operations covered by managers. The workers have rejected Royal Mail's offer, which includes a below-inflation 2.5 percent pay raise, job cuts, and worse working conditions. The CWU says the offer would cut 40,000 jobs.

At a rally of 100 in East London, one young picket, Barry

Ellis, said in an interview, "It's not just about pay. They are attacking our conditions and bypassing the union. They're trying to weaken us and we need to defend ourselves."

—Celia Pugh

7,000 workers shut down forest industry in British Columbia

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Seven thousand forest workers organized by the United Steelworkers have

shut down all forestry operation along the coast of British Columbia. Shifts, safety, use of nonunion contractors, and severance pay are the main issues in the strike.

After the last woodworkers' strike in 2003, a 10-hour shift limit was set for "physically demanding and dangerous" jobs, Bob Matters, chair of the Wood Council of the United Steelworkers, told the *Militant*. "Yet the companies have been imposing 12-hour shifts at will, despite the 10 hour ruling, and despite the fact that *most* jobs are physically demanding and dangerous. This is a safety issue," he said.

Seventy-one workers in the forest industry were killed on the job between 2004 to 2006.

Bob Danick, union plant chair at CIPA Forest Products, on Annacis Island here, said in an interview that 10-day work schedules prevent workers from spending weekends with their families. "This strike is about having a say in how you live your life," he said.

"I'm not willing to have my livelihood disrupted for profits," picket Chris Nelson added.

—Ned Dmytryshyn



Militant/Celia Pugh

Striking postal workers picket in East London, England, July 12.

California Teamsters win contract after three-week strike

BY JOEL BRITTON

OAKLAND, California, July 28—After 26 days on the picket line, locked-out sanitation workers at Waste Management in Alameda County voted here today 363 to 3 to approve a new contract.

Nearly 500 workers, members of Teamsters Local 70, were locked out after their contract expired on June 30. They were replaced by strikebreakers, many drafted from the company's non-union operations in other states.

Waste Management demanded sweeping changes in the contract. They tried to restrict the union's ability to defend workers charged with "unsafe" practices, end the union's right to honor strike picket lines, and impose higher payments for medical care.

In the new five-year contract, the union maintains the right to honor union picket lines, the company continues to cover health premiums, and there is a pay raise. But the company imposed new penalties for violations of safety rules. And a "no strike, no lockout" provision was added to the contract for the first time.

Waste Management officials carried out a slander campaign during the lockout, charging drivers with having the worst safety record in the country.

Picketing Teamster Sergio Torres, a driver for 20 years, told the *Militant* that the "safety issue" is being used by the company to make it easier to fire workers they want to get rid of, such as older drivers with high seniority. Torres said the bosses have cut the number of

workers assigned to each truck. Where there once was three and even four, now there is only one.

"We are out there by ourselves, often in narrow streets, backing up, with no one to spot us. At the same time they are giving us longer routes," Torres said. "This company does not care about safety!"

The locked-out Teamsters were joined by other union workers at Waste Management on the picket lines and union rallies. Mechanics belonging to



Militant/Betsey Stone

Teamster pickets confront scab garbage truck during lockout

the Machinists union and recyclers, members of the Longshoremen's union, honored the Teamsters picket lines.

Oakland mayor Ronald Dellums participated in the negotiations along with a federal mediator.

Hazleton law

Continued from front page

two dozen other municipalities in northeast Pennsylvania.

"This decision should be a blaring red spotlight for local officials thinking of copying Hazleton's misguided and unconstitutional law," Witold Walczak, legal director for the ACLU of Pennsylvania, told the press.

Hazleton mayor Barletta has said that the city will appeal the decision in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, and, if necessary, "all the way to the Supreme Court."

In Hazleton, former Cargill meat-packer Meledy Díaz, who is originally from the Dominican Republic, told the *Militant* that it has been hard on undocumented workers. Many have had increasing difficulties making a living. She said she now works at a store, and many businesses have been forced to shut down in the wake of the anti-immigrant campaign.

This ruling comes at a time when many immigrant workers are speaking out in defense of their rights—often to protest deportation efforts and raids in workplaces and communities.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 27, 1982

"It looks like there's a war going on here. It's just like Vietnam." The young woman who said this looked around at the tanks, armed troopers, and the planes flying over us.

She doesn't live in Beirut or El Salvador but in Dakota City, Nebraska. She and the 2,450 members of Local 222 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) on strike at Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) have learned what it's like to come up against an army.

On July 27, Governor Charles Thone sent two National Guard units to Dakota City to supplement the 100 state troopers already there. This massive show of force amounts to a private army for IBP, the largest meat processing company in the country.

This strike... was forced by IBP when the company demanded that the workers accept a four-year wage freeze, a permanent end to all cost-of-living raises, reduction in pay for new hires, and other concessions.



August 19, 1957

The civil rights bill, which had been amended to death in the Senate, now faces burial in the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives.

Republican strategists joined with the Dixiecrats and liberal Democrats to reduce the bill from a general civil rights measure to one concerned only with the right of Negroes to vote in the South... Northern and Western Democrats vied with one another in making horse-trades with Senate Majority leader Lyndon Johnson, the man who arranged the "compromises" that killed the bill.

Ethel L. Payne in the Aug. 10 *Chicago Defender*, a leading Negro weekly... wrote:

"Shock-haired Jack Kennedy who is glassy-eyed from stargazing at 1960 toppled over like a ten pin... after his pal, Sen. George Smathers of Florida worked on him and Lyndon Johnson put a fatherly arm around his shoulder and recounted some of the political facts of life to him."



August 10, 1932

The Illinois miners' struggle has sustained its first victim. Joe Colbert, president of Local 303, Orient, Illinois, was murdered in cold blood by Lewis-Walker gunmen firing from an automobile in front of his home. Joe Colbert was known as one of the staunchest militants. He held a long record of fight against the corrupt Lewis machine.

The Illinois coalfields are again seething with revolt spreading throughout the various sections and directed against the most brazen official treachery yet recorded. A powerful rank and file movement has sprung up... Gigantic mass meetings have been held from which marchers are being organized to close down the mines which reopened under the operators' reduced scale of wages.

Since April first, the Illinois miners have been on strike refusing to retreat from the basic wage scale of \$6.10 per day formerly obtaining.

1967 Newark rebellion was part of nationwide struggle for Black rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS
AND SARA LOBMAN

NEWARK, New Jersey—July 12–17 marked the 40th anniversary of a rebellion here that brought thousands of Blacks into the streets to protest the miserable conditions imposed on them.

“After six years of the biggest boom in American history and 13 years of civil rights agitation the black masses are worse off than before,” wrote George Novack in the Sept. 4, 1967, *Militant*. “The authorities have shown themselves quicker to call out the National Guard than to act effectively against the conditions responsible for the revolts.”

Following the successful mass working-class political action in the South known as the civil rights movement, protests against racial discrimination spread to dozens of urban centers in the North in the mid-1960s. Rebellions broke out in Harlem in 1964, Watts in 1965, Chicago in 1966, and Newark and Detroit in 1967.

“The uprisings come as no surprise,”

wrote Novack. “They climax a series which began four years ago in Birmingham” when a wave of mass marches and sit-ins against Jim Crow segregation were met by cop assaults.

In 1967 Blacks comprised nearly 60 percent of Newark’s population. Cop brutality was rampant and working people, especially African Americans, confronted rising levels of poverty with abysmal housing, education, and job conditions. In the summer of 1967, 20,000 working people were threatened with eviction to make room for a new highway and medical school.

Then on July 12 cops stopped, arrested, and beat African American cab driver John Smith. Crowds gathered in front of the Fourth Precinct police station where Smith was held and demanded to see him—dead or alive. Over the last year cops had killed at least nine men in that area. Smith survived.

The following day several hundred rallied against police brutality in front



Militant photos by Brian Williams

July 12 march in Newark commemorated 40th anniversary of rebellion there. The action ended at monument honoring those killed during the five-day uprising in the Black community (inset).

of the precinct. The cops responded by assaulting the protestors.

Thousands of youth took to the streets to protest the cop riot in one of the largest demonstration of Blacks ever held in Newark. Every major intersection in the area was filled with crowds of a thousand or more, according to eyewitness reports.

As the demonstrators gathered steam, Newark mayor Hugh Addonizio called on Gov. Richard Hughes to send state troopers and National Guardsmen to

the city. Hughes complied, dispatching 627 state troopers and 5,900 National Guardsmen to join the 1,390 Newark cops.

Some people broke into stores. “I don’t understand all this talk about ‘looting,’” one resident told the *Militant* at the time. “They rob us every day. They rob us on the rent! They rob us on food, on the job! They rob our kids on education! *Everything!* What the hell do they expect!”

Under the pretext that snipers were hiding in the housing projects, the cops and National Guardsmen rolled through the city in tanks. They fired at Blacks returning home from work and through apartment windows. They destroyed about 100 Black-owned stores. In addition to killing 24 people, the cops and guardsmen wounded 1,100 and arrested many more. A fire captain and a police detective were killed during the rebellion.

“It was a long night of hell,” Lawrence Stewart wrote in an eye-witness report in the July 24, 1967, *Militant*. “Automatic fire rent the air from all directions. People stayed under their beds, in bathtubs, cellars—any place they thought they’d be safe.”

Later investigations found that out of 13,000 rounds of ammunition fired, only 100 were even alleged to have come from the community. None of the officers or guardsmen were indicted for any of the killings. No one was ever charged with being a sniper.

A few days after the rebellion nearly 1,000 people participated in a National Conference on Black Power in Newark. There, delegates learned that another Black rebellion had broken out in Detroit. The 40th anniversary of these events is big news here. Local politicians are using it to denounce “Black-on-Black violence” and celebrate a supposed revival of the city. Some also point to the unemployment, poor housing, and inferior education that continue to mark Newark today. Mayor Cory Booker dedicated a plaque and ordered flags to be flown at half mast for six days.

A July 12 action organized by the Black rights group People’s Organization for Progress commemorated the rebellion. About 100 people marched from the Fourth Precinct to a monument honoring those killed in the protests.

Three days earlier, 100 people joined a discussion at a screening of the PBS documentary *Revolution ’67* at the Newark Historical Society. The film was also shown several times at Newark’s only movie theater.

Troy Davis, framed up, wins stay of execution

Continued from front page

one has left the state and refuses to talk about the case. The other has been implicated in the shooting by three new witnesses. “If executing Troy Davis on the evidence we now have is the best our justice system can do, then that

system is not worthy of the name,” said Congressman John Lewis in a statement at the Davis clemency hearing.

When an appeal was brought to the federal district court, the court declined to review the new evidence. It claimed the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death

Penalty Act prevented this. The U.S. Supreme Court also refused to hear the case.

“It is not illegal to kill an innocent person in this country,” Davis’s sister, Martina Correia, told the *Militant*. “Before this, I never would have believed I would be told that innocence doesn’t matter. That evidence can be ignored,” she said. “This is not just about Troy. It’s about all the others in this country on death row.”

Shareef Cousin was one of the supporters present outside the parole board hearing. Cousin was framed up for murder in 1995 at the age of 16. At the time of the murder, Cousin was in a car with three of his teammates being driven home from a tournament by his basketball coach. In spite of this, he spent four years on death row in Louisiana. He was then exonerated, but remained in jail on other charges until 2005.

Davis was a victim of “the same forces that put me in jail: police intimidation of witnesses, prosecutorial misconduct, withholding evidence, etc,” Cousin, who is now a sophomore at Morehouse College, told the *Militant*. He said the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 is one of the major obstacles Davis will have to overcome. “It should be called the Kill ’Em Quicker Law,” Cousin said.

A letter-writing campaign has resulted in thousands of letters appealing to the parole board to review the new evidence. Among those who have written to support Davis’s fight are Georgia congressman John Lewis, Nobel Prize-winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Pope Benedict XVI, and former FBI head William Sessions.

Meetings and other activities to build support for Davis continue to be organized. To learn more and find out how you can help go to www.TroyAnthonyDavis.org, or contact Amnesty International.

Bob Braxton contributed to this article.

500 attend national women’s rights conference in Michigan

BY MAURA DELUCA

DEARBORN, Michigan—The annual convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW), held here July 14–16, drew around 500 people. Women came from the Midwest and Northeast, as well as other parts of the United States and from Canada.

NOW is the largest feminist organization in the United States.

Forty-five workshops covered topics ranging from women’s portrayal in the media, to defending affirmative action, to running for political office. Sessions of the Young Feminist Leadership Institute took place throughout the convention.

Most panelists promoted electing Democrats as a way to advance struggles for women’s equality. Many spoke in favor of Hillary Clinton’s presidential bid. Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm addressed the conference, along with other elected officials who are women.

For some like Summer Burgess, a sociology student at a community college here in Dearborn, the convention was a new experience. “Seeing how unfair everything is with women’s rights and being tired of sitting back is what brought me here,” she said. “I’m realizing that as a group we’re more effective than trying to fight on an individual level.”

Several workshops centered on a woman’s right to choose abortion. “All of the gains women have won have been through mass movements in the streets,

not through the goodwill of elected officials,” said Diana Newberry, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, during the discussion period in one such workshop.

At a workshop titled “Comprehensive Immigration Reform: A Feminist Issue,” Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health in New York City noted the importance of linking the fight for women’s rights to the struggle for immigrants’ rights.

NOW vice president Olga Vives spoke in favor of “comprehensive immigration reform that is fair and provides a path to citizenship.” She added, “NOW is not for illegal immigration.”

Women from Michigan spoke about the fight to reverse a 2006 ballot measure that banned public institutions in that state from having affirmative action programs.

A referendum in South Dakota last November defeating a statewide abortion ban was noted at a workshop on Native American women, as well as in the final plenary session.

Women also spoke about actions they’re helping organize, such as a July 28 immigration rights rally in Morristown, New Jersey, and abortion clinic defense in Alabama from July 14–22.

Maura DeLuca is a sewing machine operator and member of UNITE HERE Local 155 in New York. Diana Newberry contributed to this article.

Socialist Workers Party launches Iowa campaign

Candidates call for legalization, respond to rightist picket of workers' meeting

BY TOM BAUMANN

DES MOINES, Iowa July 29—Following a full day of campaigning, more than 30 people packed the Socialist Workers Party campaign headquarters last night to hear Diana Newberry, the party's candidate for mayor, and Seth Galinsky, its candidate for At-Large City Council.

"Our response to the rightist picket of the Militant Labor Forum Hall is to launch our campaign," said Newberry, referring to a picket by the Minutemen and supporters of Republican Thomas Tancredo's presidential campaign outside a July 20 forum. (see article on front page). Newberry said the attack by the Minutemen comes from the deepening polarization in this country around the expanding layer of immigrants in the U.S. working class.

'Militant' supporters fan out across Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa, July 30—Supporters of the *Militant* from across the Midwest fanned out across central Iowa last week to respond to a right-wing picket of the July 20 Militant Labor Forum. They sold 126 copies of the paper and nine subscriptions over the four-day effort.

Members of the Young Socialists and workers who support the *Militant* got the paper out to meat packers during shift changes at two packing plants in Des Moines, the Tyson plant in Perry, and the Swift plant in Marshalltown. They set up literature tables at Iowa State University in Ames and a Mexican supermarket here, and went door to door in working class neighborhoods.

They came here the day after members of the Minutemen and supporters of Republican presidential candidate Thomas Tancredo picketed a forum demanding legalization for immigrants. They also got out the word about a July 28 meeting to launch the socialist campaign for mayor and city council.

—KEVIN DWIRE

"We need to unify our class and the rulers need to keep us apart," she said. The SWP campaign calls for unconditional legalization of all immigrants. "They want to deepen the attacks on our wages and working conditions, as well as criminalize undocumented workers. The rulers are using the threat of deportation and jail time to try to scare us into not fighting for our rights.

"We are campaigning for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan," she said. The SWP campaign also calls for a massive federally funded public works program, no cuts in present or future Social Security benefits, defending and extending affirmative action, and ending Washington's economic war against Cuba.

A central part of the campaign, said Newberry, is supporting workers' struggles to organize and use union power. "They will continue to go after our unions as they did in the decertification campaign at Dakota Premium Foods in Minnesota, and the recent arrest of the vice-president of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 1149 at the Swift plant in Marshalltown, [Iowa], who was charged with 'harboring illegal immigrants,'" she said.

The meeting also featured a special presentation from Rebecca Williamson, a member in the United Food and Commercial Workers Local



789 at the Dakota Premium Foods plant in St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Our fight against the company's effort to decertify the union is shaping up to be the most important labor battle taking place in the United States today," she said. She explained the history of the fight for the union at Dakota and why working people should support the struggle against decertification today.

Galinsky spoke in support of recent protests by immigrant workers in Marshalltown to try to prevent local

police from working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

"We're glad to see so many people here tonight from the Upper Midwest at this meeting to support our campaign and to defend our headquarters," said Newberry. People came from Iowa, the Twin Cities and Austin, Minnesota; Chicago; and Denver.

The event raised nearly \$400. Over the weekend, campaign supporters collected more than half of the 1,600 signatures needed to get Newberry and Galinsky on the ballot.

Rightists picket Iowa Militant Labor Forum

Continued from front page

on both sides with a Tancredo campaign sign in front of the forum hall. The sign read, "End Illegal Immigration, Secure Our Borders, No Amnesty, Pro-Life-Second Amendment."

The rightists verbally attacked anyone who came to the event. A few approached forum supporters guarding the event, trying to provoke an incident. Others shouted provocations like "Where's the militancy? We thought you were militant," "Down with the Marxists, Communists, and Socialists," "No to the Militant Labor Forum," "Che is rotting in his grave," and a slew of anti-immigrant remarks.

"As soon as I heard Minutemen were

protesting the Militant Labor Forum, I got in my car and drove down to defend the meeting," said Larry Ginter, a retired farmer. Ginter was one of several *Militant* subscribers who responded to calls from forum organizers to help prevent the Minutemen from making vigilante attacks on the meeting.

In recent months the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps has expanded its presence in the upper Midwest. In an interview in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Halverson described the group as "retired military, retired police officers. Just good, strong American citizens, patriotic. They're tired of seeing what's going on, and they're tired of the government not enforcing the laws."

One of the central goals of the outfit is to finger immigrants for *la migrá*. "The Minutemen want to identify illegal aliens, who employs and houses them, and demand that the government and law enforcement agencies enforce immigration laws," he said.

"Earlier this year the Minutemen were outmobilized by the Latino community in Denison, a rural meatpacking town in western Iowa," said Helen Meyers, organizer of the Militant Labor Forum series here. When Minutemen and other rightists organize protests against immigrants, supporters of legalization should counter these actions and show their support for amnesty, she added.

New Jersey vigil, protest counter anti-immigrant rally

BY INGRID FRANCO AND MIKE TABER

MORRISTOWN, New Jersey—In a sharply polarized scene, 300 people gathered here July 28 in two separate actions protesting an anti-immigrant rally on the steps of the Town Hall.

The rightist ProAmerica Society chose Morristown for its rally because it is one of the first cities to request the federal government deputize local police as immigration cops.

Despite the anti-immigrant outfit's claim that its rally would draw 1,000 people, only 150 showed up. They held signs including "Illegals have no rights," "Deport all illegals now," "Immigration yes, reconquista no," and "Stop the invasion now."

Miguel Cruz, from the anti-immigrant Latino group You Don't Speak

for Me, blamed undocumented immigrants for drug smuggling, murders, rapes, and drunk driving. Other speakers said illegal immigrants were diluting "American culture."

"I will never accept English as a second language," said Daniel Smeriglio from Voice of the People USA in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The previous day, an anti-immigrant ordinance in Hazleton was overturned by a federal judge.

The keynote speaker at the anti-immigrant rally, Morristown mayor Donald Cresitello, called on the immigration cops to step up arrests and deportations of immigrant workers, calling for "additional personnel to visit job sites and arrest illegal immigrants."

The right-wing action was coun-

tered by 150 immigrants and their supporters across the street, separated by a cordon of more than 100 police in riot gear. A Peace Vigil for Human Rights, held simultaneously at a nearby church, drew another 150.

Luis Antúñez, 28, said that he came to the counterdemonstration "to show the mayor and the city that he cannot organize against us. To show them that we are trying to work here and get ahead. And to show that we have a voice."

A number of people came from outside New Jersey to register their opposition to the right-wing forces. Angela Lampe of Massapequa, New York, told the crowd, "They say they're pro-American. Well, Continued on page 8



Militant/Diana Newberry

The Minuteman Project and other rightist groups picketed July 20 Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines, Iowa, titled, "Stop the raids! Legalize all immigrants now!"

Australia gov't takes over Aboriginal communities

Continued from front page

and Wellington in New Zealand.

“Leave the cops at home, leave the troops at home . . . and listen to the Aboriginal community,” Pat Turner, a spokesperson for the Combined Aboriginal Organisations in the Northern Territory, declared at the Sydney rally of 400.

The government claims the intervention is aimed at combating child abuse. But protesters say it is a clear attempt to erode rights to land and autonomy won in recent decades by Aboriginal people.

“There will be an immediate increase in policing efforts” by federal and interstate cops, Howard announced. The army’s Norforce unit, whose ranks are majority Aboriginal, is also being deployed.

The government is taking over Aboriginal township leases and the right to appoint administrators. It also plans to abolish the system where Aboriginal land councils must first grant permission before outsiders can enter Aboriginal land.

The government announced that welfare payments will now be linked to school attendance. The state is cutting welfare payments in favor of “payment-in-kind” schemes. The cops will also enforce newly adopted bans on alcohol and pornography on Aboriginal land.

A push to open Aboriginal communal land to “market forces” is at the heart of the intervention. Since the

Aboriginal Land Rights Act was adopted in 1976 almost half the Northern Territory has been won back for Aboriginal ownership. In 2006 the federal government amended the act to open those lands to government-controlled 99-year leases for private homes and business.

The federal takeover has the bipartisan backing of the Australian Labor Party leader Kevin Rudd. Aboriginal leaders such as Noel Pearson, director of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership in north Queensland, and Warren Mundine, a former Labor Party president, have also been prominent in supporting it.

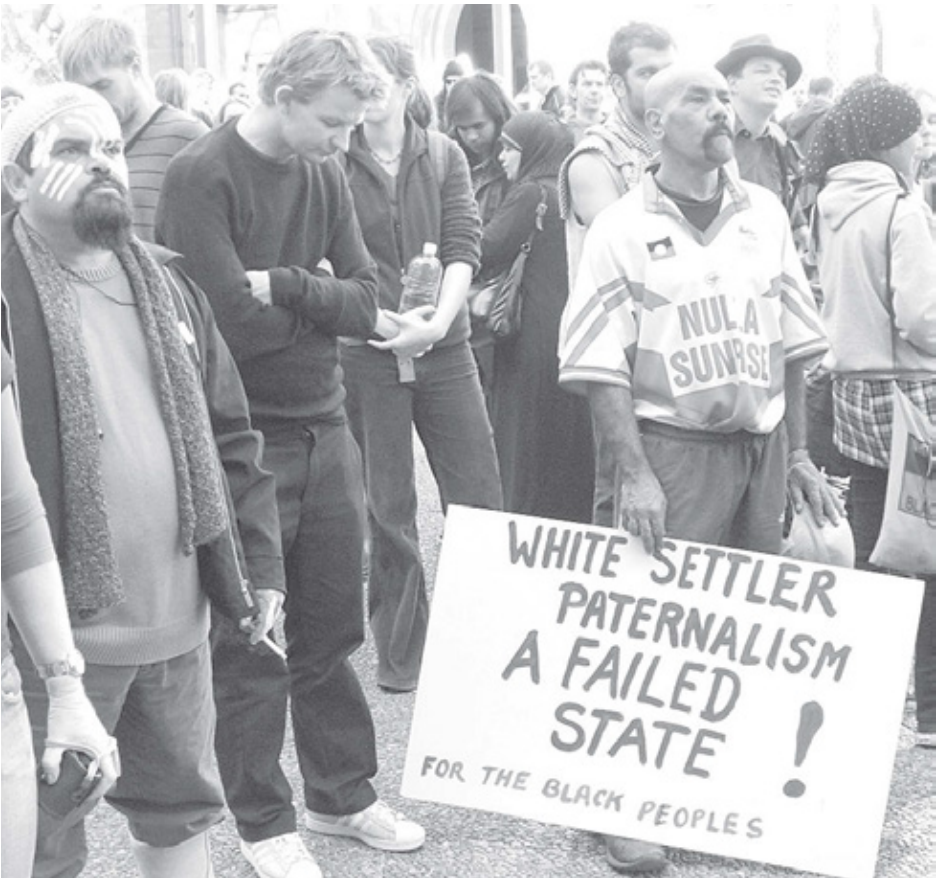
The 455,000 Aboriginal people living in Australia comprise 2.3 percent of the population. Around 60,000 live in the Northern Territory—about 30 percent of the population there—with the big majority living on Aboriginal land outside the major towns.

Many of the communities slated for takeover began as church missions or government ration stations in the late 1800s. Others were founded in the 1980s; a product of battles by Aboriginal groups for land rights. The “town camps” around Alice Springs, Darwin, and other towns were first established as segregated areas by the white authorities. They also won a measure of self-government in the 1970s.

Aboriginal groups have fought for decades for adequate government funding for their communities. But housing, health-care services, and schooling remain abysmal and unemployment is high. This has created a social crisis which the government is now using to justify its takeover.

The measures announced to date do not include long-term plans for jobs or services. In fact these are being cut. Federal officials have proposed cutting services to small, and often remote, Aboriginal settlements they call “unviable.” The Community Development Employment Programme—which funded most of the jobs in these communities—is being scrapped.

Small “survey teams” of government officials, cops, and Norforce troops have visited some 30 communities



Militant/Bob Aiken

About 400 gather July 14 in Sydney, Australia, to protest federal government takeover of 73 Aboriginal communities in the country’s Northern Territories.

since the intervention was announced. An article in the bi-monthly *National Indigenous Times* said they have received a “cautious welcome.”

The article quoted Barry Abbott, council president at Wallace Rockhole, 75 miles west of Alice Springs. He said the meeting with the survey team there “wasn’t too bad,” but the community was “not too happy with what the prime minister has done and the way he has done it.”

Abbott told the *Australian* that “we need a better school and better housing and we need support from the government for work out here.”

The *Australian* also reported June 25 on a “fiery” public meeting at Maningrida, east of Darwin, protesting the end of the Aboriginal-controlled permit system. “This will send us back to the 70s and 60s,” community worker Albert Stewart said, “with Balandas (whites) saying ‘do this, do that’, but we can talk for ourselves now. This will shut us down.”

New Jersey rally

Continued from page 7

I’m Central American, which means I’m an American too.”

Leaders of community and religious groups opposed to Morristown’s anti-immigrant ordinance addressed the vigil. Allyson Gall, New Jersey area executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said, “We have a right to keep out those who want to do harm to the United States. But you who are here are good for Morristown.”

Also speaking was Edward Beck, Socialist Workers candidate for New Jersey General Assembly in the 29th district. “‘We’re workers, not criminals.’ That was a statement echoed the last two May Days,” said Beck. “The Socialist Workers campaign joins workers in Morristown and elsewhere throughout the entire country calling for an end to the raids and deportations, and for legalization now!”

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: swp@bham.rr.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 381395. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 1146 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW. Zip: 30310. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 758-2151. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

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@qwest.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

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

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net
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) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

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@optusnet.com.au

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

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: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

August BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

La Lucha por un partido proletario (*The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*) by James P. Cannon

On the eve of World War II, a founder of the communist movement in the U.S. and a leader of the Communist International in Lenin's times defends the program and party-building norms of Bolshevism. \$10

Special price: \$7

The Case of Leon Trotsky by Leon Trotsky

Trotsky's testimony before a 1937 international commission of inquiry into Stalin's Moscow frame-up trials. \$30

Special price: \$22.50

Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism by Carlos Tablada

Presents the interrelationship of the market, economic planning, material incentives, and voluntary work; and why profit and other capitalist categories cannot be yardsticks for measuring progress in the transition to socialism. \$18.95

Special price: \$14

Malcolm X on Afro-American History by Malcolm X

\$11.

Special price: \$8

Racism, Revolution, and Reaction 1861-1877 by Peter Camejo

\$18.95.

Special price: \$14

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

OFFER GOOD UNTIL AUGUST 31

Solidarity with Dakota meat packers!

Packinghouse workers at Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, Minnesota, need the support of the entire labor movement. They are fighting to defend their union, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789, against a company decertification drive.

The active solidarity of the unions and of workers, both organized and unorganized, across the United States can make a difference.

The stakes are high. A victory for the bosses would be a blow to other meat packers in the Midwest who face similar and often worse conditions. It would be a setback to the entire labor movement.

Unsafe working conditions, intolerable line speed, and abusive bosses sparked a seven-hour sit-down strike by Dakota workers on June 1, 2000. The strike was the opening act in a two-year struggle for union recognition and a contract. In the process the meat packers forged a fighting local and exercised union power—the only way to defend themselves against harsh conditions and low pay.

The fight stood out in the power of its example. “Workers took ownership of their struggle,” Bernie Hesse, director of special projects for Local 789, described it last year. Local 789 at Dakota became a center in the Midwest for organizing solidarity with labor struggles across the United States.

That is why the bosses want so badly to get rid of the union there, and why the stakes are so high for the working class. The company wants to reimpose the conditions workers fought against seven years ago. They want to shatter the confidence workers won in struggle to defend themselves against abu-

sive bosses. They hope to take enough ground by breaking this local to make it easier to go after the unions and the conditions at other plants.

The fight to defend the union at Dakota is connected to the battle for legalization of immigrant workers, especially because of the composition of the workforce there and at slaughterhouses throughout the Midwest. The decertification drive comes at the same time as immigration raids at packing plants and other worksites, including the arrest of Braulio Pereyra, UFCW Local 1149 vice-president at the Swift plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, for “harboring illegal aliens.”

The fight for legalization puts workers on a stronger footing to fight for union rights. It undercuts the divisions on the job that the bosses foster to weaken the unions and workers’ abilities to fight back. These struggles can help strengthen each other.

A victory by Dakota workers can help push back other attacks by the bosses and their government. It can inspire workers and farmers in the region and beyond.

Many of the workers at Dakota are battle-tested, but it’s much more difficult for them to defeat this assault if they’re doing it on their own. Solidarity can be decisive to their struggle—as was the solidarity they organized with other labor struggles over the years. The story of their fight needs to be told as a first step in winning support. *Militant* supporters will make a special effort this week to reach out with this issue of the paper to workers in the Midwest and elsewhere. Join them!

Washington enlists Sunnis in offensive

Continued from front page

the support of sheiks in the Sunni Anbar and Diyala provinces disillusioned with al-Qaeda.

Nouri al-Maliki, prime minister of Iraq’s Shiite-dominated government, strongly objects to the policy. But Petraeus described the development as the most important trend in Iraq that could also help force “reconciliation” among competing capitalist forces. The U.S. government doesn’t want competition between the different factions to undermine the cooperation and stability needed to further its aims.

Washington’s efforts to make progress along these lines were dealt a blow when the Iraqi parliament adjourned for the summer after the government failed to present a law on sharing oil revenues. Two days later the Front withdrew from the cabinet, accusing al-Maliki of failing to address about a dozen demands including disbanding Shiite militias. The Front’s 44 members in Iraq’s 275-seat parliament will remain however.

The Bush administration has been pressing the Iraqi government to pass “benchmark” measures. These include sharing oil revenues, holding provincial elections, and removing laws that bar former members of Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party from public office.

They are directed at reassuring wealthy Sunnis, who ruled the country under Hussein, that they have a stake in the U.S.-backed government.

Meanwhile, on the first stop of a Mideast visit, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said every country in the region could be doing more to help stabilize Iraq.

At a press conference in Egypt, Rice pointed to concern in the region at the continued volatility in Iraq. She said tighter border controls and debt relief by regional governments would help create conditions for “reconciliation” there.

Rice also encouraged Iraq’s neighbors to use their influence to get Sunni tribal leaders more active in helping Washington. Many governments in the region, Saudi Arabia in particular, are dominated by Sunnis.

The Bush administration is preparing to ask Congress for a \$20 billion aid package for Saudi Arabia. It includes advanced weaponry such as satellite-guided bombs, upgraded fighter jets, and naval ships. Administration officials said the package is aimed at bolstering the military capacities of Gulf countries as a deterrent against Iran’s growing power, reported the *International Herald Tribune*.

LETTERS

Refinery workers win suit

The Federal District Court of Appeals ruled on a class action lawsuit filed against Conoco/Phillips by the union membership of former PACE Local 8-578. Union members won \$6.7 million in unpaid benefits.

In the spring of 2003 informational picket lines were set up on a weekly basis for a number of weeks during our half-hour lunch period.

In the fall of 2003, upon hearing

about the lockout and then strike by Co-Op miners, PACE Local 8-578 helped lead solidarity efforts, working with other PACE locals in Salt Lake City and in the west. In the spring of 2004 Co-Op miners stood on our informational picket lines and along with the broader labor movement aided us in settling our benefits fight.

Buddy Beck

Salt Lake City, Utah

While all acts of terrorism should be condemned, the United States’ September 11 (in 2001) might be the result of the United States causing September 11ths—overthrowing democratically elected governments.

Chuck Wolfsfeld

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Editors note: A correction was printed in the August 6 issue.

Chile’s 9/11

In the July 9 issue of the *Militant*, it says that Chilean president Salvador Allende was overthrown on Nov. 11, 1973. Actually he was overthrown on Sep. 11, 1973. Chile had their Sep. 11th, followed by a 17-year dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

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.

Meat packers

Continued from front page

petitions “to remove the union,” requesting that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hold an election to decertify the union. The company broke off contract negotiations in mid-July.

“The company wants to get rid of the union so that they can go back to the ways things were before, and do whatever they want,” said Juan Vargas, a worker in the kill department.

Workers at Dakota Premium won their first contract in October 2002, after a two-year battle including a sit-down strike that forged the union in the plant. They approved the agreement by a vote of 149 to 21.

“If the union goes down we all go down,” said Ricardo Orozco, who has worked at Dakota Premium for more than 3 years. He said that the majority of workers in the plant were hired recently. “All of us have to pass the message to others.”

“We are taking this attack very seriously,” said Don Seaquist, Local 789 president. “If the company gets away with decertifying the union at Dakota, it could spread to other plants.” Local 789 also organizes workers at Dakota Premium’s sister plant, Long Prairie Packing in Long Prairie, Minnesota.

According to workers, the company has been increasing the speed of the processing line. They said that in the last five months the line speed jumped from about 80 cows per hour to over 90.

The company’s drive to increase production at the cost of the health and safety led to the June 2000 sit-down strike. Workers refused to work until the bosses slowed the line speed and stopped forcing people to work while injured.

Prior to the *plantón*, as workers here refer to the strike, the company had carried out a decade-long anti-union offensive. Those who worked in the plant then report that bosses intimidated, fired, or bought off pro-union workers, used legal maneuvers, and carried out a deceitful propaganda campaign in an effort to keep the union out.

Workers fought back with determination and unity and put their stamp on the organizing drive. For example, when the company tried to victimize or fire a pro-union worker, others would come to their aid. Frequently, large delegations of workers would go to the office together to protest intolerable conditions or boss abuses. They also publicized their struggles in the *Workers’ Voice*, an in-plant newsletter published in English and Spanish, which was also circulated at Long Prairie.

The pro-union workers reached out broadly for solidarity from other unions and the community. Leading up to the July 2000 representation election, they talked to each worker in the plant individually to win them to the union.

Samuel Farley, a worker in the boning department and a shop steward, was part of the union organizing drive. “Before, if you got injured they would automatically get rid of you. Today the company can’t do that.” This and other reasons are “why we need a union,” he said.

The union held a special meeting July 26 to discuss the next steps in the fight against the decertification attempt. According to workers, supervisors stopped the line that day, blocked exits and bathrooms, and herded workers into the cafeteria for a meeting with Steve Cortinas, the plant manager. Cortinas announced the company would resume negotiations.

Workers asked what the conditions, wages, and benefits would be without the union. Cortinas said that “before the union, during the union, and after the union” there were raises, seniority rights, and benefits. Several workers challenged this. One said that he had worked in the plant for 10 years, and before the union there were no raises for at least five years.

Union supporters from both the cut and the kill floor put out a new issue of *Workers Voice*. They are planning to use it reach to out to every worker in the plant and more broadly.

Rebecca Williamson is a trimmer at Dakota Premium and a member of UFCW Local 789. Róger Calero worked at Dakota Premium in 2000. Alyson Kennedy and Tom Fiske contributed to this article.

‘Militant’ summer schedule

This issue of the *Militant* is a two-week issue. The next issue, printed August 16, will also be a two-week issue. The paper will resume weekly publication with the issue printed August 30.