

# THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 33 SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

## A weekly voice of workers' solidarity

BY MICHEL POITRAS

"The *Militant* is seen by a growing number of workers as a voice of solidarity with the fight against the lockout," writes Frank Forrestal from Minneapolis. Since American Crystal Sugar locked out its employees August 1, the working-class newsweekly has expanded its readership among sugar workers and others in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota—and is still doing so (see article on this page).

Over the Labor Day weekend, 19  
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### Protest plan to execute Troy Davis Sept. 21

AS WE GO TO PRESS, a Georgia judge has signed a death warrant for Troy Davis, an African-American framed for killing a policeman in 1989. The execution date is September 21. The parole board will hear Davis's appeal for clemency September 19.

Seven of nine nonpolice witnesses have recanted or changed their testimony, citing pressure from cops to name Davis the killer. A worldwide campaign has forced the state to stay the execution three times since 2007.

## In face of capitalist crisis, we need a fighting course to win workers power

### Vote Socialist Workers Party in Sept. 13 NY special election!

Vote for Chris Hoepfner and other Socialist Workers Party candidates in New York's special September 13 election. Hoepfner is running in the 9th Congressional District. The party's nominees for State Assembly are Harry D'Agostino, Seth Galinsky, and Rebecca Williamson in the 27th, 23rd, and 54th districts, respectively.

### EDITORIAL

The SWP candidates are the only campaign calling on working people to break from the Democrats, Republicans, and other parties of the propertied ruling families. The socialists explain the need for workers and farmers to forge a revolutionary social movement to take power from the capitalists and establish a government of the working class and other exploited producers.

Only by doing so can we end the dog-eat-dog social system whose rapacious drive for profits is responsible for high joblessness; rising prices of food and

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Chris Hoepfner, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in New York's 9th District, talks with factory worker Lloyd Wright while campaigning in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, August 9.

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK—With the special election to take place here September 13, candidates and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign are getting out the word on the working-class alternative to the Democrats and Republicans. As its candidate for Congress in the 9th District, in parts of Queens and Brooklyn, the party is running Chris Hoepfner, a worker at an electronics plant. Rebecca Williamson, Harry D'Agostino, and Seth Galinsky are the SWP candidates for State Assembly.

Williamson, running in the 54th District, went door to door with supporters in Howard Beach, Queens, September 4. They met two Verizon workers who had recently been on strike.

"Our fight is not only for workers at Verizon," said Yesenia Van Ooijen, a member of Communications Workers of America Local 1106 working in the neighborhood. She bought a *Militant* subscription and copy of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, two pieces of revolutionary literature the

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## Demonstrations in Israel spur discussion on road forward

BY SETH GALINSKY

Some 450,000 people demonstrated in Israel September 3 against the high cost of living and lack of affordable housing. It was the largest action in six weeks of protest. About 300,000 gathered in Tel Aviv, 40,000 in Haifa, and 25,000 in Jerusalem, along

with thousands in more than 20 other towns and cities.

"We refuse to continue walking with our eyes closed toward the abyss," said Daphni Leef, who helped initiate the protests, at the Tel Aviv action. Leef, threatened with eviction

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## Locked-out workers protest scab-running outfit in Minn.

BY NATALIE MORRISON

MINNETONKA, Minn.—With signs saying, "Strom—Stop Union Busting" and "We Don't Want Scabs in Our Sugar," some 60 people rallied September 1 in this Minneapolis suburb in support of locked-out sugar workers.

Protesters gathered outside Strom Engineering, which supplies scab labor to replace American Crystal Sugar employees at five sugar plants in Minnesota and North Dakota's Red River Valley. Workers displaying signs to traffic on the busy frontage road and freeway were met by honks of support.

The 1,300 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union have been locked out by American Crystal Sugar since August 1, two days after workers rejected the bosses' "final" offer by a 96 percent margin.

Participants included 15 of 19 locked-out workers from a smaller American Crystal facility in nearby Chaska. "Pretty much our whole plant turned out," said Jake Strunk, who has operated a forklift there for a year. "It

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Itai Bachar

Protest of 300,000 in Tel Aviv, Israel, September 3, against declining living standards.

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# No evacuation plan in NY for inmates during storm

BY SETH GALINSKY AND DAN FEIN

NEW YORK—"I was upset when I first saw on the Internet that Bloomberg wouldn't evacuate prisoners at Rikers," said Shakima Lipscomb. She was referring to statements by Mayor Michael Bloomberg as Hurricane Irene was approaching the city.

"How can you say you are not going to evacuate no matter what?" Lipscomb asked after visiting an inmate at the island's prison complex.

"That's crazy to have no evacuation plan," said Elisa Soto. "They are not animals, they're just like us."

The *Militant* interviewed more than 15 people visiting friends and relatives at Rikers September 3.

"We are not evacuating Rikers Island," Bloomberg had announced August 26. The next day the mayor said the island, which usually has 12,000 prisoners in 10 jails, "is higher than Zone A areas [under mandatory evacuation orders] and it's perfectly safe." Rikers is built on landfill.

SolitaryWatch.com, which broke the story, noted that the mayor's response to a reporter's question about Rikers showed "more than a hint of annoyance." The day after the storm, Sharman Stein, a deputy commissioner of the New York City Department of Corrections, told SolitaryWatch "there was a complete plan in place to ensure inmates' safety." The "plan" involved moving prisoners to different jails on the island.

"If you ask me they didn't have an evacuation plan," Mark Holloway told the *Militant*. "If it was a direct hit, what

would the plan be? I've been through the jail system myself although not at Rikers. I know how they treat prisoners."

Kisah Sperling, whose fiancé has been jailed here three months, said she didn't think prisoners had been in danger. "It's not a hotel," she said, "it's a bunch of criminals." Conditions at Rikers, which are notorious, had improved in recent years, Sperling added.

Lipscomb doesn't see much improvement. "They still feed them garbage. Baloney for dinner and just one slice at that." The *Daily News* reported in July that Rikers officials in recent years have cut out pepper packets, ice cream, and pudding, as well as reducing bread servings from four slices to two per day.

Overhearing these reporters at the Rikers bus stop, Ryah Gomez interrupted, saying, "When we come to visit, they treat us like *we're* inmates. The prison officers want respect, but they don't treat you with respect."



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Friends and relatives board bus after visiting prisoners at Rikers Island, September 3.

## Ex-mayor of Chicago named in torture suit

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO—A July 20 decision by Federal Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer has sent the current and former mayors of this city scrambling for cover.

The judge's ruling came in a suit brought by Michael Tillman, one of more than 100 men, most of them Black and Latino, who were convicted of crimes and served prison sentences based on confessions extorted from them by torture. Tillman, who served 23 years in prison for rape and murder, was freed in 2010. He has a certificate of innocence

from the Cook County circuit court.

Tillman was subjected to water boarding and other torture. He names former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley as a defendant in his suit, along with former police lieutenant Jon Burge and 14 others. Burge was convicted last year of lying about the tortures and since March has been serving a four-and-a-half-year sentence in federal prison.

Before becoming mayor, Daley was Cook County state's attorney for eight years. He has been named in prior lawsuits filed by those who say they were tortured, but judges have previously dismissed him as a defendant, citing the immunity given prosecutors. But Judge Pallmeyer ruled that Daley should remain as a defendant on counts of joining in a conspiracy to cover up torture while he was mayor.

Lawyers for the ex-mayor are pleading with the judge to reconsider her ruling.

"What Judge Pallmeyer ruled is that Daley was involved in the conspiracy to cover up the tortures committed by Jon Burge and his associates," Flint Taylor, Tillman's attorney, told the *Militant*. "That's very significant in the history of the torture cases."

The day after Pallmeyer's ruling, current Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced the city would pick up the legal tab for Daley's defense. The city has already spent more than \$40 million defending Burge and other cops.

The Campaign to End the Death Penalty responded immediately with two days of protests here August 11 and 12 outside Emanuel's office.

"Emanuel's action is nothing but an attempt to prevent Daley from incriminating himself," said Mark Clements of the CEDP. "It's similar to the Burge case. After years of allegations of police torture, what finally got Burge was lying in a deposition. That's what they're trying to avoid with Daley. Because hundreds of eyes are going to be on his testimony."

Meanwhile, on September 15 the Illinois Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the appeal of Stanley Wrice, one of the men who was tortured. Wrice is seeking a new hearing to overturn his conviction. More than 60 attorneys, led by former Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson, have filed a friend of the court brief demanding new hearings for all 15 men currently in prison on the basis of confessions extracted by torture.

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# Locked-out sugar workers

**Continued from front page** didn't take much to get us here." Jerry Lahr, president of BCTGM Local 265G in Chaska, agreed. Three locked-out workers from East Grand Forks also joined the action.

The rally was organized by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation. Other unions represented were the Minnesota AFL-CIO, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, Teamsters Local 120, IBEW Local 292, AFSCME, and the Minnesota American Federation of Teachers.

Speaking at the rally, Doug Thomsen, a member of BCTGM Local 167G and worker at the East Grand Forks plant for 35 years, thanked the Minnesota Nurses Union for donating \$10,000 and ATU Local 1005 for its donation of \$5,000. Dorothy Maki, vice president of the ATU local, said, "One union's fight is a fight for all of us. They're trying to pick us off one at a time."

It's "time to fight back," said Maki, who went to East Grand Forks a few days earlier to present the check and visit picket lines.

Although encouraged by the support at the rally, James Hammond, who loads trucks at the Chaska plant and has worked there for five years, said there isn't enough solidarity on the daily picket line. "The cops say, 'You can't make people honk to support sugar workers,'" Hammond said. "They make us turn our signs around. The security guards antagonize us and say things I can't repeat for a newspaper."

Cops are enforcing a "noise" ordinance in Chaska and plants in the Red River Valley, hoping to isolate workers and weaken local solidarity. Picketers says cops have told them they can't use air horns and to take down signs to honk for sugar workers.

But there was plenty of honking and waves of support September 2, the day after the Strom action, when more than 50 picketers rallied at the Sorlie Bridge in East Grand Forks during evening rush hour. Three Delta Airlines workers from Minneapolis were greeted by locked-out workers with open arms. The Delta workers had collected \$200 in break rooms for the American Crystal employees. Rallies are organized at the bridge by BCTGM Local 167G every Friday from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

A collection of \$15,600 from BCTGM locals in East Grand Forks and Moorhead was given this week to locked-out workers in Hillsboro and

Drayton, North Dakota, where the state government is denying workers jobless benefits. "We are fighting to get unemployment benefits," Gayln Olson, president of BCTGM Local 372G in Hillsboro, told the *Militant*. "An important hearing is taking place in Hillsboro on September 12. The solidarity from the locals in Minnesota is tremendous."

The BCTGM locals are organizing a "support ride" September 10. Locked-out workers and supporters are meeting at Jerry's Bar in Moorhead at 10 a.m. and will visit all five plants. Funds raised will be donated to the North Dakota locals.

Donations can be sent to the Sugar Beet Workers Fund, 175 Aurora Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103. Write checks to Minnesota AFL-CIO, with "BCTGM Lockout 2011" in the memo line.

*Frank Forrester contributed to this article.*



Rally on bridge in East Grand Forks, Minn., September 2 in support of workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar. Delta Airlines workers from Minneapolis joined action.

## Demonstrations in Israel spur discussion

**Continued from front page** because she could not pay her rent, set up a tent in downtown Tel Aviv July 14 and was soon joined by thousands across the country.

Itzik Shmuli, chairman of the National Union of Israeli Students, also spoke in Tel Aviv.

Protest organizers have called on the government to act to lower housing costs and increase funding for education and health care. "Everyone wants a good life, it doesn't matter if you are from the left or the right, secular or religious, Arab or Jewish," said Lilach Meir, a spokesperson for the student union, in a phone interview.

Taxi drivers demanding higher pay, workers fighting a factory closing, and dairy farmers seeking a change in government policy were among those joining the protesters or seeking their support.

Protest leaders in Tel Aviv decided against taking up what they call "political" issues, such as the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel. But many of those fighting for democratic freedoms and Palestinian rights saw the actions as an opportunity to win new allies.

"When I saw the tents, I said, 'How can they ask for social justice and not think of the 20 percent who are Arabs and native to this land?'" Rozeen Bisharat, an Arab citizen of Israel, told the *Militant*. "There are some Palestinians who say they don't want to live with Jews. But I say it's not fair that I am living in my own land and don't have a say. So I told my roommate, who is an Arab Jew, OK, let's have our own tent there."

Bisharat, a 25-year-old filmmaker, set up Tent 1948, named for the year Israel was founded through the expulsion of Palestinians from their lands. "We told people if they want more housing, education, a better life, the occupation must end. You cannot be a free people if you can't back freedom for another people."

The tent was controversial. At one point, she said, "150 people were screaming at us that we don't have a right to be here. Some said go to the West Bank, go to Gaza." Other tent city protesters welcomed their presence, Bisharat said, or at least were willing to discuss the issues. The tent stayed up.

While significant numbers of Palestinians joined the September 3 protests in Haifa and Tel Aviv and earlier demonstrations in Beersheba, others opposed participating. Few Palestinians joined the actions in Jerusalem.

"It's a middle class movement," Wehbe Badarne, of the Arab Workers Union in Israel, based in Nazareth, said in an interview. "It doesn't help the Arab people in any way or even poor Jews. They confiscate our land and then protest the high price of housing."

Thabat Abu Ras, a lecturer at Ben Gurion University and a leader of Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, participated in several of the protests. "Half of my family is in Gaza," Abu Ras told the *Militant*. "The other half, like myself, lives in Israel."

"I think the social protest movement is great for the Arab minority," he said. "If the movement succeeds it will benefit us, because we are on the lowest rung of social economic status."

There is another side to the protests, Abu Ras said. "It helps get rid of the siege mentality. There should be discussion about social conditions of Arabs as well as Jews. It's time to be equal citizens."

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**Sat., Sept. 17, Reception, 5:30 p.m.; Program, 6 p.m.**  
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# 'Workers need to stand up'

## Steelworkers in Pa. fight Armstrong's lockout

BY JANET POST

MARIETTA, Pa.—Workers at the spirited and well-organized picket line here remain steadfast in their fight for a better contract with Armstrong World Industries, a manufacturer of floors, ceilings, and cabinets.

Two hundred and sixty workers were locked out July 17 after the company's contract offer was voted down for a second time. The previous union contract expired June 1.

Armstrong wants to eliminate pensions for all new hires, freeze pensions of current employees, gut seniority rights, and raise health care premiums. This year it also eliminated health care for new retirees at its ceiling factory here, the only Armstrong-owned plant to do so.

"Workers across the country need to be willing to stand up," locked-out worker Mike McAllister told the *Militant*.

Workers at the plant here—organized by United Steelworkers Local 285, Unit 441—are picketing 24/7 in four-hour shifts.

USW contracts are set to expire October 3 at two other Armstrong plants, in Macon, Ga., and Lancaster, Pa., according to local president John Bevel. "They want to make an example of us to the

other plants," said McAllister.

The plant is an "open shop," which means each worker chooses whether to join the union and pay dues. All 260 workers are locked out, however. According to Bevel, some 40 production workers have declined to join the union. A few of them have nonetheless joined picket lines.

"The day that we were locked out they cut off our health insurance—that minute!" said Brian Wilson, who has worked in the plant for 32 years. "My whole family had doctor appointments they couldn't keep. Armstrong has been planning for this. They have all the warehouses full."

"To me the most important issues in the contract are the lowering of our pay grades and health care increases," said Wilson. "They want us to pay twice the premiums and raise co-pays from 90/10 to 70/30."

The picket line faces soybean fields and cornfields on a busy country road. Passersby frequently wave and honk, including farmers on tractors and semi-truck drivers. Members of the Airline Pilots Association and Pennsylvania state workers are among those who have stopped by the picket line in solidarity. The union's tent at the site is filled with food donations.



Militant/Glova Scott

Steelworkers locked out by Armstrong World Industries on picket line in Marietta, Pa., August 29. Company is demanding cuts to health and pension benefits and seniority rights.

On August 13, Sheldon Gregg, president of USW Local 1165-00 at the Arcelor Mittal steel plant in Coatesville, pulled up to the Armstrong picket line on his motorcycle to hand over a \$3,000 check from the union and plant-gate collections.

Also last month, Armstrong workers joined the Verizon strikers' picket line in Lancaster.

The company hired temporary workers, who, along with management, have begun production in the Marietta facility. Wilson pointed to two school buses

and company vans that had brought workers from York and Lancaster.

Production workers have a seven-day rotating shift, and can also be forced to work two 12-hour days a week. One of the concessions the company is pressing, workers explained, is more flexibility in scheduling overtime.

On the picket line, Sandi Cooper, who has worked at Armstrong for 35 years—10 years in carpeting, 16 years in flooring, and 9 years in ceilings—pointed with respect to another worker, remarking, "He has worked so hard for 30 years. The company should get down on its knees in gratitude. Instead, they treat him like this. I told my coworkers, 'I could retire but I want to stand and fight with you.'"

# Imperialists vie for access to Libyan oil profits

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As rebel forces in Libya prepared to attack strongholds still held by Moammar Gadhafi's forces, imperialist governments held a meeting in Paris September 1 to pave the way for lucrative contracts to exploit the country's vast oil and gas resources.

The "friends of Libya" conference was convened by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron, whose air forces—with essential surveillance support and munitions supplied by Washington—conducted the bulk of NATO's airstrikes against Libya after U.S. planes and missiles had knocked out Gadhafi's air defenses. Representatives of 63 countries attended.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said French companies should get special treatment. "You know this operation in Libya costs a lot," he told RTL radio. It's only "fair and logical" for the new Libyan regime to give preference "to those who helped it."

Libya has Africa's largest oil reserves. It was producing 1.6 million barrels a day prior to the civil war that began in February, when the flow slowed to a trickle. More than 90 percent of Libyan government revenues come from oil and gas production.

France's Total oil company is seeking to rapidly resume production. Italy's ENI, the largest foreign oil company in Libya, says it will reopen its natural gas pipeline to Italy in October.

NATO is maintaining its air assault on areas controlled by Gadhafi loyalists. In Paris Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made clear that mission will continue.

Clinton also called for Libya's National Transitional Council to reimprison Abdel-Baset al-Megrahi, sentenced to life in prison by a Scottish court for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. In 1999 Gadhafi—seeking better relations with the

imperialist rulers in Washington and London—turned over al-Megrahi to the British government.

In 2009 Scottish authorities released al-Megrahi, saying he had been diagnosed to die of prostate cancer within three months. A year later London's justice minister admitted having considered British oil giant BP's proposal to return al-Megrahi to Libya to curry favor with Gadhafi for a \$900 million offshore oil-and-gas exploration deal. The Labour Party minister claimed this had nothing to do with the subsequent "compassionate release."

National Transitional Council leaders have rejected extraditing al-Megrahi, who says he is innocent. "We will not hand over any Libyan citizen to the West," Mohammed al-Alagi, the council's justice minister, told BBC News.

New documents have come to light detailing collaboration by the CIA and British MI6 with the Gadhafi regime in spying on and torturing detainees. They indicate that Tripoli was one of the regimes the CIA used for so-called rendition operations, whereby "terror" suspects were sent to other countries to be tortured.

The files, found in Libya's External Security agency headquarters in Tripoli by journalists and Human Rights Watch staff, cover operations between 2002 and 2007. "The CIA reportedly sent terror suspects to Libya for interrogation, while MI6 passed details of exiled Gaddafi opponents to Tripoli," reported BBC News.

The relationship with Gadhafi's regime was so close, noted the *Wall Street Journal*, that the CIA moved to establish "a permanent presence" in Libya in 2004, according to a note by Stephen Kappes, a CIA official then working with Libya's top spy chief, Moussa Koussa.

One document details the CIA's work in a March 2004 rendition of Abdel-Hakim Belhaj, now head of the rebel's

military council in Tripoli. Belhaj, then known as Abdullah al-Sadiq, was a leader of the anti-Gadhafi Libyan Islamic Fighting Group.

The Gadhafi regime asked the CIA to capture Belhaj and send him to Libya. Two days later a CIA officer faxed Tripoli saying Belhaj and his pregnant wife would be intercepted in Malaysia and put on a British Airways flight to London with a stop in Bangkok.

Belhaj told the media he was tortured by CIA agents at a secret prison before being returned to Libya.

## Rally in Solidarity with Locked-Out Steelworkers

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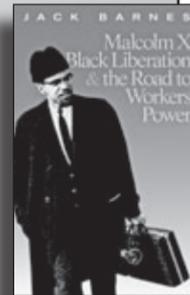
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## Illinois miners press fight for representation by UMWA

BENTON, Ill.—Three months after their union election victory, coal miners at Peabody Energy's Willow Lake mine were in court here defending their union vote from the company's legal maneuvering.

The hearing, which began August 29, will take up the company's appeal of the union election and rule on a petition by the National Labor Relations Board to order Peabody to recognize the union—United Mine Workers of America Local 5929—and negotiate a contract.

In May, 51 percent of 425 miners at Willow Lake, about 40 miles southeast of here, voted to join the UMWA. Until April the miners had been working under a four-year agreement between Big Ridge Company, a Peabody Energy subsidiary, and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers Union.

In his opening arguments NLRB attorney Patrick Myers detailed Peabody's violations of the National Labor Relations Act. These included threats of the mine's closure; the firing of Wade Waller, a well-known union activist; and the company's refusal to recognize and bargain with the union.

UMWA attorney Art Traynor pointed out that "when the miners' elected leadership decided that affiliation with the UMWA might give them a better chance to negotiate a new contract, the miners didn't oppose that decision. In fact 93 percent of them signed authorization cards to make it happen."

The company told workers that "they'd get raises if they voted against the union and they'd lose their jobs if they voted it in," said Traynor. "Management told employees they'd close the mine if they went UMWA, and then buttressed those threats with an endless barrage of videos and other propaganda."

Company attorney Timothy Garnett accused the local officers of trying to dupe miners by producing a fraudulent document, engaging in a "campaign of terror," and misrepresentation. He accused an NLRB attorney of misconduct and Waller of threatening to run over a fellow worker with a piece of mine equipment.

—John Hawkins

## Brooklyn rally backs apartment workers at Flatbush Gardens

BROOKLYN, N.Y., August 31—More than 250 people rallied at the Flatbush Gardens apartment complex today to support 70 locked-out workers who clean and maintain the 59-building facility. Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ members have been picketing here since November 29 when the company locked them out.

"Everything is looking up," is the assessment of Lucien Clarke, 46, who has worked as an electrician at Flatbush Gardens for 23 years. "Unions are supporting each other. This country was built by the working class, but the owners only want to cut, cut, cut."

Speakers included union officials from different unions, including the Communications Workers of America, one of two unions recently on strike against Verizon. A 32BJ member on strike against Dayton Park apartments in Far Rockaway, Queens, also spoke and invited protesters to their solidarity rally in September.

Flatbush Gardens workers have received solidarity from tenants and neighborhood residents.

"We are trying to organize a rent strike for two reasons," explained Cathy Tuite, an actress and member of the tenants' association. "One, to pressure the landlord to end the lock-out and agree to a fair contract and, two, to press the landlord to make needed repairs. I went through last winter with no heat or hot water. I don't want to do that again."

Participants at the rally bought 30 copies of the *Militant* and one subscription.

—Dan Fein

## Teachers in Illinois town strike over mandatory drug testing

GLASFORD, Ill.—Members of the Illini Bluffs Federation of Teachers approved a contract after an eight-day strike over a proposal for mandatory drug testing for the 58 teachers in this town of 1,104.

The strike began August 17, the first day of school. In response, the Illini Bluffs School District began interviewing for replacement teachers.

"I called the school and told them I wasn't going to send my kids across the picket line," resident Cathy Clauson told the *Militant*. "I'm a strong union person. I was raised union."

Signs saying, "We support our teachers" are on many lawns throughout the town.

On August 23 some 300 teachers and community members held a rally here to support the strike. Members of local unions took part, including the



Aga Trojnik

Rally for locked-out building workers at Flatbush Gardens in Brooklyn, N.Y., August 31.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, United Auto Workers Local 974, and Labor Council of West Central Illinois.

According to the *Peoria Journal Star*, teachers ratified a three-year contract August 28 that includes voluntary drug testing with cause and mandatory testing for teachers hired after August 15.

—Alyson Kennedy

## Foreign student interns strike at Hershey's warehouse in Pa.

PALMYRA, Pa.—Four hundred foreign students who paid thousands of dollars for a summer internship in the U.S. went out on strike August 17 at a Hershey Chocolate warehouse here.

The students—from China, Turkey, eastern Europe, Nigeria, and Ukraine—hung signs outside windows in the plant and then marched out to protest working conditions and low wages. They received support from representatives of the state AFL-CIO, SEIU, and the National Guestworker Alliance.

The interns are in the country on J-1 temporary visas for cultural and educational exchange programs ap-

proved by the U.S. State Department.

"The tipping point was when we found out about the rent," Nigerian student Godwin Egobi told the *Militant*.

The students, paid \$7.25 to \$8.35 per hour to package and load boxes of Reese's Cups and Kit-Kat bars, were charged \$400 per month to live in company housing. After rent and other internship-related fees, they took home an average \$90 per week.

As the company has brought in low-cost "intern" labor, the warehouse has been laying off hundreds of workers.

After protesting for two days in Hershey, the students sent representatives to labor rallies in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

In Philadelphia August 19 they spoke to 1,000 workers at a Verizon strike rally and organized their own rally at the Constitution Center.

"We want justice," Andre, a student from eastern Europe, told the crowd. He explained their demand is "raise wages and give jobs to local people."

The students said one way they had learned English in Hershey was coming up with the protest slogans they used in their strike.

—Osborne Hart

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 19, 1986

ALBANY, N.Y.—A milk-withholding action that began in the Northeast is spreading quickly to other parts of the United States. The milk strike began in Maine on August 31 and moved into New York and other states.

Striking dairy farmers in New York came to this city on Labor Day to explain their action to participants in a union-organized parade and picnic.

Some workers helped by passing out over 400 leaflets at the gathering. "Farmers have been told," the farmers' leaflet noted, "that wage increases raise the prices of the products they must buy. Workers have been told that prices needed by farmers will raise their food prices in the supermarket. The only beneficiaries of this division have been the big banks and corporations who profit from the labor of both."



September 18, 1961

New information confirms that the Monroe [N.C.] kidnapping charges are a frame-up and that sole responsibility for the violence in that city last month rests on the local authorities and police who encouraged and worked in collusion with the white-supremacist mob.

Instead of arresting the officials of that Ku Klux Klan-ridden city, the FBI has instituted a nationwide manhunt for Robert F. Williams, militant civil rights fighter, and one of his supporters from New York. In the Monroe jail, a New York Freedom Rider and two members of the Monroe Non-Violent Action Committee are being held on the same kidnap frame-up. Meanwhile only the city officials' version of the events in Monroe have been transmitted by the wire services to the nation's newspapers.



December 19, 1936

NEW YORK—For the past weeks a "rolling strike kitchen" has been supplying food and coffee to the striking maritime workers of New York City who keep a "midnight patrol" on the picket line. Manned and serviced by members of the Young People's Socialist League and the Socialist Party, the kitchen has been of great aid in bolstering the morale of the striking seamen. Nightly, the kitchen patrols the wind-swept waterfront from the early evening until the small hours of the morning. Its crew of "Yipsels" work voluntarily, at the cost of hours of sleep, and the food served is donated by Socialists and sympathizers.

The advent of the rolling kitchen was hailed as an example of the whole-hearted support which the seamen must receive.

TRADE UNIONS

In the epoch of imperialist decay  
by Leon Trotsky

PREFACE BY FARRELL DOBBS

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Trade Unions: their past, present and future  
by Karl Marx

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# Washington deepens ties with N. Zealand military

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—“It would be the completely wrong thing for us to consider cutting and running,” said Prime Minister John Key following the death of a New Zealand Special Air Service soldier in a battle with Taliban forces August 19. The government’s special forces unit will stay on in Afghanistan as part of the U.S.-led war there, the National Party leader said in Wellington.

The combat was the third lethal battle this year in Kabul involving New Zealand’s SAS forces. The SAS began missions in Afghanistan in 2001 under the Labour Party government of Helen Clark. This latest deployment has already been extended until March 2012, and Key does not rule out a further extension. The New Zealand government has also deployed 140 regular troops to Afghanistan’s Bamiyan Province.

New Zealand’s armed forces are also stepping up collaboration with their U.S. counterparts in the Pacific and elsewhere. Wellington’s alliance with Washington will be commemorated in 2012, when U.S. Marines will mark the stationing of U.S. troops here during the 1941-45 inter-imperialist war with Japan.

The visit will be “highly symbolic,” noted the *Dominion Post’s* political editor Tracy Watkins, since “the US and New Zealand have only recently admitted publicly that a decades-old ban on military training and exercises . . . had been lifted.”

Washington had downgraded its military relationship with New Zealand in 1984 after Wellington established a long-term ban on visits by U.S., British, and other nuclear-armed or propelled naval vessels. The following year New Zealand was formally suspended from the 1951 Anzus military pact with the United States and Australia.

These moves did not stop New Zealand’s rulers from continuing full collaboration with the Australian government and more limited ties with the U.S. and U.K. governments. New Zealand troops have joined imperialist interventions from Timor-Leste, to the Solomon Islands, to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2004 the George W. Bush administration opened the door to New Zealand participation in the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative by waiving restrictions on joint military operations. The PSI, aimed above all at Iran and North Korea, allows warships of PSI member countries to stop and board vessels on the pretext of searching for nuclear weapons technology.

A visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in November 2010 brought the rift to “a symbolic full stop,” said the *Dominion Post* editors at the time. Clinton and Key signed the Wellington Declaration formalizing closer military collaboration, including “a new focus on practical cooperation in the Pacific region.” Key exulted, “Relations have been warming since 2001 and today that was put on paper.”

In April and May of this year, the New Zealand navy’s Canterbury joined in exercises with the USS Cleveland. According to the *NZ Herald*, this was “the first real [bilateral] exercise with the United States since the Anzus rift in 1984.” The same newspaper reported August 19 that a New Zealand Air Force Hercules surveillance plane was operating in Arkansas skies in the “first joint training exercise with the US Air Force in 25 years.”

In July, a New Zealand naval captain was appointed head of a U.S.-led “anti-piracy” fleet operating in the Gulf of Aden and Somali basin region. This was “the first time that a Royal New Zealand Naval Officer has commanded a major multinational task force in recent decades,” noted an official military news release here.

Foreign Minister Murray McCully has welcomed “the increased presence of the U.S. in the Pacific region,” saying that the U.S. Coast Guard is a “stalwart and pragmatic partner” of New Zealand forces policing territorial zones around Pacific Island states.

Since China is second only to Australia among New Zealand’s trading partners, capitalist politicians here have been more cautious than their U.S. or Australian allies in publicly disapproving of Beijing’s steps to bolster its mili-



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton takes part in wreath-laying ceremony at Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, Nov. 5, 2010, in Wellington, New Zealand. During Clinton’s trip, U.S. and New Zealand governments signed military collaboration pact.

tary defense in the Pacific. But spokespeople for Wellington have expressed concern about China’s economic ties with South Pacific nations, which New Zealand’s imperialist rulers consider to be within their realm.

According to the Australia-based Lowy Institute, Chinese loans made up 32 percent of Tonga’s 2005-2009 gross domestic product and, over the same period, 16 percent of the GDP of the Cook Islands and Samoa.

## US imperialists concerned over losing clout to China in Pacific

BY MICHEL POITRAS

A Department of Defense report on “Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China 2011” puts a spotlight on Washington’s determination to meet any challenge to U.S. imperialism’s naval dominance of the Pacific, which it has held since the conclusion of World War II.

The annual Pentagon report, issued August 24, says Beijing “is on track to achieve its goal of building a modern, regionally-focused military by 2020.” China has nuclear weapons and delivery systems, the report points out, as well as a large army of 1.25 million troops.

Among Beijing’s most recent achievements, the document notes, is the first public testing in January of China’s new generation stealth jet fighter, the anticipated launching of its first aircraft carrier (which happened in July), and the development of a missile capable of attacking U.S. aircraft carriers.

At the same time, the report underlines the limits of Beijing’s military reach. Aside from “counter-piracy missions” like the one the Chinese navy has been conducting since 2009 in the Gulf of Aden, the report says, “China’s Navy has little operational experience beyond regional waters.” And it “will still take several additional years for China to achieve a minimal level of combat capacity on an aircraft carrier.”

All this is “potentially destabilizing” in the Pacific, said Michael Schiffer, deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia, at an August 24 news briefing. He was echoing a recurring complaint of the U.S. rulers, repeated in the report, about Beijing’s so-called lack of transparency. As if it’s any of Washington’s business how the sovereign government of China—a country that faced more than a century of colonial and imperialist domination until the 1949 revolution—chooses to organize its military defense.

The Pentagon report itself points out that Washington’s deployment in 1995 and 1996 of two U.S. aircraft carrier battle groups to the Taiwan Strait near China—with accompanying submarines, battleships, and more than 100 combat aircraft—“underscored to Beijing the potential challenge of U.S. military intervention and highlighted the importance of developing a modern navy.”

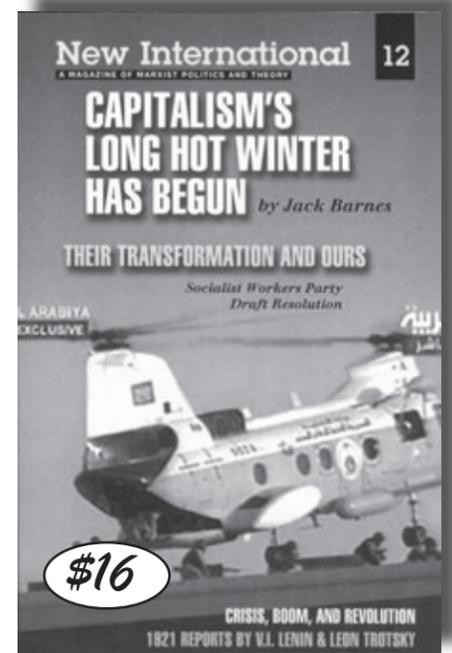
The report also explains that “approximately ninety percent of China’s imports and exports [is] transiting by sea. . . . China now imports over half of the oil it consumes, over 80 percent of which transits the Malacca Strait and South China Sea,” regional waters dominated by the U.S. Navy.

In fact the very day the Defense Department report was released the U.S. Navy was participating in a nine-nation, 530,000-strong military exercise in South Korea, across the Yellow Sea from China. The North Korean government strongly denounced this display of force as “an undisguised military threat.”



Kristopher Radder

View from USS Cleveland, flagship for Pacific Partnership 2011, May 9. Five-month-long U.S.-led exercises involved Australian, French, Japanese, and New Zealand militaries. Stops included Tonga, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Micronesia. Shown here is HMNZS Canterbury, a New Zealand naval vessel, followed by three landing craft and a French Puma helicopter leaving Vanuatu in formation. New Zealand navy took part in mission for about a month in April-May.



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# Vote Socialist Workers

Continued from front page

fuel; cuts in health care and pensions; racist bigotry and cop brutality; women's oppression; bloody wars in which young workers and farmers are sent to fight and die; and tightening government restrictions on our rights to organize and act in defense of our class interests.

The Labor Department reports that in August, for the first time since

## EDITORIAL

World War II, no jobs—*zero*—were created in net terms. The official jobless rate is 9.1 percent, and almost double that, 16.7 percent, for African-Americans. And the true figure for workers in need of full-time jobs is more than 20 percent.

To put millions to work at union-scale wages, the SWP candidates call for an immediate, government-funded jobs program building and repairing roads, bridges, railroads, and public transport; affordable housing, schools, and hospitals; and restoring the infrastructure capitalism allows to rot. In the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, Hoepfner says, a massive jobs program is urgently needed along the entire East Coast. Thousands could be restoring roads and repairing downed power lines and bridges.

Hoepfner's opponents—Democrat David Weprin and Republican Robert Turner—offer no plan to clean up the devastation or to meet capitalism's mounting jobs crisis. Their indifference to what working people face mirrors the callousness and class contempt for workers of New York Mayor Michael

Bloomberg and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who demanded those living in low-lying areas evacuate during Irene, but then shut down subways and buses well before the deadline.

Hoepfner and the other SWP candidates oppose government attacks on undocumented workers and call for legalization now to strengthen the fighting unity of the working class. They defend the right to choose abortion as necessary for women's equality.

The socialist candidates help mobilize solidarity with workers fighting employer takebacks and union busting—from striking Verizon workers continuing to fight concessions after returning to work in August, to locked-out American Crystal Sugar workers in the Upper Midwest, to wherever else working people are in struggle.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign calls for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops and a halt to U.S.-led military assaults, including drone attacks, in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, and elsewhere. It calls for an end to Washington's decades-long economic war against Cuba's socialist revolution and for freeing the Cuban Five—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, René González, and Fernando González—held in U.S. prisons for 13 years on frame-up charges.

In addition to the races in New York, SWP candidates are running for office this fall in six other cities (see below). Join them campaigning on street corners, at factory gates, and door to door in working-class neighborhoods.

Vote Socialist Workers Party in 2011.

## SWP campaign in New York

Continued from front page

socialists are using in the campaign. "It's important you're standing up," said Williamson. "Often the union officialdom makes concessions, thinking the bosses won't come back for more. But if they're able to push workers down once, they'll want to push us down even further."

Residents in the area faced flooding as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. "In the Rockaways you don't need a hurricane to get floods, just a good rain storm," said Raymond Ceballos, a building worker at Dayton Beach Park Co-Ops in Far Rockaway since 1992.

Ceballos is a member of Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, which has been on strike since

July 7 against planned layoffs and a wage freeze by the board of directors of the apartment complex. Ceballos, a union steward, said strikers offered to suspend the strike during the storm. "We wanted to help and have the experience," he said. The board's chair refused the offer.

Harry D'Agostino, SWP candidate for State Assembly in the 27th District, traveled with other campaign supporters to North Dakota and Minnesota over the Labor Day weekend to extend solidarity to locked-out American Crystal Sugar workers. "The strikers were glad to meet us and learn about struggles from other workers who've been hit hard by the bosses' offensive," said D'Agostino.

### Spanish weekly interviews socialist

HOUSTON—*Semana News*, the only Spanish-language newspaper in this city, ran a story on the campaign of Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Amanda Ulman in its September 4-10 printed issue and its September 1 online edition. "Working people need to take political power and use it in their own interests," the paper quoted Ulman as saying. Ulman works in a forklift assembly plant. The election is November 8.

—JACQUIE HENDERSON

SemanaNews.com

Amanda Ulman, candidata a la alcaldía de Houston

JUEVES, 01 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2011 10:28 JOSE LUIS CASTILLO



Militant/Frank Forrester

Lea Sherman, right, candidate for San Francisco mayor, sells *Militant* subscription to locked-out American Crystal Sugar worker in East Grand Forks, Minn., September 3.



Militant/Ruth Robinett

Osborne Hart, right, Philadelphia mayoral candidate, in coal community of Madison, W. Va.



Militant/Brian Williams

Rebecca Williamson, N.Y. State Assembly candidate, campaigns at Harlem Book Fair, July 23.

## SWP 2011 candidates

### NEW YORK (SEPTEMBER 13 SPECIAL ELECTION)

Christopher Hoepfner, US Congress, 9th District (on ballot)  
Harry D'Agostino, State Assembly, 27th District  
Seth Galinsky, State Assembly, 23rd District  
Rebecca Williamson, State Assembly, 54th District

### BOSTON

Kevin Dwire, City Council At-Large

### HOUSTON

Amanda Ulman, Mayor (on ballot)  
Jacquie Henderson, City Council At-Large, Position 1

### MIAMI

Naomi Craine, Miami City Commission, District 2

### PHILADELPHIA

Osborne Hart, Mayor

### SAN FRANCISCO

Lea Sherman, Mayor  
Carole Lesnick, District Attorney  
Gerardo Sánchez, Sheriff

### SEATTLE

John Naubert, Port of Seattle Commissioner, Position 2 (official write-in)  
Mary Martin, Seattle School Board, District 6 (official write-in)

# Police spying is 'part of capitalist democracy'

Below is an excerpt from *Workers' Rights versus the Secret Police* by Larry Seigle, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. The booklet discusses a lawsuit and campaign launched in 1973 by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance against spying and harassment by the FBI and other government agencies and officials, going back to the late 1930s as Washington prepared to enter World War II. In 1986 that fight won a federal court ruling in favor of the SWP and YSA. See *FBI on Trial: The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit against Government Spying* published by Pathfinder. Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Laura Anderson

Capitalists use police to prevent working people from fighting their class exploitation. Picture shows Jan. 25, 2011, picket in Chicago against FBI and court harassment of antiwar activists. Protest also demanded freedom for Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LARRY SEIGLE

As the U.S. capitalists got ready for war against their rivals abroad, they also prepared their offensive against the working class and against Blacks and Chicanos at home. Their aims were to silence all opponents of the war drive, to channel all motion toward a labor party back into the two capitalist parties, and to make working people accept the necessity of sacrifice. All struggles for improvements in wages and working conditions, or for an end to racial discrimination and segregation, had to be subordinated to

the needs of the imperialist war.

Because they knew there would be opposition to this course, the employers decided on a big expansion of the FBI. Before this period the FBI was not primarily a political police force. For five years or so after World War I it had assumed this function. But by the mid-twenties, after widespread protests over FBI actions and with the decline of the labor radicalization, the capitalist government decided against a federal secret police agency. They relied instead on city and state cops, who had set up "bomb squads" and "radical divisions," and who had intimate connections with the network of private detective agencies. . . .

But with the rise of the CIO and the deepgoing labor radicalization, the rulers knew that their war drive would require this whole operation to be centralized, upgraded, and brought directly under federal government control. . . .

On September 6, 1939, Roosevelt issued a public statement instructing "all police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers in the United States promptly to turn over to the nearest representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation any information obtained by them relating to espionage, counterespionage, sabotage, subversive activities and violations of the neutrality laws." The FBI established a General

Intelligence Division in Washington, hired more agents, and began expanding its political informer network. The next year, FBI field offices were instructed to recruit or place informers in each of the nation's "war plants." By 1942, 23,476 federal finks were reporting on labor and radical activities in 4,000 factories and mills. . . .

The use of secret police, informers, agents provocateurs, frame-ups, disruption efforts, and all the other things, are not incidental to capitalist rule. They are not secondary, not optional. They are permanent, basic, and essential.

This does not depend on the form of the capitalist state or the type of regime. We often say in popular explanations that the FBI uses police-state methods. This is true, of course. But the FBI methods are also the necessary methods of the political police under a bourgeois democracy. Think about this—the United States is not under fascist rule. It is not a police state. It is a bourgeois democracy. Among the most democratic of capitalist regimes anywhere in the world. Yet we have here this massive undercover repressive machine, an army of secret political police.

This undemocratic, repressive mechanism is part of the real content of capitalist democracy. That is why the workers' movement must con-

stantly fight for its rights against this mechanism, fight to uncover it and get out the truth about it. . . .

Bourgeois democracy, like the capitalist economy, is built on formal equality between workers and capitalists. You are free to be exploited and the capitalist is equally free to exploit you. You and Rockefeller have equal rights to go to the free market and sell what you possess in order to make your fortune. You each have the same right to sell the commodities you possess. You have only your labor power; Rockefeller has "his" oil, "his" coal, and a few other things that he has acquired from your unpaid labor.

The same inequality in content exists in the protection of basic rights such as free speech, free press, freedom of association, equality of opportunity, and the right to privacy. These rights are, in form, guaranteed to everyone under the Constitution.

Free elections exist—for the Democrats and Republicans; workers' parties often can't get on the ballot.

Free press is guaranteed—to the owners of the capitalist media; others can't afford the price to make their views known to tens of millions.

Freedom of association is guaranteed—but for the working class it is only to the extent that the labor movement fights for and wins the right to assemble and to organize unions and political parties.

Equality of opportunity exists—for those with money, education, and training. For Blacks and Latinos, for women, equality of opportunity is a hoax.

The right to privacy is guaranteed—to the capitalists. Their financial records, true earnings, real holdings, and speed-up plans are shielded from public examination by laws protecting business secrets and corporate records. But the workers know no privacy from the bosses and their government, who amass files on our personal lives, our jobs and incomes, our political activities, even our opinions.

Beneath the forms of freedom and equality, the reality is that under capitalism all the social, economic, and political questions are decided by a tiny minority, with total contempt and disregard for the rights and needs of the great majority.

### September BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

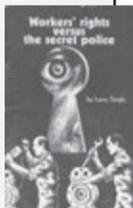
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by Larry Seigle

How, since the inception of the modern revolutionary workers movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups.

\$5. Special price: \$4



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Working-Class Politics at the Millennium

by Jack Barnes

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(The Communist Manifesto)

by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels

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# A voice of workers' solidarity

Continued from front page

Socialist Workers Party members and supporters from eight cities and towns in the Midwest and across the U.S. sold 36 subscriptions to the *Militant*—visiting picket lines, union halls, and solidarity rallies, mixing it up with working people in restaurants and bars, and knocking on doors in working-class neighborhoods.

Since the fight began in the Red River Valley August 1, some 90 subscriptions have been sold there, about 80 to sugar workers. Some new subscribers also took advantage of the *Militant's* special offer to buy books on revolutionary politics such as *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes, *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* by Mary-Alice-Waters, *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, and others (see ad on page 4).

What's happening in the Red River Valley reflects a growing interest in working-class politics, as workers and farmers face the mounting consequences of the world capitalist crisis on their living and job conditions. More and more are open to discussing the need for a fighting course against the propertied ruling families and to build a revolutionary movement to replace today's dictatorship of capital with rule by the working-class majority and its allies.

Just since mid-June, socialist workers have won nearly 900 new subscribers, some 720 in the U.S. and about 170 in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. This includes close to 200 new readers in coalfield communities and other mining areas in those countries.

Dozens of subscriptions have been bought by embattled workers at a uranium conversion plant in Metropolis, Illinois; corn-processing workers in Keokuk, Iowa; Verizon strikers along the Atlantic Coast; and others. Socialist workers have sold the paper door to door in working-class areas of big cities and small towns. They signed up subscribers among backers of a woman's right to choose during



Militant/Sara Lobman

Some 90 subscriptions have been sold in Red River Valley since lockout fight began August 1. Above, Harry D'Agostino, 19, SWP NY State Assembly candidate, talks with locked-out sugar worker Michael Hallick in East Grand Forks, Minn.

a week of protests in defense of an abortion clinic in Germantown, Maryland.

Altogether, since the beginning of 2011, some 4,150 subscriptions to the paper have been sold internationally, a marked increase over the same period in recent years.

As workers and farmers resist assaults by the capitalist rulers worldwide, as well as their bloody military adventures and wars, more and more fighters will see the need for "a socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people"—one not afraid to speak the truth and say what it means for us and our struggles.

The *Militant* will soon be launching our fall subscription campaign. Get ready!

# Why 'Caucasian' and not 'white'?

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a letter on this page, David Altman asks why the *Militant* uses the "inaccurate and unscientific" term Caucasian.

The reason has to do with politics and the class struggle, not linguistics. As Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes points out in *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, those who think being "white" or "Black" is a matter of science not politics under capitalism will "be reminded by Caucasians who are convinced they are 'white'—'God's color.'"

Thinking of yourself as "white" is a barrier to working-class consciousness and solidarity. The term "whites" is tied to the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and anti-Black discrimination and brutality.

## REPLY TO A READER

As the capitalist crisis intensifies in years ahead, class polarization and conflict will mount, putting wind in the sails of rightist groups espousing, among other things, "white power" and a "white nation." Sections of the capitalist class, to maintain their rule, will fund fascist outfits to crush workers battles and organizations. As we organize to defend ourselves, the struggle for workers power and socialism will be fought out in the streets.

The rulers' divide-and-rule strategy has time and again led to defeats of working people or prevented our struggles from going as far as we could. An example is the defeat of Radical Reconstruction, the worst setback ever suffered by U.S. workers.

When the U.S. government withdrew federal troops from states of the old slaveholding class in 1877, gangs of armed reactionaries were emboldened to step up lynchings and other assaults on toilers who were Black. Well into the 20th century, says Barnes in *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, "organizations such as the Knights of the White Camelia, the White League, the Ku Klux Klan, the White Citizens' Councils, and many others—named, unnamed, or renamed—carried out an unrelenting reign of terror against the Black population in the South."

Another example is the failure of class-collaborationist union misleaders to organize the South, a goal they trumpeted after World War II. But doing so would have required a battle against Jim Crow segregation and its chief political prop in the South, the Democratic Party, which top labor officials wouldn't do.

It is true—and extremely important—that racism has been dealt historic blows by the struggle for Black rights in the U.S. As a result of the powerful proletarian-based social movements that built the industrial unions in the 1930s and brought down Jim Crow in the 1950s and 1960s, more and more workers of all skin colors and national origins "work alongside each other in many workplaces, often doing the same jobs [and] engage in common actions and class fraternization," says Barnes.

"But the fight to combat multiple forms of segregation and racism, and to overcome national divisions in the working class—through mutual solidarity and uncompromising struggles using any means necessary—remains the single biggest task in forging the proletarian vanguard in this country."

Merriam-Webster's dictionary says Caucasian is used "especially in reference to persons of European descent having usually light skin pigmentation." For reasons of working-class consciousness and solidarity—of more interest to the *Militant* than word origins—we'll continue using Caucasian, not "white."

### Correction

The news conference by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie cited last week in, "'You're on your own,' NY mayor tells workers during storm," was August 22 not April 22. Also in that article, some 7,700 National Guard troops were deployed along the East Coast during Hurricane Irene, not New York City alone, where nearly 2,000 were on duty.

## LETTERS

### Why use 'Caucasians'?

It seems it is now official *Militant* policy to refer to white people as "Caucasians." In a cultural sense, "Caucasian" refers to peoples who inhabit the Caucasus mountains (the Georgians, Chechens, Aeris, Armenians, etc.). More precisely it describes three language families not spoken anywhere outside the Caucasus.

"Caucasian," when used to refer to the "white" or "European race," dates back to the early 19th century, when it was said humankind was divided into "Caucasoid," "Mongoloid," and "Negroid" races. Modern science has debunked this whole concept. The *Militant* doesn't use "Negroid" when referring to people of African descent or describe Chinese or Japanese people as "Mongoloid." So why use the inaccurate and unscientific term "Caucasian"?

David Altman  
by email

### From Pelican Bay

I enjoyed the coverage you gave of the California hunger strike. I felt the need to give thanks to you for the support on this issue and to give an account of the protest from one of the participants here in Pelican Bay SHU.

Many people out there perhaps never heard of the Security Housing Unit (SHU). Many would be surprised that enhanced interrogation exists here in California prisons, and it's called the SHU.

Prisoners sent to the SHU under-

stand the only way they will leave is parole, snitch, make up false intelligence on other prisoners, or die. Simply being seen speaking to a certain prisoner can be seen as gang activity and get you sent to the SHU. All visits are behind glass and on phones. You cannot make any phone calls in SHU ever, no pictures to send family. Mail and political literature are heavily censored.

We are not allowed simple art material such as blank art paper or even colored pencils or pens. These things are done to make us unable to have access to self-therapy and create an isolated existence so dreadful that we either succumb and collaborate or end up going insane from years of isolation. Most choose the latter. Many have been in SHU for decades, and unfortunately most are forgotten.

The prisoners in Pelican Bay have defied the label of "worst of the worst" that the state's propaganda produced to turn the public against us. The supposed "violent criminals" have exercised a non-violent protest.

### 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

We have shined the light on the prison system. We demand to be treated as humans. Although the hunger strike has ended, the struggle has just begun. Prisoners understand the state will not meet all the demands, and officials are still discussing what demands will be met. But prisoners understand this is a protracted struggle. The thousands who took part prove that the biggest obstacle has been overcome.

The tremendous amount of support from outside activists and revolutionaries was indescribable and injected us during our hunger strike with a jolt of peoples' power that was much needed!

I hope to see more coverage in your paper, as we need to keep attention on the SHU. As each day passes, more poor people are crammed into these tombs. Yet in these dark gulags, clenched fists are being raised in greater numbers, and these tombs are being transformed into schools for revolution!

A prisoner  
Pelican Bay, California

Editor's note—We urge you and other prisoners to keep us informed on your struggle.

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.