

‘High green, high ball’— Road is open!

FROM THE EDITOR

“As us old railroaders used to say, ‘High green, high ball,’” writes Joe Swanson from Lincoln, Nebraska, in a note to the *Militant*.

“I do not know if rail workers still use those words anymore,” Swanson says, “but I know when I first hired out over 50 years ago, I used to get a little bit of a tingling up and down my spine when I saw the high green

Door to door with the Militant Army

and knew the way ahead was clear.” That’s also how Swanson feels, he says, when he reads reports from Socialist Workers Party members and other Militant Army volunteers about “what we as a party and others have open to us right now on the line of march of the working class.”

For volunteers in that army, Swanson’s note is a guide to what’s needed to keep reaching out broadly in the working class to win 2,000 plus new readers and “re-up” subscribers to the

Continued on page 6

Afghan war: hunter-killer units used by White House

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

While talking about plans to reduce the number of regular U.S. combat forces on the ground in Afghanistan, the White House is intensifying its campaign of assassinations by hunter-killer units and remote-controlled aircraft there and in neighboring Pakistan.

A recent report issued by the Afghanistan Analysts Network provides some insight into how U.S. special forces operate.

The report, by journalist Kate Clark, details a botched “target killing” last September and explains how these operations have been expanding since last year. In these missions, spies gather information and select targets whose elimination they believe will weaken the Taliban. Hunter-killer teams then track down and assassinate the person—quite often along with others in close proximity.

In a case of mistaken identity, Zabet Amanullah made it onto the “to be killed” list. On September 2, acting as judge, jury, and executioner,

Continued on page 9

Flooded regions need massive U.S. gov’t funds

‘Millions of jobless could be put to work’



Guy and Diane Creekmore check out their flooded home in Chickasaw neighborhood, Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 18. Mississippi River at Vicksburg is expected to crest at 57.5 feet May 19, surpassing 1927 record by more than a foot. To date, a mere \$5 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds had been approved for the entire state.

BY BETSY FARLEY

METROPOLIS, Illinois—Working people in this southern Illinois town of 6,000 are struggling to recover after flooding by the Ohio River destroyed or severely damaged at least 250 homes. They have yet to receive a penny of federal aid. Further south along the Mississippi River the worst

is yet to come. With the May 14 opening of the Morganza spillway in Louisiana by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, hundreds of thousands of acres

EDITORIAL –p. 9

of farmland and thousands of homes are being flooded to relieve pressure on the levee systems of Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

The Mississippi River is expected to crest at Vicksburg, Mississippi, at 57.5 feet, a foot higher than during the 1927 flood, one of the worst in U.S.

Continued on page 9

Union officials in Connecticut submit to cuts

BY KEVIN DWIRE

BOSTON—Union officials representing Connecticut state workers agreed to \$1.6 billion in concessions, which include a two-year wage freeze and a three-year increase in the retirement age for workers who retire after 2017.

According to the *New York Times*,

Continued on page 5

Syrian toilers press rebellion despite two-month crackdown

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Thousands marched May 13 in several Syrian cities and in Kurdish areas against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, as two months of protests sparked by rebellions in other parts of the Arab world and the grinding effects of the worldwide capitalist

crisis continue. More than 850 people have been reported killed by Syrian military and police forces since mid-March, and at least 8,000 imprisoned.

The May 13 demonstrations started in Syria’s predominantly Kurdish

Continued on page 4



Militant Army volunteer Paul Mailhot, left, talks with ironworker Tim Cameron at his home in Pittsburg, California, May 8, a month after he signed up for subscription. During visit Cameron bought *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes, one of several books on special discount with a subscription, and contributed \$20 to Militant Fighting Fund.

Spring ‘Militant’ subscription campaign				
April 23–June 6 (week 3)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,000 <

Production push spurred New Zealand mine disaster

BY PATRICK BROWN

BLACKBALL, New Zealand—“The main object is to get our guys out of the mine,” said Bernie Monk at an April 30 May Day ceremony to open a memorial here to 29 miners killed and still entombed at the Pike River Coal Mine.

Monk is the spokesperson for families of the miners, who died in a series of deadly explosions starting last November 19 as the company was ratcheting up production to fill back orders for highly paid coking coal. Monk’s son Michael was one of those killed.

A number of family members were among the 90 people in attendance, along with representatives of the miners’ union, the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU). The memorial, a wooden wheel once used in mining, displays ceramic name plaques of the 29 alongside five other miners killed since 1990. It was made with collaboration from miners’ families and local potters.

Police announced April 27 that video footage in the mine taken in February shows what may be the intact body of a miner and an opened box of rescue equipment, indicating that not all may have died in the first blast.

Receivers in charge of the mine insist that conditions underground remain too gassy to allow entry to recover the bodies.

The power assumed by the New Zealand Police in the post-explosion response sits badly with many—especially their opposition to the entry into the mine by rescue teams in the

“window” immediately following the explosion. “The police have a lot to answer for,” rescue team member Dan, who works in a gold mine in Reefton near Pike River, told the *Militant* April 30. “Who gave them the power to decide when the team could go down?”

Meanwhile, an audit of New Zealand coal mines ordered after the Pike River explosions found two mines in violation of safety regulations. Another West Coast mine—Spring Creek, the country’s largest underground coal operation—has just reopened after six months’ shutdown following initial safety inspections, said Trevor Bolderson, the EPMU site convener at the mine.

Black lung disease on rise among coal miners

BY CECELIA MORIARITY

Black lung disease, or pneumoconiosis, a preventable disease, is on the rise among coal miners. This is the conclusion of a West Virginia University study that states, “Contemporary occupational dust exposures have resulted over the last decade in rapidly progressive pneumoconiosis and massive fibrosis in relatively young West Virginia coal miners, leading to important lung dysfunction and premature death.”

Since the mid-1980s more than 21,000 miners have died from black lung. Water spraying and proper ventilation can greatly diminish respirable dust levels.

Figures from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) show the spike in black lung



Militant/Ruth Gray

Families of 29 coal miners killed in disaster at Pike River, New Zealand, mine last November gather at memorial to miners, April 30. Blasts occurred during company production drive.

cases is concentrated particularly in the central Appalachian region of southern West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and western Virginia.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) issued 20 withdrawal orders and five citations to the Massey Energy-owned Randolph Mine in Boone County, West Virginia, May 3 after inspectors found major violations of federal regulations on dust levels, ventilation, and proper operation of machinery, conditions that threaten an explosion and pose the danger of workers developing black lung.

Massey is also the owner of the Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia, where 29 workers died in an explosion in April 2010, the worst U.S. mining disaster in 40 years. The disaster shone a spotlight on deteriorating safety conditions in the mines as bosses drive to maximize productivity and profits.

Several months later, under pressure from miners and black lung advocates, MSHA proposed new regulations that would cut in half the exposure limit of coal dust in mines. But the regulations have never been implemented.

Jeff Marsh, a coal miner at the Cumberland Mine in southwestern Pennsylvania, told the *Militant*, “The reason why the black lung rate is picking up is that you have fewer union mines now.”

The Cumberland Mine is organized

by United Mine Workers of America Local 2300. “We fight for safety,” Marsh said. “We tell the boss ‘You’ve got to get more air up there by the face or we’re not going up there.’ We take the steps that keep the dust down.”

Debbie Wills, who is active in the National Black Lung Association in West Virginia, told the *Militant* that miners today are being exposed to coal dust at double the rate of the 1970s and ’80s. “Twice as many cases are showing up in NIOSH’s X-ray surveillance program,” she said.

“Many miners are being forced to work 10- to 12-hour days, six to seven days a week,” Wills said. “The previous MSHA standard was based on an eight-hour day, 40-hour week when most mines were unionized.”

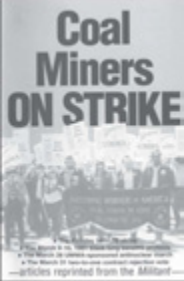
Coal Miners on Strike

By Andy Rose, Nancy Cole

Articles on the 111-day 1977–78 strike, the 1981 strike and contract rejection vote, the fight for health benefits and compensation to black lung victims, and more.

\$7

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Demonstration in defense of revolution during April 16 military parade in Havana as Communist Party congress opened.

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

FBI arrests advocate for Puerto Rican independence

BY SETH GALINSKY

FBI agents arrested Puerto Rican independence fighter Norberto González Claudio May 10 in Cayey, Puerto Rico. His arrest is the latest demonstration that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony whose sovereignty is violated daily.

The FBI claims González Claudio took part in the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford, Connecticut, which U.S. officials say was carried out by Los Macheteros (the cane cutters), a pro-independence group. The FBI brands the group as a “clandestine domestic terrorist organization.” González Claudio was ordered extradited to Connecticut.

The same day as his arrest, the U.S. Parole Board refused again to free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera. López, one of the longest held political prisoners in the world, has been in jail on frame-up charges since 1981, accused of being a terrorist.

In 1985, 200 FBI agents raided the homes of independence supporters in Puerto Rico, arresting 15 of them on charges of conspiracy in the Wells Fargo case.

Norberto’s brother Avelino, 67, was arrested in February 2008 and charged with conspiracy in connection with the robbery. Avelino, who has Parkinson’s disease, agreed to a plea agreement and is currently serving a seven-year sentence.

“As long as they continue to advocate the independence of Puerto Rico by force they will always pose a danger,” Luis Fraticelli, who is in charge of FBI operations in Puerto Rico, told Associated Press.

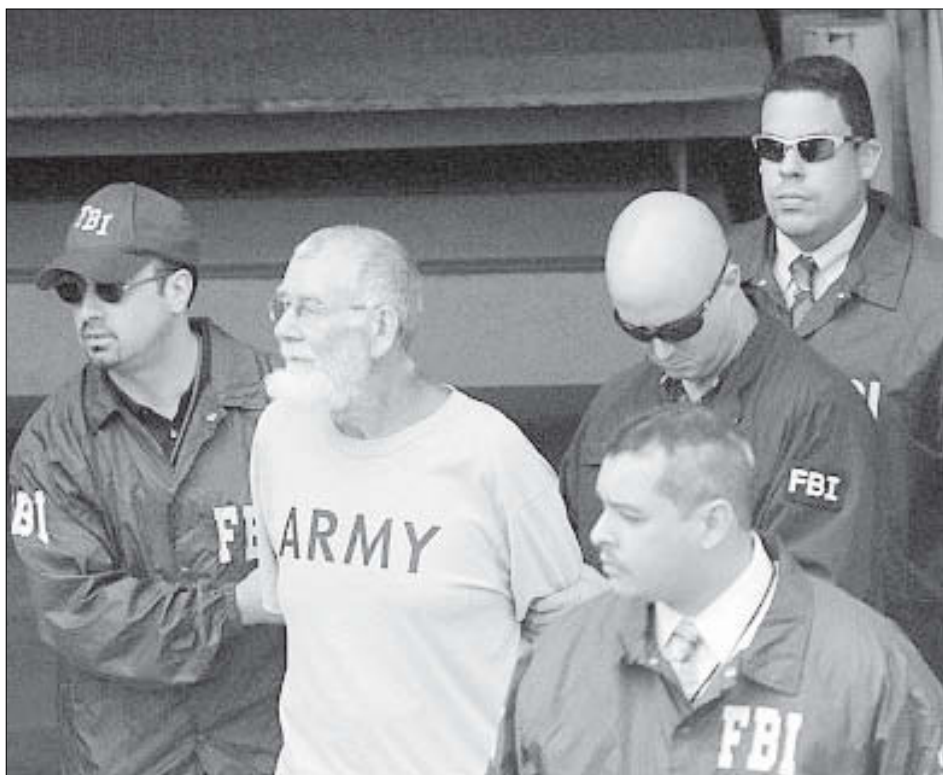
The FBI has a long history of using violence, harassment, and intimidation against independence supporters. On Sept. 23, 2005, FBI cops surrounded the home of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, a

leader of the Macheteros, who was one of the 15 arrested in 1985. He jumped bail in 1990 and went into hiding. The cops shot Ojeda, seriously wounding him. They made sure he bled to death by refusing to let anyone approach the house until the next day.

“It was an execution squad, because the FBI never intended to arrest Ojeda Ríos, but to kill him,” said Antonio Camacho, one of the Hartford 15, none of whom are currently in jail.

Hearings by the Puerto Rico Senate Judiciary Committee in 1991–92 shed light on the FBI and U.S. government “antiterrorist” operations on the island. The hearings also exposed FBI complicity with the killing of two pro-independence youth, who were lured to the Cerro Maravilla mountaintop in 1978 by an undercover cop and agent provocateur.

U.S. capitalists benefit from Puerto Rico’s colonial status. A pharmaceutical industry website lauds Puerto Rico’s “unique value” and “added



FBI agents take independence fighter Norberto González Claudio from courtroom in Puerto Rico. A judge ordered him extradited to Connecticut May 13 to face robbery charges.

tax benefits” for U.S. corporations, and its “unusual combination of cash grants, financial incentives and credits,” as well as its “low labor costs.” Sixteen of the top 20 drugs sold in the United States are manufactured

on the island.

Although Puerto Rico is a Spanish-speaking nation and less than a quarter of the population speak English fluently, U.S. courts on the island function in English.

Supreme Court strikes blow to 4th Amendment

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CHICAGO—The U.S. Supreme Court has given cops a green light to enter a private home without permission or a search warrant, if they think “evidence” is about to be destroyed. The ruling is a direct violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlaws “unreasonable searches and seizures.”

The 8-1 court decision upheld the action of police in Lexington, Kentucky, who burst into the apartment of Hollis King without a search warrant. They said they were looking for a suspect who allegedly sold drugs to an informant and then ran into King’s apartment building. The police did not see where the suspect went, but pounded on King’s door after

claiming to smell marijuana. The officers claimed they “heard” the occupants trying to get rid of evidence, announced they were coming in, and broke down the door.

King was convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to 11 years in prison. The suspect the police said they were after was not in his apartment.

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote the majority brief, said the cops had acted entirely within the law. It was King who was at fault for the unconstitutional break-in, the judge said. King could have chosen not to respond to the knocking or refused to let the officers enter without a warrant. “Occupants who choose not to stand on their constitutional rights but instead elect to

attempt to destroy evidence have only themselves to blame,” Alito said.

In a related development, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled May 12 that residents have no right to resist unlawful police entry into their homes. In a 3-2 decision, the court said a police officer can enter a home for any reason or no reason at all.

In this case police were called to investigate after a husband and wife got into an argument outside their apartment. When the police arrived the couple had gone back into the apartment and told the police they were not needed. The cops pushed their way in anyway. The husband resisted so they used a stun gun on him and arrested him.

Justice Steven David said, “We believe . . . a right to resist an unlawful police entry into a home is against public policy.” Someone arrested during such an entry can always try to get out on bail later and can protest through the courts, he reasoned.

On May 10 the Indiana Supreme Court said that police serving a warrant may enter a home without knocking if they decide it is necessary. These recent rulings add to many other moves against workers rights that serve to curb political space workers have to organize and speak out.

Chipotle workers fight firings in Washington, D.C.

BY NED MEASEL

WASHINGTON—Workers fired from Chipotle Mexican Grill in the Columbia Heights neighborhood here rallied May 5 in front of the restaurant.

Some 50 former employees and

their supporters participated in the rally and marched through the neighborhood. A petition with more than 7,000 signatures supporting the workers was delivered to restaurant managers.

Miguel Bravo worked at Chipotle

for a year and a half before he and 15 others were fired in March. He said workers were called into a back room at break time by the bosses.

They were told they were fired because the restaurant could not employ anyone without papers permitting them to work in the country. When the meeting was over, their replacements—no Latinos—were on the job.

Chipotle didn’t give the fired workers their last paycheck or pay any vacation time owed to them. No one was given an opportunity to defend their immigration status. Some had worked for the restaurant for six years.

“If we have papers or not—that’s not the issue,” Bravo said. “What we want is the money they owe us.”

As the march made its way through the busy commercial district on 14th Street, hundreds of passersby stopped to watch and take pictures. Many greeted the demonstrators with cheers and waves while a handful joined in.

“I support them” said Tonya Weaver, an African American who lives in the neighborhood. “They work hard. They deserve to be treated fairly like anyone.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Obama Says: ‘Ordinary Folks Aren’t Paying Attention,’ Communists Say Political Responsiveness in Working Class Grows. Workers React to the Cumulative Consequences of Three Years of Capitalist Crisis. A Militant Fighting Fund event. Speaker: Alyson Kennedy, participant in *Militant* reporting teams to protests by workers against government assaults throughout the Midwest. Sat., May 21. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 476 1/2 Edgewood Ave. Tel.: (404) 525-5200.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Devastation from Mississippi Floods Falls Hardest on Workers and Farmers. Fri., May 27, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5. 307 W 36th St., 10th floor. Tel.: (212) 736-2540.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Challenges of the Arab Revolution. Fri.,

May 27, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

CANADA

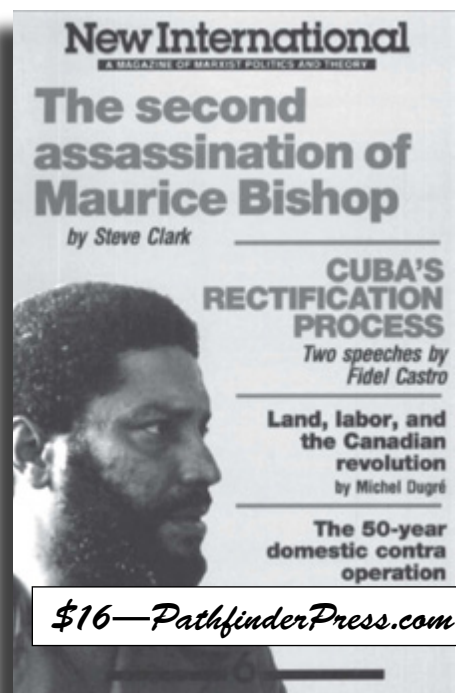
Montreal

Why Working People in North America and North Africa Are More Open to Discussing and Considering Workers Power. Speakers: John Steele, Communist League, participant in May 13 picket of locked-out workers at Roquette corn-processing plant in Keokuk, Iowa; Carole Caron, participant in international team of Pathfinder volunteers at March 31–April 3 Tahrir Square Book Fair in Cairo, Egypt. Sat., May 28, 4 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Grand Opening of Militant Labor Forum Hall in Manchester. Sat., May 28. Reception, 5 p.m.; meeting, 6 p.m. Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House. 26-28 Hilton St. Tel.: (161) 478-2496.



Workers, youth give to Militant Fighting Fund

BY DOUG NELSON

“I just renewed my subscription for six months and contributed an extra \$5 to the Militant Fighting Fund,” said Max Bontrager, a high school student in Lincoln, Nebraska. Bontrager, who works part-time as a busboy at a steak house, said he particularly liked the *Militant’s* articles on “blood-money” contributions. This is a column in which workers talk about turning over to the communist movement company “bonuses”—often linked to speedup, not reporting injuries, and signing concession union contracts—thereby taking the bosses’ bribe and using it against them and their system of exploitation.

Unlike the Militant Fighting Fund, which the *Militant* depends on to meet its operating expenses, “blood money” donations are given to the Capital Fund of the Socialist Workers Party, which helps finance the party’s long-range plans.

“The blood money contributions are inspiring and show the good spirit of workers who see the sham of charitable handouts by the bosses, who keep demanding cuts to workers’ wages and benefits,” Bontrager said.

Supporters of the *Militant* fund in Houston have just set an example to be emulated by raising their quota from \$3,000 to \$3,800—the first to do so. “We are looking to break \$4,000 before the campaign is over,” said Steve Warshell, organizer of the fund there. This brings the combined total quotas from around the world to \$117,200.

“We’ve been contacting new and long-term readers of the paper from New Orleans to the Rio Grande Valley,” Warshell said.

“I’ve been reading *El Militante* [the *Militant’s* Spanish pages] off and on

since 2006,” said Lor Castro, a warehouse worker from Houston who donated \$5 to the fund for the first time. “Even though it’s a small donation, I appreciate the big contribution the paper makes to workers who want to fight for our rights and better wages. Don’t stop putting it out!”

A teacher in Austin, Texas, who subscribed at a rally in solidarity with workers in Wisconsin, sent in \$15 in response to a letter appealing for funds.

So far, \$71,078 has been collected, still slightly behind schedule, but less so than last week. It is crucial that every area keep regular, weekly funds coming in, as the paper’s budget functions on a weekly schedule.

Fund supporters in Canada received a first-time pledge of \$25 from Diane Dicaire, a retired paralegal who lives in Montreal. “You need to translate some of the articles into French, to reach more people in Quebec,” she said, volunteering to help do so.

“I found your coverage on the bin Laden murder right on target as well as the coverage on the war in Libya. Keep up the good work,” wrote Buddy Beck, a retired oil worker from Salt Lake City, Utah, along with a \$100 check.

Steve Clark, editor of the *Militant*, spoke May 14 at a Militant Fighting Fund event in Miami titled “Obama Says, ‘Ordinary Folks Aren’t Paying

Atlanta vigil backs death-row inmate Troy Davis



Militant/Sam Manuel

ATLANTA—Some 135 people joined a vigil here May 9 at the Georgia state capitol to support death-row inmate Troy Davis. Framed-up on charges of killing a white police officer in Savannah, Georgia, in 1989, Davis’s final appeal was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court March 28, opening the door to a new execution date being set by the state of Georgia.

An international defense campaign against the unjust conviction of Davis has won broad support over the years, resulting in postponement of his execution date three times. Seven of the nine nonpolice witnesses against Davis have retracted or changed their testimonies. Davis’s family and supporters are asking the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Parole to grant him clemency.

—LISA POTASH

Attention,’ Communists Say Political Responsiveness in Working Class Grows.” With more than 30 in attendance, the successful meeting raised \$1,257.

If you are interested in helping with

the fund effort, contact a *Militant* distributor on page 8. Donations can be sent to one of those locations or directly to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Make checks payable to the *Militant*.

Rebellion in Syria presses on despite crackdown

Continued from front page

northeast. Some 3,500, mostly Kurds, marched in Amouda and 4,000 Kurds, Arabs, and Christian Assyrians in Qamishli. Kurds also protested in Deir Abasiyeh.

The majority of Syria’s population are Sunni Arabs. The Assad family comes from the Alawite minority, a branch of Shiite Islam.

Kurds are an oppressed nationality in Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. In Syria, where Kurds make up 9 percent of the population, some 300,000 of them have been denied citizenship since 1962. Most do not have the right to own land; use of the Kurdish language is restricted.

Protesters in the Kurdish rallies May 13 chanted “Syria for all its sons” and “The Syrian people are one.” For the first time 12 Kurdish political parties issued a statement on the current struggle, calling for “fundamental reform to end repression and single party rule.”

Thousands also marched in Daraa, a mostly Sunni town near the Jordanian border where the rebellion began, and in Homs and Hama. There were three protests in Damascus, the capital.

“The turnout appeared to be lower than in previous weeks,” Al Jazeera said. The news agency attributed this to the ongoing siege in a number of the most restive towns.

More demonstrations took place May 16, including in Saqba, a suburb of Damascus. In Homs 3,000 marched. In Aleppo, a large industrial city, 2,000 students rallied May 17.

Syrian information minister Adnan Mahmoud claimed May 13 that army units had withdrawn from Daraa and were pulling out of Baniyas. Assad reportedly ordered troops not to shoot demonstrators. But the National Organization for Human Rights said that at

least 34 people were killed in villages near Daraa in the last five days. Assad’s government announced May 15 it would initiate a “national dialogue.”

“The authorities say they want national dialogue and they conduct it with tanks,” a Syrian woman who had fled to neighboring Lebanon told Al Jazeera.

Hundreds of Syrians in the border town of Tell Kalakh fled into Lebanon May 14–15 as Syrian troops shelled their homes. At least 16 died. More than 5,000 have crossed into Lebanon as the crackdown has widened.

Both rising inflation and unemployment are contributing to the frustration with the regime. The government itself said the unemployment rate climbed to 12.6 percent in 2009, and some place it closer to 20 percent. Oil production, at the heart of the country’s economy, has dropped steadily since 1995. Syria, once a net wheat exporter, now has to import the grain.

When Assad took power in 2000 after the death of his father, he promised to loosen state control of the economy and encouraged private investment. Subsidies on fertilizer and fuel were slashed. The price of fertilizer shot up 100 percent to 400 percent. These moves had their biggest impact on working people, while a handful of businessmen and allies of Assad increased their wealth.

On May 15 thousands of Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese crossed into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of Nakba, the day the state of Israel was established on Palestinian land. The Israeli Army seized Golan from Syria during the 1967 war. More than 10 people were killed when Israeli soldiers opened fire on the unarmed protesters, like their counterparts in Syria have been doing at demonstrations there.

Syrian troops, who normally keep tight control of the border in order to maintain stable relations with Israel, allowed the protesters through. Damascus then condemned Tel Aviv for the shootings.

It would not be the first time Damascus has used the Palestinians as a bargaining chip to further its own ends, despite its rhetoric as a defender of the Palestinian fight for self-determination. In the 1975–76 civil war in Lebanon, Syrian troops entered the country to block a revolutionary upsurge there. They prevented Palestinians militants from defending the Tel al-Zaatar refugee camp from the Lebanese army and rightist militias, leading to hundreds of deaths.

The border incidents also served as a reminder of the role Damascus plays in helping maintain the status quo in the region. “There’s no way there will be stability in Israel” if the uprising in Syria succeeds, Syrian tycoon Rami Maklouf warned, appealing to Washington and other imperialist powers to not put too much pressure on Assad. Maklouf is one of those who has profited handsomely from Assad’s anti-working-class policies.

White House press secretary Jay Carney defended the Israeli action, saying Tel Aviv “has the right to prevent unauthorized crossing at its borders” and criticized the Syrian government’s involvement, calling it an effort to distract attention “from the harsh crackdown . . . perpetrated against its own people.”

Washington has imposed relatively light sanctions on the Syrian government. While at loggerheads with Damascus for decades, U.S. imperialism fears the consequences of the overthrow of Assad for the stability his regime has provided for capitalist order in Syria and the region.

<i>'Militant' Fighting Fund</i>			
April 2–May 30 (week 5)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Houston*	\$3,800	\$3,241	85%
San Francisco	\$14,000	\$11,297	81%
Seattle	\$8,600	\$6,126	71%
Boston	\$4,000	\$2,844	71%
Des Moines	\$3,400	\$2,110	62%
New York	\$21,000	\$12,243	58%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$4,264	55%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$3,604	51%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$4,740	47%
Miami	\$3,000	\$1,354	45%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$1,720	43%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$3,370	40%
Washington, D.C.	\$8,500	\$3,083	36%
Other		\$600	
Total U.S.	\$103,600	\$60,596	58%
Canada	\$6,400	\$5,380	84%
New Zealand	\$3,500	\$2,546	73%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$1,600	\$1,075	67%
Manchester	\$300	\$0	0%
UK Total	\$1,900	\$1,075	57%
Australia	\$1,500	\$1,213	81%
France	\$300	\$268	89%
Total	\$117,200	\$71,078	61%
Should be	\$116,000	\$72,500	63%
*Raised goal			

Picket in Keokuk, Iowa, backs locked-out workers

BY MAGGIE TROWE

KEOKUK, Iowa—Some 150 people turned out for a May 13 picket to support 237 workers locked out for more than seven months at the Roquette corn processing plant here.

Roquette locked out members of Local 48G of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union (BCTGM) in September when the workers overwhelmingly rejected a contract that included sharply reduced wages for new hires, increases in health insurance premiums, and a green light for Roquette to use “temporary workers,” denying new hires the right to be in the union. Only three workers have crossed the picket line.

The expanded picket included

workers from nearby local towns, as well as Iowa City, Dubuque, and Des Moines. Some were members of other unions, including the United Steelworkers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, United Auto Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, Communications Workers of America, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Workers reported to the union hall and were dispatched first to Roquette’s corporate offices and then to the two main plant entrances, where peaceful picketing took place. Police presence was heavy.

After the rally participants—including this reporter and several other supporters of the *Militant* from the Midwest—went to the bar at the labor center. Eight participants signed up for subscriptions to the paper at the rally and afterward.

Militant supporters also took some time to go door to door in working-class neighborhoods here and in two neighboring towns—Ft. Madison, Iowa, and Hamilton, Illinois, just across the Mississippi River. Fifteen others bought subscriptions as part of this effort, attracted to the *Militant*’s revolutionary working-class perspective.

Many workers in this industrial and agricul-



Militant/Ellen Brickley

Picket in front of Roquette plant in Keokuk, Iowa, May 13.

Pennsylvania: Health workers fight union busting



Militant/Janet Post

EAST STROUDSBURG, Pennsylvania—Some 4,000 rallied here May 14 to support workers at the Pocono Medical Center who have been fighting for a new contract and against company union-busting moves since October last year. The 500 service, maintenance, and technical workers are members of Service Employees International Union Local 1199.

Militant Army volunteers from Philadelphia and New York sold 15 subscriptions and more than 50 issues of the paper. One new subscriber, Garfield Frank, a worker at Jamaica Hospital in Queens, said he wanted to understand why the *Militant* talks about “us” as working people internationally, not only in the United States, and why working-class politics must start with the world.

—JANET POST

tural area support the grain millers’ fight. Yard signs reading, “We support BCTGM Local 48G locked out by Roquette” are common.

Several people thanked us after talking with us. “I think it’s really good what you’re doing,” an unemployed worker playing with his children said. Many agreed that there is no economic “recovery” for working people.

At the same time, the effects of the

crisis have dampened the confidence of some. “In this economy, the Roquette workers shouldn’t have rejected the company’s offer,” said a woman who works as a baker at the nearby HyVee grocery store.

The capitalist crisis is having an impact on workers in the area. Some members of the United Steelworkers who work at Keokuk Steel Castings, one of the town’s other large industries, said they were worried about their contract, which expires later this year. Rising unemployment resulting from downsizing and plant closures is evident.

One area company, Pinnacle Foods in Ft. Madison, a town of 10,000 up the river from Keokuk, is hiring, according to one of the locked-out Roquette workers now employed there. A worker was killed there in March when he got caught in a large piece of equipment.

Union officials in Connecticut submit to cuts

Continued from front page

the state sought the concessions “to help balance a budget that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy says includes pain for everyone: record tax increases, substantial program cuts and worker givebacks in health care, pension benefits and wages.”

The agreement also reportedly includes a provision that no employees will be laid off in the next four years. Malloy, a Democrat, had issued layoff notices for nearly 4,800 of the state’s 45,000 state employees, but rescinded the notices after the deal was announced.

The deal has been submitted to 15 unions and 34 bargaining units. If approved it will go to the state legislature.

“I hate to say if it’s good or bad but we stand behind it and think it’s the right thing to do in these difficult times,” said union spokesman Larry Dorman.

The union leaderships’ strategy of making concessions to avoid legislative restrictions on union rights backfired in Massachusetts. On April 14 municipal unions in Boston agreed to a deal with Mayor Thomas Menino that raised health insurance premiums and co-payments for both care and medicine.

“We really wanted to demonstrate that unions are not the problem, that we can be part of the solution,” Jennifer Springer, lead negotiator for the American Federation of State, County

and Municipal Employees told the *Boston Globe*. “I would hope that the folks at the State House will look at this and see that we don’t have to take away collective bargaining.”

The Massachusetts legislators “took a look at it” and passed a bill in the

Democratic-led House of Representatives April 26 that would limit collective bargaining and allow municipalities to set health insurance co-payments and deductibles. It must still pass the state senate and be signed by Gov. Deval Patrick to become law.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 30, 1986

On May 16 a Cleveland grand jury indicted International Brotherhood of Teamsters President Jackie Presser on two charges—embezzlement of union funds and racketeering.

The indictment of Presser on criminal charges is a transparent cover-up for a serious political attack on the Teamsters and other unions by U.S. government agencies. It follows nearly five years of secret investigations of the union by the U.S. Labor Department, the Justice Department, and the FBI.

An ominous feature of the long investigations was the use of secret police and informers to divide and intimidate Teamsters union members. It is not alleged crime in the unions that the government is after. What the investigations were pressing for is more government intervention in the unions on the side of supporting corporate attacks on wages and working conditions.



May 29, 1961

The May 16 military coup in South Korea appears to have been aimed at stopping a growing popular movement for unification with North Korea. The military junta—calling itself the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction—has decreed martial law, dissolved all trade unions, political parties, student social clubs, farmers’ and fishermen’s organizations. It has imposed a seven-day work week and is completely censoring press and radio. It has announced the arrest of over 2,000 “political suspects” and hundreds of “hoodlums.”

After 15 years of U.S. military occupation and more than \$4.5 billion in U.S. military and economic “aid,” South Korea’s economy is still in a blind alley and its per capita income a miserable \$60 a year. Seoul’s major “industries” are prostitution and black-marketing of U.S. military supplies. Unemployment is heavy and chronic.



May 30, 1936

AKRON, Ohio—With the mass arrest of 31 union workers at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. the never-ending struggle between the rubber workers and their despotic bosses is entering a new and higher plane. The arrests grew out of a 12-hour sit-down inside Goodyear’s Plant 2 during which the unionists are charged with rioting and imprisoning foremen, supervisors, and company union rats in a “bull pen” until management settled the workers’ grievances.

The mass arrests, coming when it was almost impossible to arrange bail, is everywhere recognized as a deliberate move by the company to crush the union. All Akron labor is infuriated, especially because the company deputy who recently wounded five Goodyear workers by firing into their midst, has just been acquitted in the same court in which the company will try to get convictions against union men.

‘High green, high ball’

Continued from front page

Militant in coming weeks, as workers react to growing joblessness, rising prices, and other consequences of today’s deepening capitalist crisis. More and more working people are receptive to what the *Militant* has to say about the need for a revolution to take power from the capitalist rulers, so workers can begin reorganizing social relations from top to bottom.

Just back from a stint in the Marines, Swanson got his first rail job in 1960, when he was still helping out on his family’s farm in Nebraska. Since then he has worked on the railroad in Missouri, Kansas, New Jersey, and California, as well as numerous other industrial jobs. A member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party since the early 1980s, he has been the party’s candidate for governor of Nebraska, U.S. Senator from California, and mayor of Des Moines, Iowa.

“When I worked on the rails years ago,” Swanson says, “the first crew member who spotted a green signal would call out, ‘High green, high ball,’ and other crew members shouted it too if they saw the same signal.” Whether at night, in fog, or heading into bright sunlight, calling out those words meant “everyone agreed that the track ahead was open to go.”

It’s also a good watchword for the *Militant* Army. Because experiences going door to door selling *Militant* subscriptions to workers in recent weeks is showing politically that “the track ahead is open to go.” It captures the confidence of *Militant* Army volunteers organizing and leading to make and surpass sub-

scriptions quotas in areas across the United States and beyond.

Swanson offers one of his own experiences as an example. On February 26, he reports, there were two events at the state capitol in Lincoln—“dueling rallies over labor,” as a headline in the *Omaha World-Herald* put it.

One action, sponsored by the liberal group MoveOn.org, was attended by some 250 people, including workers and union officials from the area. It was called to support public workers in Wisconsin, who were mobilizing against an assault on their unions by the state government. He continues:

“On the other side of the state capitol, there was a rally to counter the pro-union action organized by two groups that back the Wisconsin governor. At the end of the MoveOn.org rally, about 25 AFL officials and others marched over with their signs and chanted ‘union power’ in the faces of the those at the counter rally, attempting to shout them down.

“My auto was parked nearby, and I was able to talk to a few of the union supporters. I sold another paper when I explained that many participants in the counter rally were working people like us who have been impacted by the capitalist economic crisis. I urged them to have a civil discussion with people at the other rally, rather than trying to intimidate.

“They watched as I started to talk with a few participants in the counter rally, including a laid-off construction worker who bought a paper. I think that sort of solidarity surprised those I was able to talk to at both rallies.”

Get the message out—Recruit to *Militant* Army

BY PAUL MAILHOT

WASHINGTON—After explaining how high diesel prices are squeezing independent truck drivers, Jameel Rashid told supporters of the *Militant* who came to his door in Laurel, Maryland, that he was “sure your movement will grow if you get your message out to more people.” Rashid, who has regular runs in the Midwest, volunteered to spread the word about the paper to drivers and others he meets.

A number of workers buying subscriptions are also taking advantage of specials for books that help explain today’s capitalist crisis and the lessons of workers fighting for political power.

Rashid showed us his packed bookshelves and said he “loves to read.” Along with a subscription, he bought all the books available at discount prices: *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, all by Jack Barnes; and *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters.

Following are reports from *Militant* Army volunteers in other areas.



Martín Reyes, a restaurant worker and *Militant* subscriber for the past year, joined the campaign to sell subscriptions door to door in South San Jose, California. He picked the streets, mixed with working people of various nation-

alities. We sold two subscriptions in one hour, getting a sub at the first door we knocked on. Another team also sold two subscriptions.

Reyes got more and more comfortable as he saw the good response to the paper. He proposed doing it again next week. ¡Adelante!

—Carole Lesnick, San Francisco

Laura Nuñez, a high school student in the Los Angeles area, joined a *Militant* subscription team in Gardena this week. She helped win two new regular readers. “I really enjoyed it and was impressed with how comfortable people were discussing the issues the paper covers,” Nuñez said.

She said she hadn’t understood how deeply the economic crisis is affecting working people, especially unemployment. In every neighborhood we’ve visited, no matter the outward appearance of some houses, we’ve met workers being hammered by the crisis—running out of jobless benefits, facing big medical expenses, having homes foreclosed.

Discussions about what’s in the *Militant* help workers look at the bigger picture, rather than their personal situations, Nuñez said. You have to be ready to talk about all kinds of questions, she added, pointing to the example of a young guy born in Mexico who sees new immigrants as a problem.

“Would you like to go door to door again soon?” I asked Nuñez.

“Definitely,” she said.

—James Harris, Los Angeles



Militant photos: Left, Arthur Hughes

Left: Socialist Workers Party leader and rail worker Joe Swanson welcomes what *Militant* Army volunteers “have open to us right now on the line of march of the working class.” Above: Maura DeLuca of Des Moines, Iowa, introduces *Militant* to high school student Bostan Andrew while going door to door in Cedar Rapids. He subscribed.

Swanson says his “confidence and class consciousness to talk to those at the counter rally” were bolstered after he attended a public meeting in New York City in January, at which Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes emphasized the opportunity missed by socialist workers by not organizing to sell *Militant* subscriptions to working people at the “Restoring Honor” rally called by Glenn Beck and others in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 2010.

Many of those who turned out for that massive action, Barnes said, were workers, farmers, and others being hit hard by the capitalist economic and social crisis.

Swanson says he “eagerly awaits the socialist education and active workers conference in Ohio in June, where we’ll be able to assess what we’re accomplishing going door to door and what we need to do next” (see box on page 6).

* * *

Halfway through the six-week *Militant* subscription campaign, we’re ahead of schedule, with 57 percent of the international goal now sold. Going into the fourth week, *Militant* Army volunteers need to keep the pace and pick it up a bit in the United States.

Aiding this effort are four areas that increased their local quotas. Volunteers in Auckland, New Zealand, raised their goal by nearly 20 percent to 65 subscriptions, and those in London upped theirs from 80 to 90. In the United States, Miami volunteers raised their quota from 75 to 85, and in San Francisco members of the *Militant* Army increased theirs—for the second time—to 175.

Keep sending in reports on your political discussions and debates selling *Militant* subscriptions door to door. And we need photos!

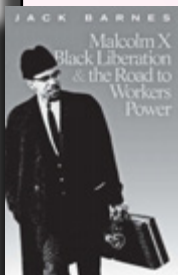
The *Militant* Army is also winning recruits! To join up, contact the center closest to you in the directory on page 8.

In solidarity,

Editor

Special offers with *Militant* subscription

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power
by Jack Barnes ~~\$20~~ **\$10 with subscription**



This book helps us understand why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom—and open the way to a world based not on exploitation, violence, and racism, but human solidarity. A socialist world.

Changing Face of U.S. Politics
Working-class politics and the unions
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A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations.

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?
by Mary-Alice Waters ~~\$7~~ **\$5 with subscription**

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning
by Jack Barnes ~~\$3~~ **\$2 with subscription**

Contact distributors on page 8—subscription rates on page 2



Pathfinder Press

How women became, and will cease being, ‘the second sex’

Final volume of ‘Woman’s Evolution’ to be published in Iran—a moment to celebrate

Below is the preface to the third and final volume of the Farsi edition of *Woman’s Evolution*, a book by Evelyn Reed. The volume is titled “The Patriarchy.” This translation into Farsi, the official language of Iran, is in the final stages of preparation by Golâzin, a publishing house in Tehran. The preface was written in April by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and Evelyn Reed’s literary executor. Waters explains that the book “provides a scientific examination of how women came to be, and will cease being, ‘the second sex.’” The first two volumes in Farsi were on sale at the 24th Tehran International Book Fair, which took place May 4–14.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

With the publication of the translation of volume III of *Woman’s Evolution*, Evelyn Reed’s groundbreaking work is now available in its entirety in Farsi. The two sections of the book previously published by Golâzin, “The Matriarchy” and “The Fratriarchy,” are joined by the third and final section, “The Patriarchy.”

First published more than thirty-five



Evelyn Reed



Reed demonstrates that class relations responsible for women’s oppression, writes Waters, “were the product of developing economic conditions and changing social needs at a turning point in the history of humanity. She shows that further cataclysmic changes in economic conditions and social needs can and will lead to these class relations being surpassed.” Left, women at Cairo rally February 1 demanding overthrow of now deposed dictator Hosni Mubarak. At right, hotel workers join Los Angeles action March 26 in defense of public workers in Wisconsin.



Right, Militant/Eric Simpson

years ago, *Woman’s Evolution* was acclaimed as a “fascinating and scholarly” study, “an impressive and absorbing reconstruction of human history,” and “a definitive work on evolutionary theory as it relates to women.” The historical perspective Reed presents, however, was no less controversial for the praise it received, and the reason is not difficult to discover.

That perspective is indispensable if women’s equality and the full creative and productive capacities inherent in the social labor of women and men alike are to be realized. She provides a scientific examination of how women came to be, and will cease being, “the second sex.”

Woman’s Evolution was the culmination of more than a quarter century of work by Reed, a lifelong socialist and well-known speaker on university campuses around the world. Three collections of her talks and essays—*Problems of Women’s Liberation*, *Cosmet-*

ics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women, and *Sexism and Science*—translated by Afshang Magsoudi, have been published by Golâzin. In each of these works, Reed sought to clarify the origins of human society and the forces that drive its progress. The thread that runs through all of them is the consistent defense of historical materialism against apologists for the existing social order and the anti-evolutionary currents that have long dominated the field of anthropology.

One of the major battle lines that has divided anthropologists for more than a century—Reed called it the Hundred-Year War—has been whether something akin to the modern bourgeois patriarchal system of marriage and family relations reaches all the way back to the animal kingdom. Or whether these social relations arose among our ancestors only in recent millennia—as agriculture and animal husbandry were developed, as the productivity of human labor increased, as a surplus of food beyond that needed for mere survival became possible. In short, as class-divided societies were born.

In *Woman’s Evolution* Reed convincingly answers these questions. The second-class status of women as a sex is not rooted in biology, let alone “human nature,” as many have argued. It was born in what was then the most economically advanced part of the world only a few thousand years ago, a micro-second in the history of the human species. It emerged not from a struggle of

men against women but in the course of bloody battles through which a handful of men established their dominion over other men—and women were reduced to a form of private property.

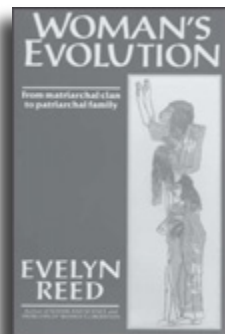
Reed’s chapters on “The Fratriarchy,” and the social conflicts that led to its violent disintegration and replacement by “The Patriarchy,” are by far her greatest contribution to understanding the origins of class-divided society and its accompanying oppression of women—two intertwined social relations we have known since the dawn of written history.

Most important, Reed demonstrates that these class relations, born in brutal conflict, were the product of developing economic conditions and changing social needs at a turning point in the history of humanity. She shows that further cataclysmic changes in economic conditions and social needs can and will lead to these class relations being surpassed.

The Farsi translation of *Woman’s Evolution* adds to a growing list of editions in languages other than the English original—from Indonesian and Turkish, to French, Spanish, and Swedish. There is every reason to believe it will not be the last.

Golâzin Publishers is to be congratulated for the initiative they have taken, with the agreement of Pathfinder Press, to make Reed’s primary works available to so important a part of the world’s population, the tens of millions of Farsi-reading peoples in Iran and beyond. It is a moment to celebrate.

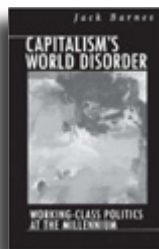
Woman’s Evolution by Evelyn Reed



By pinpointing the relatively recent factors that led to pervasive discrimination against women as a sex, Reed offers fresh insights on the struggle against women’s oppression and for the liberation of humanity. She refutes the myth that “human nature” is to blame for the wars, greed, and inequalities of class-divided societies. \$32

Capitalism’s World Disorder by Jack Barnes

The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression—all are products not of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. Yet the future can be changed by the united struggle of workers and farmers increasingly conscious of their capacity to wage revolutionary struggles for state power and to transform the world. \$25



Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women’s Liberation

What social forces have the power to end the second-class status of women? Why is defense of a woman’s right to choose abortion a pressing issue for the labor movement? This three-part series helps politically equip the generation of women and men joining battles in defense of women’s rights today. \$30 for all three parts or \$12 each part.



Problems of Women’s Liberation by Evelyn Reed

Six articles explore the social and economic roots of women’s oppression from prehistoric society to modern capitalism and point the road forward to emancipation. Reed explains why the oppression of women is a manifestation of specific property relations, not sex relations. \$15



International socialist education and active workers conference set for June 9–11

The campaign to win 2,000 or more subscribers to the *Militant* will culminate at an international socialist education and active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio, June 9–11. The Socialist Workers Party, which sponsors the event, invites participation from those engaged in activity to advance working-class interests and who want to learn more about the communist movement.

The gathering will feature discussion on world politics, the effects of the capitalist crisis on working people, and a perspective to fight. There will be talks by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, and other party leaders; panels of workers involved in reaching out with a communist perspective to working people; and classes on a variety of political questions.

Readers interested in attending are urged to contact local organizers listed in the directory on page 8.

—STEVE CLARK

www.PathfinderPress.com

Capitalism creates forces of its own destruction

Below is an excerpt from Socialism: Utopian and Scientific, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. Written in the 1870s by Frederick Engels, the cofounder, along with Karl Marx, of the modern communist workers movement, it explains how socialism was put on a scientific basis as the theoretical expression of the working-class movement in its revolutionary fight to overthrow the rule of capital and conquer state power. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY FREDERICK ENGELS

The final causes of all social changes and political revolutions are to be sought not in men's brains, not in man's better insight into eternal truth and justice, but in changes in the modes of production and exchange. They are to be sought

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

not in the *philosophy*, but in the *economics* of each particular epoch. The growing perception that existing social institutions are unreasonable and unjust, that reason has become unreason, and right wrong, is only proof that in the modes of production and exchange changes have silently taken place with which the social order, adapted to earlier economic conditions, is no longer in keeping. From this it also follows



Garment workers in Sri Lanka. "Modern industry," writes Engels, "comes into collision with the bounds within which the capitalist mode of production holds it confined. The new productive forces have already outgrown the capitalistic mode of using them." To attain socialist stage, first the "proletariat seizes political power and turns the means of production into state property," laying basis for the dissolution of class distinctions and withering away of the state.

that the means of getting rid of the incongruities that have been brought to light must also be present, in a more or less developed condition, within the changed modes of production and exchange themselves. These means are not to be invented by deduction from fundamental principles, but are to be discovered in the stubborn facts of the existing system of production.

What is, then, the position of modern socialism in this connection?

The present structure of society—this is now pretty generally conceded—is the creation of the ruling class of today, of the bourgeoisie. The mode of production peculiar to the bourgeoisie, known, since Marx, as the capitalist mode of production, was incompatible with the feudal system, with the privileges it conferred upon individuals, entire social ranks, and local corporations, as well as with the hereditary ties of subordination which constituted the framework of its social organization. The bourgeoisie broke up the feudal system and built upon its ruins the capitalist order of society, the kingdom of free competition, of personal liberty, of the equality before the law of all commodity owners, of all the rest of the capitalist blessings. Thenceforward the capitalist mode of production could develop in freedom. Since steam, machinery, and the making of machines by ma-

chinery transformed the older manufacture into modern industry, the productive forces that evolved under the guidance of the bourgeoisie developed with a rapidity and in a degree unheard of before. But just as the older manufacture, in its time, and handicraft, becoming more developed under its influence, had come into collision with the feudal trammels of the guilds, so now modern industry, in its more complete development, comes into collision with the bounds within which the capitalistic mode of production holds it confined. The new productive forces have already outgrown the capitalistic mode of using them. And this conflict between productive forces and modes of production is not a conflict engendered in the mind of man, like that between original sin and divine justice. It exists in fact, objectively, outside us, independently of the will and actions even of the men that have brought it on. Modern socialism is nothing but the reflex, in thought, of this conflict in fact; its ideal reflection in the minds, first, of the class directly suffering under it, the working class. . . .

While the capitalist mode of production more and more completely transforms the great majority of the population into proletarians, it creates the power which, under penalty of its own destruction, is forced to accom-

plish this revolution. While it forces on more and more the transformation of the vast means of production, already socialized, into state property, it shows itself the way to accomplishing this revolution. *The proletariat seizes political power and turns the means of production into state property.*

But in doing this it abolishes itself as proletariat, abolishes all class distinctions and class antagonisms, abolishes also the state as state. Society thus far, based upon class antagonisms, had need of the state. That is, of an organization of the particular class which was *pro tempore* the exploiting class, an organization for the purpose of preventing any interference from without with the existing conditions of production, and, therefore, especially, for the purpose of forcibly keeping the exploited classes in the condition of oppression corresponding with the given mode of production (slavery, serfdom, wage labor). The state was the official representative of society as a whole; the gathering of it together into a visible embodiment. But it was this only insofar as it was the state of that class which itself represented, for the time being, society as a whole: in ancient times, the state of slave-owning citizens; in the Middle Ages, the feudal lords; in our own time, the bourgeoisie. When at last it becomes the real representative of the whole of society, it renders itself unnecessary. As soon as there is no longer any social class to be held in subjection; as soon as class rule, and the individual struggle for existence based upon our present anarchy in production, with the collisions and excesses arising from these, are removed, nothing more remains to be repressed, and a special repressive force, a state, is no longer necessary. The first act by virtue of which the state really constitutes itself the representative of the whole of society—the taking possession of the means of production in the name of society—this is at the same time its last independent act as a state. State interference in social relations becomes, in one domain after another, superfluous, and then dies out of itself; the government of persons is replaced by the administration of things, and by the conduct of processes of production. The state is not "abolished." *It withers away.*

May BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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25% DISCOUNT

Socialism: Utopian and Scientific

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Modern socialism is not a doctrine, Engels explains, but a working-class movement growing out of the establishment of large-scale capitalist industry and its social consequences.

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Give federal aid to flooded areas

Facing the worst floods in nearly a century, working people in the Midwest and southern United States are largely being left to fend for themselves. As of May 16 a mere \$5 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds had been approved for the state of Mississippi, where thousands have lost their homes and many farmers are ruined.

What is needed is a massive emergency, federally funded public works program to build housing, provide medical care, reclaim the soil, and create tens of thousands of jobs in the stricken areas.

President Barack Obama has shown little interest. He didn't even bother to look out the window of Air Force One as he flew over the Mississippi River on his way to give a speech in El Paso, Texas, May 10, according to White House Press Secretary Jay Carney. Not until his May 16 visit to Memphis, Tennessee, did he go to a flood-hit area. "We're grateful for your resilience," he told residents forced to flee their homes.

In contrast to the indifference in Washington, working people are extending solidarity and helping each other through the disaster.

The devastation working people face was not inevitable—it is the product of reckless capitalist development on floodplains and the engineering of river basins to maximize profits, regardless of the consequences for the environment and workers' livelihoods.

As always, those most affected are working people—in this case farmers, fishermen, and workers

living on floodplains in poorly constructed houses or trailers unable to withstand floodwaters.

The catastrophe along the Mississippi comes on top of grinding unemployment and high prices battering working people for years now. With thousands of acres of crops under water, food prices that are already too high will rise further. Meanwhile, the big seed monopolies like Monsanto and DuPont are preparing to make a killing as many farmers will have to replant.

Science and technology, created by the labor of working people, make it possible to minimize the effects of floods. But as long as a few wealthy families hold state power, land will remain private property and housing used by working people will be built where landlords buy cheap and reap profits—often in the most precarious locations such as floodplains. Rivers will be subject to the profit drive of the shipping companies, not the needs of the toiling majority. So-called natural disasters that are largely man-made will multiply.

It will take a revolution by millions of working people—on the land and in the mines, mills, and factories—to wrest power from the capitalist class and begin to reorganize society to advance the interests of all those dispossessed by the exploiting handful that rules today. That is the road forward for workers and small producers looking for answers to the capitalist crisis we confront today.

Afghan war and hunter-killer units

Continued from front page

U.S. commandos killed him along with 10 other people in northeastern Afghanistan. They all turned out to be civilians traveling as part of an election campaign convoy supporting Amanullah's nephew as a parliamentary candidate.

Over the past year U.S. special forces have "stepped up the tempo of precise, intelligence-driven operations to capture or kill insurgent leaders," said Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, during testimony to Congress March 15. He said that every 90 days they average some 360 targeted killings or captures of Taliban leaders.

Between April 24, 2010, and April 15 of this year there have been 11,500 operations conducted by special operations forces in Afghanistan, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

'Collateral damage'

Sometimes the "collateral damage" left in the U.S. assassins' wake gets reported. In the third death of a child from such attacks in less than a week, U.S.-led forces May 16 killed a 10-year-old girl and injured four others who were outside their homes collecting firewood in eastern Kunar Province.

Two days earlier U.S. troops in a commando night raid killed a 15-year-old boy in Nangahar Province in the Hesarek District in eastern Afghanistan. In response, the following morning "an angry crowd gathered in Narra, the boy's village," reported the *New York Times*, "and more than 200 people marched with his body to the district center. Some of the men were armed and confronted the police, shouting anti-American slogans and throwing rocks at police vehicles." The cops opened fire, killing another boy, 14, and wounding at least one other person.

Two days prior to this, a 12-year-old girl, sleeping in the courtyard outside her house near Jalalabad, was killed along with her uncle, a police officer, targeted—as it turns out falsely—as a local Taliban leader.

Those not killed but captured by U.S.-led forces are arbitrarily and indefinitely locked up without even the pretense of legal "rights" afforded to inmates at the U.S. prison camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Since Obama took office, the number of prisoners U.S. forces hold in Afghanistan has nearly tripled—from 600 in 2008 to 1,700 in 2011.

Washington is also stepping up its aerial drone attacks in Pakistan, having demonstratively launched four such strikes over the 11 days since Osama bin Laden's death May 2. The latest attacks killed four

people in Pakistan's tribal agency of North Waziristan May 13, and another eight the previous day. Nearly 200 such strikes have been carried out since Barack Obama became president.

Pakistan's parliament May 14 condemned the U.S. raid that killed bin Laden as a violation of the country's sovereignty. In a resolution it warned against future attempts to repeat such a mission and called for the suspension of drone attacks, threatening to prohibit convoys of supplies traveling through Pakistan into Afghanistan.

John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met with top Pakistani officials in Islamabad May 16 to defuse tensions and reassure the Pakistani rulers of Washington's continuing commitment to provide massive military and economic aid.

Urging a reopening of debate on U.S. military strategy in Afghanistan, Kerry called for "working toward the smallest footprint necessary" but made clear he's not advocating a "unilateral, precipitous withdrawal." Kerry is an advocate of Vice President Joseph Biden's approach, arguing for fewer troops in Afghanistan but stepped-up targeted killings by special forces and drones.

The Obama administration's desires to reduce U.S. boots on the ground are frustrated by the challenge of training competent numbers of Afghan troops and police to replace U.S.-led forces in combat. Because of the large number of desertions, some 141,000 Afghan soldiers must be recruited to increase the size of the Afghan army by 56,000, writes Paul McLeary of *Defense Technology International* magazine.

In another development, Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh visited Afghanistan, announcing that New Delhi would invest an additional \$500 million in that country, bringing its total investment there to \$2 billion. Several Indian companies are currently seeking rights to invest in the large iron ore deposits in Bamian Province in central Afghanistan.

New Delhi's overtures won endorsement from Washington while rattling Islamabad, which feels threatened by the growing political and economic influence in Afghanistan of its main rival.

For its part, Washington seeks to balance and deepen its alliances with the governments of both Pakistan and India as a counterweight to the growing regional influence of Beijing, also a close ally of Islamabad. This overreaching goal of the U.S. imperialists' regional strategy necessitates a de-escalation of tensions between the rulers of India and Pakistan.

Flooded regions

Continued from front page
history.

This is not just a "natural" disaster. The tens of thousands who have lost their homes were living on floodplains because they couldn't afford to rent or buy on higher ground. Capitalist land developers built up the floodplains to rake in the profit from rents, and big shipping companies and dredgers pushed for changing the landscape of the river basin to expand ship traffic with no heed to the flood dangers that entailed. The federal government approved the projects.

Now, with tens of thousands evacuated, millions of acres of farmland flooded, and thousands unemployed, the administration of President Barack Obama has barely lifted a finger to provide relief.

Calvin Greer, an unemployed construction worker in Metropolis, said, "Millions of people are out of work, and they could be working to clean up the flood damage or to build floodwalls to prevent this kind of disaster. Instead, the state government wants to cut funding for schools and public works."

On the other side of the Ohio River from Metropolis is Paducah, Kentucky. It was barely affected by the flood. "That's because Paducah has a floodwall," explained Jack Hicks, a retired Teamster whose house narrowly escaped the rising floodwaters here. "We haven't seen anyone from FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] here yet."

Illinois officials say they are requesting federal flood aid, but don't expect any unless the damage officially totals \$16.5 million. Meanwhile, many working people have been denied insurance claims for their losses, since most insurance doesn't cover damage from floods.

"Two of my coworkers lost everything and won't get a penny," said Luckie Atkinson. Atkinson is one of 230 workers at Honeywell's uranium enrichment plant here who have been fighting a company lockout since June 2010. Atkinson joined with other locked-out workers, members of the United Steelworkers union, in sandbagging and evacuating people in Metropolis. "Everybody helped," he said, "including high school students, the basketball team, and cheerleaders."

By last week the waters had largely receded, although some low-lying parts of the town are still submerged.

On May 2 the Army Corps of Engineers blew up the Birds Point levee in Missouri to lower water levels and save the town of Cairo, Illinois. This sent a muddy torrent of water over 130,000 acres of farmland, destroying around 90 homes and the livelihoods of 200 residents, including many small farmers in the area called the "spillway."

Cairo, a working-class town of nearly 3,000—60 percent of whom are African American—had an official unemployment rate of 12 percent before the flood. Residents were evacuated for the first 11 days of May. But when they returned state police enforced an 8:00 p.m. curfew "as an excuse to harass and intimidate people especially in the projects," according to a young man who asked that his name not be used. He said he hoped the *Militant* would tell the truth about what's happening to working people in Cairo.

"People had to use their rent money just to survive during the evacuation," said Gita Martin, an unemployed worker from Cairo. Her mother, Doris Love, who is a cook at the public high school, said she has been without work for two weeks now.

This reporter along with another *Militant* volunteer sold four new subscriptions and one six-month renewal to workers in Metropolis and Cairo during the two-day reporting trip.

"If it's a working-class paper, then I definitely want it!" said a millwright in Metropolis who had worked on clean-up at the site of the former World Trade Center. He wanted to know the paper's position on the assassination of Osama Bin Laden. After listening to an explanation of how the U.S. government will use the commando raid to step up their attacks on the working class here and around the world, he decided to subscribe and buy a copy of *The Changing Face of US Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* (see ad on page 6).