

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Cuban revolutionary fights  
double life sentence in US**  
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 35 OCTOBER 3, 2011

## Europe bank panic rooted in crisis of production

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Declining capitalist production, trade, and employment are at the root of today's banking crisis in Europe. The government of Greece is on the verge of default to bondholders, as rising debt levels in Ireland, Portugal, Spain, and Italy threaten to spiral out of control. Imperialist governments and financial institutions are targeting workers not only in Greece but across Europe and the world.

Last year stiff austerity measures were imposed in Greece by that country's capitalist class and its European counterparts in exchange for a \$150 billion loan by the International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank. In July European capitalist figures floated a similar size bailout with even deeper cuts.

The Greek government now projects a 5.3 percent decline in national income this year. Unemployment—already 16.3 percent even by official figures, with almost half without work for a year or

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## Legal lynching of Troy Davis is message to working class

The state of Georgia's monstrous and unconscionable execution of Troy Davis sends a message to working people. Whatever tactical differences exist among the U.S. capitalist rulers over this legal lynching, or even in some cases over the death penalty itself, they keep on using this weapon of terror against workers and farmers.

### EDITORIAL

Capital punishment remains in force by the federal government, U.S. armed forces, and 34 states, with some 700 executions since 2000 alone.

This systematic, anti-working-class carnage won't be ended by the "reason," "justice," or "good will" of the courts or Democratic and Republican party politicians who serve the class interests of the propertied ruling families. That can only be won as a by-product of powerful, millions-strong struggles by the working class and oppressed, along the

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## Sugar workers' fight wins growing support

1,300 stand strong against American Crystal



Militant/Natalie Morrison

Locked-out workers picket American Crystal Sugar in East Grand Forks, Minn., August 1.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

EAST GRAND FORKS, Minn.—Members of United Steelworkers Local 560 from Gwinner, N.D., donated \$10,000 to locked-out sugar workers in the Red River Valley September 15, giving a real boost to the fight against American Crystal Sugar and setting an example of the kind of solidarity that is needed.

Last month Local 560 donated \$5,000 at a sugar workers' rally in Moorhead. Participants at the Ne-

braska AFL-CIO state convention September 10-11 passed the hat and collected \$1,070.

About 1,300 workers at five American Crystal Sugar factories and two processing plants were locked out August 1, two days after they overwhelmingly rejected the company's

**SPREAD SOLIDARITY!**  
*Editorial —p. 9*

takeback contract. The workers are members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers International Union.

Efforts to raise funds from unions is essential, particularly since the locked-out workers in North Dakota are not eligible for unemployment benefits. "During this tough time for 1,300 workers and families, it's good to know we can count on fellow union

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## Judge denies return to Cuba for 1 of Cuban 5 after his release

BY MICHEL POITRAS

In a September 16 ruling, U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard denied a motion by René González, one of the Cuban Five, that he be allowed to return to Cuba upon his release from prison in Florida October 7. The five Cuban revolutionaries have been held behind bars in the United States since 1998 on frame-up conspiracy charges (see article on page 7).

González's 15-year sentence, handed down in 2001, required him to serve a three-year "supervised release" after leaving prison. His motion filed in February of this year is based on grounds that he has no close family in

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## Join int'l campaign to expand readership of workers' paper!



Militant/David Creed

Selling *Militant* at strike picket against Pioneer Flour Mill in San Antonio. Machine operator George González and sanitation worker Maria Martinez, center, fill out subscription blank.

BY SETH GALINSKY

"Around the country we're finding spreading working-class resistance to the mounting capitalist economic and political crisis," writes Socialist Workers Party leader Susan LaMont announcing a seven-week campaign to sell 2,200 subscriptions to the *Militant*. The drive runs from October 1 to November 20 and is an integral part of how the party is responding to these struggles.

The *Militant* encourages readers to join this international effort.

Since June communist workers and others in the U.S., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and U.K. have signed up nearly 1,000 new and renewing subscribers, continuing a trend from earlier in the year. This includes some 200 readers in coal and other mining areas, as well as about 100 locked-out sugar workers in the Red River Valley

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### Also Inside:

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# Ga. rulers kill Troy Davis despite protests, evidence

BY DOUG NELSON

On September 21 at 11:08 p.m., Troy Davis was pronounced dead. He was killed by lethal injection by the state of Georgia, as protests the world over condemned his frame-up conviction and execution.

During his 20 years on death row, the fight has become a symbol of class “justice” meted out to working people under capitalism.

Hundreds protested outside the prison the night of the execution. Participants reported a massive police presence, with dozens in riot gear.

Truck drivers passing by honked in support.

“From what I hear, a lot of people think he’s not guilty,” said Terry Thomas, a 54-year-old truck driver. “Why is the government rushing to judgment?”

“It’s so blatant they practice ‘guilty until proven innocent,’” said Cicely Keller, a 35-year-old teacher from Conyers, Ga. She and her husband Melvin Keller, a route driver, were attending their first protest. “The main purpose for me coming out is to show my daughter what goes on,” she said.

Patt Gunn said in his 30 years of activity against the death penalty, “it has been poor whites and poor Blacks” who’ve been executed.

Davis, who is Black, was convicted for the 1989 killing of a policeman in Savannah, Ga. No physical evidence linked him to the killing. Seven of nine nonpolice witnesses subsequently recanted or changed their testimony, many saying they were pressured by cops to finger Davis.

“Some detectives. . . . were telling me that I was an accessory to murder and that I would pay like Troy was going to pay if I didn’t tell them what they wanted to hear,” D.D. Collins, one of the initial witnesses, has sworn.

Timothy Smith, a 30-year-old machine operator who lives near the prison, also attended his first protest the night of the execution. He said he and a few co-workers had “been discussing about no evidence and the witnesses who recanted. I told them I was going to come.”

On September 15 Davis’s supporters turned in petitions with more than 663,000 signatures to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles calling for clemency. Some 2,500 marched in Atlanta the next day, followed by a service drawing some 3,000 people at the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The parole board heard Davis’s clemency appeal September 19. Brenda Forrest, a juror who voted to find him guilty, told the board she wouldn’t have convicted Davis if she had known what she knows today. Two other jurors submitted affidavits to the board for clemency. The board denied clemency the next day.

Davis’s request to take a polygraph test on the day of his execution was rejected by Georgia authorities.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People petitioned the Justice Department to stop the execution to consider civil rights violations involved in the case.

NAACP President Benjamin Jealous said he tried to contact President Barack Obama to ask him to intervene. White



Militant/Maceo Dixon

**Demonstration of 2,500 in Atlanta September 16 demanded halt to execution of Troy Davis in face of blatant evidence that police coerced witnesses to frame him for murder.**

House Press Secretary Jay Carney issued a statement September 21 saying it was inappropriate for Obama to “weigh in on specific cases like this one, which is a state prosecution.”

Initially set for 7 p.m., the execution was delayed while the U.S. Supreme Court considered a plea by Davis’s attorney. In that 11th-hour filing, Davis’s attorneys said Georgia courts had made “substantial constitutional errors” by dismissing new evidence “that false, misleading and materially inaccurate information” was presented at his trial.

Shortly after 10 p.m. the Supreme Court justices issued a one-sentence rejection of a stay of execution.

According to an AP reporter who witnessed the execution, in his final moments Davis said: “I’d like to address the MacPhail family. Let you know, despite the situation you are in, I’m not the one who personally killed your son, your father, your brother. I am innocent.

“The incident that happened that night is not my fault. I did not have a gun. All I can ask . . . is that you look deeper into this case so that you really can finally see the truth.

“I ask my friends and family to continue to fight this fight.”

*Lisa Potash and Rachele Fruit contributed to this article from Georgia.*



Militant/Rachele Fruit

**Outside prison in Jackson, Ga., September 21, hours before execution of Troy Davis.**

# THE MILITANT

*Standing up for women’s right to abortion*

*The ‘Militant’ explains why defending women’s right to choose abortion and the fight for the emancipation of women are key questions for the entire working class and for building unions that are capable of taking on the bosses.*

Militant/Ellen Brickley

September 7 rally, Topeka, Kansas, opposing new restrictions on abortion rights.

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# American Crystal lockout

Continued from front page

members to help,” said John Risky, president of BCTGM Local 167G, in a September 15 union press release.

With the new donation from Steelworkers, the hardship committee has now raised \$41,000,” Barb Willison of Local 372 in Hillsboro told the *Militant*. The committee helps workers who have sick family members and financial problems.

Since the lockout began, the sugar monopoly has brought in some 1,000 replacement workers. Safety has been a major issue.

Another fire broke out September 15, this time at the Moorhead plant. Last week the *Militant* reported on three earlier fires at plants in Crookston, Drayton, and East Grand Forks. The Moorhead fire started on the roof of the plant’s pulp-drying unit.

TV station KVLV in Moorhead reported September 13 that two replacement workers quit their jobs over unsafe conditions. Both say their concerns were ignored by bosses.

“There are so many safety violations, and that plant, the whole plant, should be condemned,” James Rueter, who quit his job at the Drayton plant, told KVLV.

“I’ve never felt this unnerved going to work not knowing whether I’m going home on the bus or in a body bag,” said Michael Wynne, a former replacement worker at the plant in Crookston.

The media has seized on something that happened a few weeks ago at the Hillsboro plant to smear locked-out workers as racist and weaken support for the fight. A worker put a monkey on a noose on the inflatable rat at the picket line. Most replacement workers and company security guards are Black.

Union representative Mark Froemke told the *Grand Forks Herald* that the union “will not put up with any kind of racism. . . . The union has emphasized to its members that these transient workers come in all colors. It is beneath the dignity of you as a person to use the racist card.”

The *Hillsboro Banner* quoted Gay-In Olson, president of the Hillsboro local: “‘Dan Dumas (fellow locked-out worker) put up the monkey,’ Olsen explained. ‘He said he heard a board member and a grower refer to locked-

out workers as a bunch of monkeys.’”

Talking to workers on the picket lines, most were upset about what happened. “We have to think about our history in this country. We know the monkey and noose are symbols of racism,” Kari Sorenson, from Moorhead, told the *Militant*.

Few Blacks live in the area and none work at the Moorhead plant, she said. “At the same time, there is not a lot of racism. I blame the company for bringing in replacement workers who are Black to try to divide us. We won’t play that game.”

While solidarity in the labor movement continues to build, two union contractors—Wrigley Mechanical from Fargo, N.D., and Comeau Electric in Grand Forks, N.D.—have crossed the picket line at the East Grand Forks plant, according to Mel Morris, a locked-out worker there.

On September 16, the second protest in two weeks was held in front of Strom Engineering, the scab herding company providing replacement workers. More than 60 unionists and supporters turned out, including many from the locked-out plant in Chaska, and a large delegation from Local 563 of the Laborer’s International Union of North America.

About a dozen union supporters passed out flyers at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Vikings football games over the September 10-11 weekend explaining the company’s refusal to bargain with the union.

In another sign of growing solidarity, Doug Peterson, president of the Minnesota Farmers Union, wrote a letter September 6 urging American Crystal CEO Dave Berg “to return to the bar-

## ‘We won’t go away’ say NY Boathouse strikers



Militant/Paul Mailhot

NEW YORK, September 17—Since August 9, some 60 cooks, waiters, banquet servers, dishwashers, and other staff have been picketing the Boathouse Restaurant in Central Park in Manhattan demanding higher wages, better working conditions, respect from management, and a union contract.

Boathouse Restaurant owner Dean Poll recently announced he is willing to recognize Hotel Trades Council Local 6 as the workers’ union and rehire at least 18 union supporters, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. But the company has not agreed to a contract with the workers.

Second from left is striker Alex Medina, who worked in banquets for seven years. “The boss said he would never negotiate with us, but now he is negotiating. So that’s progress, but we won’t go away,” she said.

—PAUL MAILHOT

gaining table and negotiate a contract.”

“They want us to fold and take their offer,” said Brad Olson, a sugar loader for 15 years, while picketing in front of the Hillsboro plant. “But we’re rock solid, there’s no bickering in the

troops about what we want.”

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.

## Chicago forum discusses Midwest workers’ struggles

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO—Three union fighters involved in recent labor struggles spoke on a panel at a September 17 special Militant Labor Forum here titled “Workers Resist in the Midwest.” Steven Lech and Luckie Atkinson, two workers locked-out by Honeywell in Metropolis, Illinois, for 13 months, joined Buddy Howard, who was part of a 10-month lockout fight against Roquette America, a corn processor in Keokuk, Iowa.

Also on the panel was Alyson Ken-

nedy, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party who was part of a 2003-2006 union struggle against C.W. Mining near Huntington, Utah.

Some 230 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-669 were locked out at Honeywell’s uranium plant in Metropolis, Illinois, in June 2010 after rejecting the bosses’ union-busting “last, best, and final offer.” Three months later in September 240 members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 48G were locked out by Roquette America after rejecting a similar union-busting contract proposal.

“We knew what we were going to be up against as much as a year earlier,” said Lech to the 30 workers in attendance. “So we started to prepare.

“Of all its facilities I suppose Honeywell picked Metropolis to go after because they thought we were a bunch of ignorant hillbillies from Kentucky and southern Illinois,” said Lech, describing how the locked-out workers proved the company wrong.

“The contract we ratified was not the old one we had. But it was not Honeywell’s last, best, and final offer either,” he said. “I don’t want to say we won, but we kept our dignity. And we will continue to fight them as we go back in.”

“We’re a different group than when we went out,” Howard told the forum audience. “What many workers experienced during the lockout has changed them forever.”

Howard said unionists have to be prepared and learn from the experiences of other fighters. “The other thing we need is to always have the big picture in

mind. And that’s where the *Militant* really helped us out,” he said.

“Some people asked me, ‘Luckie, why don’t you just get another job,’” Atkinson said. “I told them, I might just do that, but not now. I don’t quit in the middle of a fight.”

Atkinson recounted the successful efforts of USW Local 7-669 to reach out for support across the country and internationally. He described his trip to Los Angeles organized by groups involved in the fight against Arizona’s draconian anti-immigrant law.

Kennedy pointed to the growing number of workers’ struggles in the United States. “In almost every case where workers have decided to fight back we’ve come out stronger, ready to keep fighting, and ready to fight alongside others,” she said. Kennedy urged all present to extend solidarity to locked-out workers at American Crystal Sugar plants in the Upper Midwest.

## Broadening out solidarity for sugar workers

*The following is a letter from Joe Swanson, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party living in Lincoln, Nebraska, on work he and Max Bontrager, an 18-year-old restaurant worker, have been doing to spread solidarity to 1,300 workers fighting a lockout by American Crystal Sugar in the Upper Midwest.*

On September 8, at the executive board monthly meeting of the Lincoln Central Labor Union, Max and I gave a presentation on the lockout by the American Crystal bosses of 1,300 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union in Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

We were invited to speak by a member of the executive board, a retired sheet metal worker, after contacting him the day before.

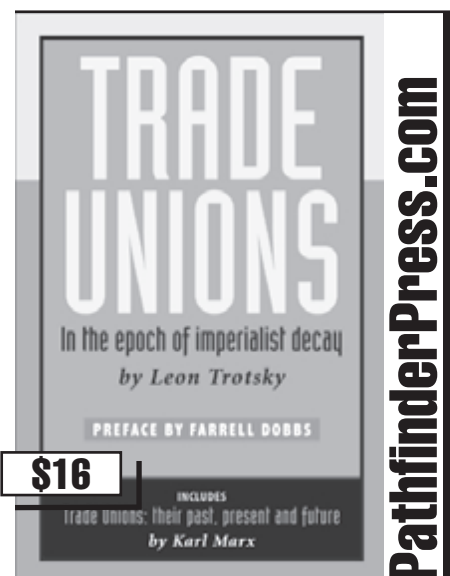
We received a supportive response among participants in the meeting who

hadn’t yet heard of the lockout. During the discussion, we learned that members of the LCLU would be attending the Nebraska AFL-CIO state convention over the weekend. They thanked us for bringing the lockout to their attention and said they would see what could be done to support to the sugar workers.

After a follow-up phone call a day after the state convention, we found out that the convention passed a hat, raising \$1,070 and sent a message of solidarity.

Today, I talked to the same e-board member about broadening out the solidarity. He said he would talk to the other brothers and sisters about using the LCLU hall as a drop-off place for contributions and see whether they could organize a solidarity caravan to the picket lines. Also today, Max talked to one of his former teachers, a member of the teachers union, who is interested in visiting the picket lines.

In Solidarity,  
Joe Swanson





# Eva Chertov: 50 years in the fight for socialism

BY ARTHUR HUGHES

NEW YORK—A meeting was held here September 11 to celebrate the life and political contributions of Eva Chertov, a member and supporter of the Socialist Workers Party for more than 50 years. Chertov died August 7 at 69 after a yearlong fight with brain cancer. The meeting was organized by party supporters in the New York area, with collaboration from the party branch here.

Among the more than 100 people at the event in midtown Manhattan were those who had worked with Chertov for decades, as well as others who had never met her but wanted to learn about the activity of the party she had made a lifelong commitment to. Present were her sister Judi Chertov and brother-in-law Steve Halpern; friends who shared her interest in the arts and the Bronx Botanical Gardens; and workers from the Jewish Home in the Bronx who had assisted her during the final months of her life. Participants included a number from her hometown of Philadelphia, and from Boston and Montreal.

## Timeline of political activity

A display of photos, *Militant* and *Young Socialist* articles, and a timeline gave participants a feel for the expanse of working-class political activity that Chertov, as well as her mother, father, and sister, had been immersed in. As a teenager in Philadelphia she took part in

the struggle to end Jim Crow segregation. In April 1960 she participated in the founding conference of the Young Socialist Alliance, which opened on her 18th birthday.

Chertov was active in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in the early 1960s. She was involved in the movement against the Vietnam War; in actions demanding legalization of a woman's right to choose abortion and adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment; as an SWP candidate for Congress; in the fight against racist opponents of bilingual education and community control of schools in Latino communities in New York; and in the party's communist political work in the industrial unions.

Since the late 1980s, Chertov had been a supporter of the SWP. She was a volunteer translator and proofreader in the Pathfinder Print Project, which helps the party keep the revolutionary continuity of hard-fought working-class struggles available in books and pamphlets for use by new generations of fighters.

The meeting was chaired by Lanie Fleischer and Gale Shangold, who recounted some of the experiences they shared with Chertov as party members and then supporters. Fleischer, who opened the meeting, said that as a new party contact in 1972, she had worked with Chertov in the fight for abortion rights in New York City. They had been friends and collaborators ever since.



Militant/Ruth Robinett

September 11 celebration of Eva Chertov's life. Inset: Chertov as Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in New York, 1970. SWP runs for office, Jack Barnes told meeting, "to involve other workers along with us in fights that point a way forward for our class."



Shangold read parts from some of the more than 20 messages to the meeting. These included a letter from Tony Thomas, who met Chertov in the late 1960s. "Eva was a communist who believed in communism, the Socialist Workers Party, the Cuban and world revolutions, and that was it," said Thomas. "Whether as a member or supporter or whatever, she was always firm, always fighting, and never quibbling. Because of Eva there will be more like her, more and more until we get rid of capitalism."

Another message was from Mi-

chel Prairie, a leader of the communist movement and French-language editor of Pathfinder books. He said that Chertov, who had taught in public schools in the Bronx since the early 1990s, had told him a few years ago "how eager she was to retire from teaching—how education under capitalism is an institution that destroys the worth of both students and teachers. Eva had a deep and firsthand understanding," Prairie wrote, "that there won't be any education for working people as long as our class—the real bearer of culture and progress—had not taken power out of the hand of our exploiters."

Party supporters who organized the meeting prepared a fund appeal to support the work of the SWP. Some \$4,000 was raised.

## Learning proletarian norms

Vivian Sahrer spoke about experiences she shared with Chertov in Atlanta in the early 1970s. Sahrer, now a party supporter and Print Project member in New York, described lessons she

Continued on page 6

# Campaign to win more 'Militant' readers

Continued from front page of North Dakota and Minnesota.

"This weekend we sold another six subscriptions to locked-out workers in the valley," Frank Forrestal reports. "One to a Chicano worker in Hillsboro, N.D.; three at the plant in East Grand Forks, Minn.; one on the picket line in Drayton, N.D."

Those visiting the picket lines can bring that experience to bear in help-

ing to build solidarity among workers and in the unions when they get home. The *Militant* is a unique tool to win others to back this and other struggles.

"I'd recommend the *Militant* to anyone looking for fair and equal treatment, trying to keep a union in good standing, or organizing labor to stand up and fight for our rights," said subscriber Brian Wilson, a locked-out

Armstrong worker and member of United Steelworkers Local 285/441 in Marietta, Pennsylvania. Armstrong World Industries, a floor and ceiling manufacturer, locked out some 260 workers July 17. Six have bought *Militant* subscriptions since then.

The past two weeks 12 people in Longview, Wash., have become subscribers. Workers there are standing up to EGT Development Corp., which won't honor an agreement with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union at its new terminal at the port. Eight copies of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs have been sold.

"The future is labor and the working class," said ILWU Local 21 member Jason Lundquist. "Citizens have to have history and a labor voice to be strong." He bought a subscription and all four volumes of the Teamster series by Dobbs.

Six participants at the Coalition of Labor Union Women convention in Orlando, Fla., got subscriptions September 7-10. Ten were sold at the Brooklyn Book Fair in New York.

In her letter to SWP branches, LaMont said the drive in New York will be part of "redeeming the national party effort to get on the ballot in the Ninth Congressional District" by organizing "a special effort in Queens and Brooklyn." More than 7,000 signatures were collected to put SWP candidate Chris Hoepfner on the ballot for the special September 13 election there.

Republican Robert Turner defeated Democrat David Weprin in that district, which had been represented by Democrats since 1922.

Those results have been portrayed

Continued on page 7

## Special offers with Militant subscription

### Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs ~~\$19~~ \$10 with subscription

The story of the strikes and union organizing drive the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, paving the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a fighting social movement.

### 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.

### The Changing Face of U.S. Politics Working-Class Politics and the Unions

by Jack Barnes ~~\$24~~ \$10 with subscription

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.

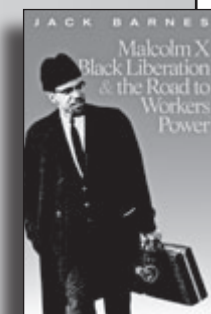
### Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

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



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## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

The Impending 'Supervised Release' of René González: Next Stage in the Battle to Free the Cuban Five! Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 4025 S Western Ave. Tel.: (323) 295-2600.

#### San Francisco

Defend the Cuban Five! Speaker: Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for San Francisco sheriff. Fri., Sept. 30. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

For an Immediate, Massive Federal Jobs Plan to Put Millions to Work. Speaker: John Naubert, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Seattle port commissioner. Fri., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5418 Rainier Ave. S Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### London

Free the Cuban Five! Speaker: Alex Xezonakis, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Donation: £3. First floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (entrance in Brick Lane). Tel.: (020) 7613 2466.



## ON THE PICKET LINE

### ***ILWU workers in Wash. protest cop harassment and arrests***

LONGVIEW, Wash.—“Union members have been followed by police and pulled out of their cars,” International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 President Dan Coffman told the *Militant*. “They have been arrested at their homes at night at gunpoint, in front of their children.”

Arrests and harassment of members of the ILWU have stepped up in the wake of protests against a union-busting operation at the EGT Grain Terminal. EGT has refused to hire ILWU workers in violation of an agreement between the union and the Port of Longview. The company has instead hired members of Operating Engineers Local 701 through a subcontractor.

Twenty-six union members have been arrested for misdemeanor criminal trespass. The charges stem from a protest September 7 when unionists blocked a train from entering the EGT grain terminal here for four hours and held a follow-up protest the next day.

One union member, Ronald Stavas, was arrested on suspicion of four felony charges—burglary, assault, intimidating a witness, and sabotage—during the September 8 port protest. Charlie Cadwell, a security guard who works for Columbia Security at EGT, told a judge September 15 that Stavas was at the port protest but Cadwell at no time was concerned for his personal safety and understood that protesters were not targeting security guards.

Some 200 union members presented themselves to the county sheriff’s office September 16. “We asked the sheriff to go ahead and arrest us right then if we were on his list and to halt the late night home arrests being carried out,” Coffman said. “The sheriff’s office did not respond so we went home. Yet later that day our local vice president, Jacob Whiteside, was arrested in front of his children in a church parking lot. He was later released on bail.”

—Mary Martin

### ***Postal workers in Iowa rally against cuts in services, jobs***

DES MOINES, Iowa—More than 100 people attended a rally and informational picket line at the main post office here September 17 to protest plans to close more than 4,400 post offices nationwide, eliminate Saturday delivery, lay off 120,000 postal workers, consolidate processing centers, cut workers’ benefits, and attack unions’ collective bargaining rights. The American Postal Workers Union sponsored the action.

“People are being deceived that we need to go to five-day service,” Marvella Holland, a 32-year veteran mail carrier, told the *Militant*. “And the only way we can fight this is to educate people.” Postal authorities “are using the current [economic] situation” to justify their attacks, she added.

“Rural closings are devastating for the towns,” said Ken Sagar, president of the Iowa AFL-CIO and a speaker at the rally. Donny Hobbs, mayor of Lohrville, population 356, told the rally that if they close that town’s post office it will be a half-hour round trip drive to the nearest one.

Larry Ginter, a retired farmer whose post office in Rhodes, Iowa, is slated for closure, spoke for Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement. “In wintertime that’s going to be one hell of a

hardship,” he said.

The four unions representing the postal workers—APWU, National Association of Letter Carriers, National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association—are hosting rallies in every congressional district September 27 to oppose these attacks. For more information go to [www.saveamericas-postalservice.org](http://www.saveamericas-postalservice.org).

—Willie Cotton

### ***Tacoma teachers strike against union busting***

TACOMA, Wash.—Nearly 2,000 striking members of the Tacoma Education Association and supporters were cheered on by hundreds of students September 16 at the school board building here. Some 93 percent of 1,900 teachers, members of the TEA, voted to defy a back-to-work injunction.

The strike started September 13, delaying the opening of school for nearly 28,000 students after agreement on a new contract was not reached.

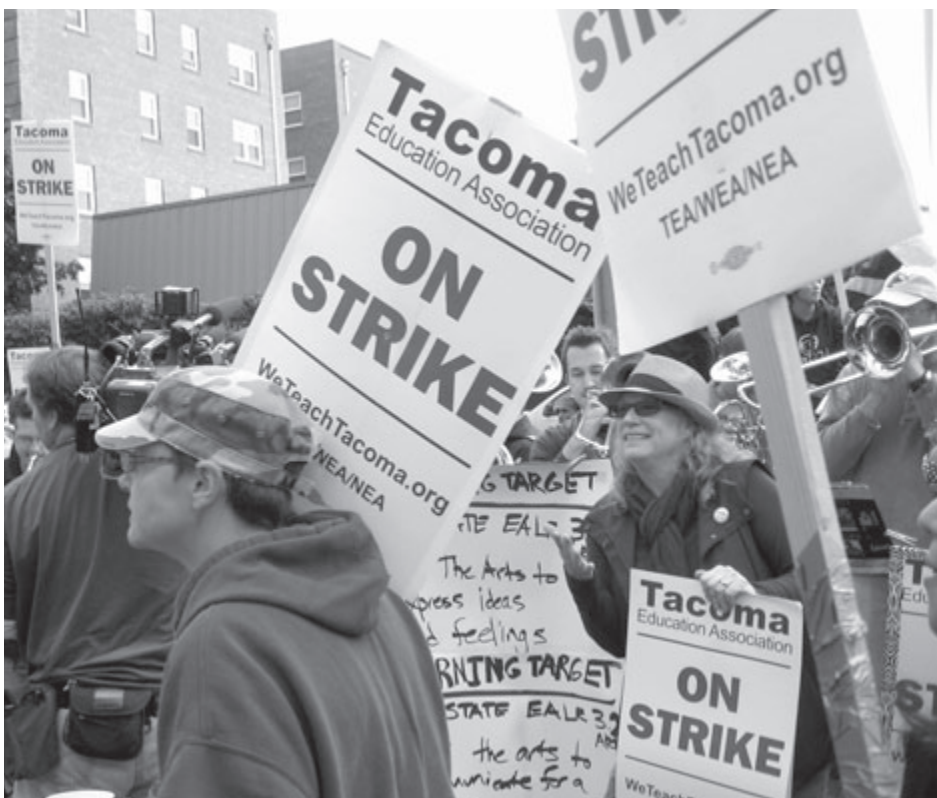
Numerous teachers told the *Militant* that the heart of the issue is “involuntary displacement.” David Baughman, who teaches physical education at Stadium High School, said, “The school board wants administrators to have the right to either move or get rid of teachers based on 10 criteria. The language is open to wide interpretation and leaves no appeal by the teacher.”

At a rally in Tacoma’s Wright Park later that morning, Vance Lelli, president of the Pierce County Central Labor Council and member of ILWU Local 23 in Tacoma, said, “What you are doing here is the same thing that longshoremen are doing in Longview, standing up for your rights and stopping union busting.”

—Edwin Fruit and Mary Martin

### ***Hyatt Hotel workers reject charge their strike was ‘disrespectful’***

CHICAGO—A one-week strike by UNITE HERE at five Hyatt hotels in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Honolulu ended September 14 with rallies and marches. Approximately 3,000 workers—room



Militant/Mary Martin

**Teachers on strike in Tacoma, Wash., rally by school board building September 16. In background is Stadium High School marching band, which played in support of the teachers.**

attendants, cooks, bell staff, food and beverage servers, kitchen workers, and laundry workers—walked off the job at the targeted hotels.

Hyatt workers have not had a contract since the last one expired in August 2009.

Don Welsh, CEO of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau, issued a statement that Hyatt hotel workers were “disrespectful” and “selfish” for striking on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2011, attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. “UNITE HERE needs to get its priorities in order,” he said.

Darrel Heard, a carpet cleaner who has worked at the Hyatt Regency for 31 years, told the *Militant*, “If we don’t get up and scream and holler for our cause and struggle, who’s going to do it? Our priorities are straight.”

—Ilona Gersh

### ***1,700 McGill University workers begin strike Sept. 1 in Montreal***

MONTREAL—After being without a contract since January, 1,700 staff at McGill University went on strike here September 1 as students returned for the fall session.

The strikers are members of the Mc-

Gill University Non-Academic Certified Association, which is affiliated to the Public Service Alliance of Canada. They include IT technicians, clerical workers, and library assistants.

“The key issues in our strike are parity with other universities in Montreal, protection of our benefits and pensions, a fair salary grid, and shift premiums for evening and weekend work,” union president Kevin Whittaker told the *Militant*. “It takes workers at McGill 37 years to reach the top of their classification, as opposed to 10-15 years at other Montreal universities.”

Strikers picket five days a week outside the campus’s main entrances. Many passersby honk in support. During these reporters’ visit to the picket line September 7, Francesca Buxton, a student in history and women’s studies, was circulating a petition in solidarity with the strikers.

On September 11, about 50 strikers and supporters distributed thousands of leaflets appealing for support to people attending a football game at Molson Stadium, which is owned by McGill University. “You’re up against some big money. Good luck,” a Montreal Alouette fan told the strikers.

—Beverly Bernardo and Joe Young

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



**October 3, 1986**

MEXICO CITY—A river of torches lit the night as 50,000 people poured into the Zócalo square here to mark the anniversary of the earthquake that devastated this capital city on Sept. 19, 1985.

Most of the demonstrators were working people left homeless by the quake. No one knows exactly how many were killed in the disaster; estimates range from the official 6,000 to 45,000.

The angry demonstrators came to demand that the government build more housing for the homeless and that it expropriate housing lots from landlords to provide additional housing to needy families.

One year after the quake only 10,000 out of 110,000 families left homeless had been given permanent housing. Some 30,000 families are still in temporary camps throughout the city, living in subhuman conditions.



**October 2, 1961**

The U.S. State Department once again is mounting its campaign to keep China, which has one-third more people than the entire Western Hemisphere, from being represented in the United Nations.

This time, after ten years of blocking even a debate on China’s admission, the State Department has been forced by the pressure of the newly independent Asian and African nations to yield.

It must now permit the question to be put on the General Assembly’s agenda. But the U.S. delegation plans to continue its obstruction by trying to get the question sidetracked from the floor to a committee for “further study.” By this stratagem, Adlai Stevenson hopes too keep the UN from voting on the issue for yet another year.

Washington has cynically maintained that diplomatically the Chinese government doesn’t exist.



**December 5, 1936**

Farmers who voted for Roosevelt on the implication—not the promise—that he was their “friend,” and that relief would NOT be cut, are receiving the same rude awakening from their blissful trust that the American unemployed workers are experiencing.

On December 15 an executive WPA order goes into effect smashing at over 100,000 farmers in seven northwestern states. Farmers on WPA farm relief projects, now receiving \$40-\$50 a month, will be placed on the Resettlement Administration projects where their pay will be cut to \$20 per month. Because this latter administration has much less funds to operate with, it is expected that not over 60,000 of the “neediest” can be cared for, as compared with the peak WPA relief load of 324,295 in this area.

Local unemployed organizations are waging a vigorous protest against this unconscionable order.



# Release to Cuba denied

**Continued from front page**  
the U.S. and his wife, Olga Salanueva, has been repeatedly denied entry to the country by Washington.

Lenard ruled that a decision on González's motion was "premature" prior to a period of experience with the "supervised release."

In a September 19 phone interview, Phil Horowitz, González's attorney, said the ruling is "very exceptional." People who aren't U.S. citizens and must serve a supervised release, he said, "are normally deported without condition to their country. They do not have to report to a probation officer."

González, who was born in the United States, is both a U.S. and Cuban citizen. "There are examples of people with dual citizenship who have been deported after being released," said Horowitz. "It's as if the judge doesn't recognize his Cuban citizenship."

Among the "very exceptional" circumstances surrounding Lenard's decision is that it came two days after Bill Richardson, former Democratic

Party governor of New Mexico, "left Havana in a huff," as CBS News reported September 14. Richardson told the press he was "disappointed and perplexed" because he hadn't been allowed by the Cuban government to visit U.S. citizen Alan Gross and "the Cubans refused to discuss [Gross's] case with him."

Earlier this year Gross, who was arrested in Havana in December 2009, was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a Cuban court for distributing sophisticated satellite equipment to so far unidentified persons in Cuba as part of a covert U.S. operation to create a "democratic" opposition to the revolutionary government there.

During what he portrayed as a private, eight-day visit to Cuba, Richardson, according to a September 15 *New York Times* account, had Obama administration approval to offer in exchange for Gross's release "to waive probation for one of the 'Cuban Five,' as a group of Cuban agents accused of espionage in the United States are known on the island, so he could



Getty/Adalberto Roquer

**"We explained to Mr. Richardson that Cuba is a sovereign country which does not accept blackmail, pressure or posturing," said Josefin Vidal, left, from Cuba's Foreign Affairs Ministry, about visit to Cuba by Bill Richardson, right (at Havana press conference).**

go home after he leaves prison next month."

The Cuban government rebutted Richardson's allegations in a September 14 interview given by Josefin Vidal, head of the North America De-

partment of Cuba's Foreign Affairs Ministry, to the Associated Press. Vidal said the Cuban government had turned down the request for a prison visit only after Richardson had described Gross to the AP as a "hostage" of Cuba.

"We explained to Mr. Richardson," Vidal said, "that Cuba is a sovereign country which does not accept blackmail, pressure or posturing."

Judge Lenard, in her September 16 ruling, said González could file a later motion to return to Cuba "after commencement of supervised release should the circumstances warrant modification."

She added that some time "needs to pass before the Court is able to properly evaluate the characteristics of the defendant . . . or whether there is a continued need to protect the public from further crimes." Lenard said González's motion did not indicate "how any of those factors has changed since he was sentenced."

In other words, said Horowitz, "René will have to serve at least part of his probation in the U.S." and "demonstrate that he is a model American." Horowitz added that where González will be required to live and other details of his release are still "under discussion."

## Eva Chertov: 50 years in fight for socialism

**Continued from page 4**  
learned as a new cadre about the party's disciplined proletarian norms.

As in other party branches, SWP and YSA members in Atlanta were working with others in 1974-75 to support the fight in Boston to defend school desegregation and halt the stoning and other attacks on school buses carrying children who were Black. Ultraleft groups sometimes resorted to violence against other supporters of desegregation to break up meetings and try to impose their line. "Eva always took these situations completely seriously—she got quiet and calm," Sahner said. She recounted an occasion "when Eva leaned over to me and said, 'Vivian, it's time to take off your earrings!'"

Also speaking was Dave Prince, a Socialist Workers Party leader who first got to know Chertov during a YSA-organized trip to Cuba in 1969. Among his other responsibilities today, Prince helps organize and lead the party's work with the leadership of the Print Project. Prince emphasized "the indispensable place of the communist continuity that Eva was part of and the work of the project that Eva gave her efforts to."

### Judged on deeds, not prejudice

The meeting by chance took place on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center in Manhattan. In his remarks, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes recalled Chertov's reaction to the public meeting the party held in New York just three weeks after those events.

"She said she was grateful I had ended my talk with the words '*as-salaam alaikum*,'" Barnes said. She understood, he said, that the inclusion as political equals of workers and youth from Muslim backgrounds and communities was a necessary part of building a revolutionary proletarian party in the U.S. and elsewhere.

One reason so few African-Americans who are Muslim in the United States are attracted to the self-destructive

tive terrorism of political Islamist groups, Barnes said, is the still-living example of Malcolm X. Based on his own life experience, Malcolm made a compelling case that in order for fighters to organize to win in the struggle against racism and oppression of all forms, they must "divide their politics from their religion."

Barnes said he first met Chertov more than 50 years ago in a hotel elevator in Havana, Cuba, in the summer of 1960. Chertov, who was 18, was there as a member of the Young Socialist Alliance delegation to the First Latin American Youth Congress, initiated by the leadership of the Cuban Revolution, which had triumphed a year and a half earlier.

Barnes, a student in Minnesota, was 20 and was in Cuba for 10 weeks to find out about the Cuban Revolution and its leadership and to bring the political lessons he learned back to young people and others in the United States. Chertov and her comrades were the first YSA or SWP members he had met.

Barnes recalled he was wearing a Lenin button given to him by a leader

of the Stalinist youth organization in the Soviet Union and was carrying some pamphlets about Cuba from the Communist Party USA that he had picked up while traveling through New York. But Chertov didn't write him off because he had showed interest in literature of an opponent political group. "I was reading everything I could get my hands on about Cuba," he said. "Eva judged people by what you did and how you fought."

"You had to *earn* Eva's political suspicion," Barnes said. "If you did, then you'd have a hard time with her. But it was because of your political conduct, not prejudice."

Eva's parents, Morris Chertov and Pearl Chertov, were longtime SWP cadres, Barnes said. She was raised in a home in North Philadelphia whose living room militant youth and fighting organizations in the Black struggle

**Continued on page 9**

## Four workers killed in coal mine flood in United Kingdom

BY PAUL DAVIES

PONTARDAWE, South Wales—Four coal miners at the Gleision colliery here—Phillip Hill, Garry Jenkins, David Powell, and Charles Breslin—were killed September 15 when a retaining wall holding back a body of water collapsed and flooded the mine.

The mine rescue team said that the flood occurred after miners broke into a previously mined area. The Welsh Assembly has announced a police inquiry into the deaths.

Gleision is small drift mine in which miners work seams of coal with shovels, kneeling or lying down in confined spaces.

"With the technology we have available today why are people still working in rat holes like this?" said David Jones, a former miner at the now closed Abernant colliery.

"People are desperate for jobs and some will take work even in conditions like those at Gleision," said Sharon Davies, a health worker here. Official unemployment figures in Wales have risen to 8.4 percent, above the U.K. average of 7.9 percent.

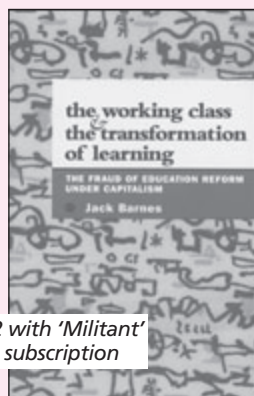
The Gleision mine was recently reopened. Employing some 15 miners, it produced 200 tons of coal a week. Former mining safety officer Robert Murray-Willis said that small mines like Gleision were restarting production because the price of coal was rising, reported the *Wales On Sunday*.

"This mine should never have been opened," Kevin Flynn, a retired school teacher from Pontardawe, told the *Militant*. Local Member of Parliament Peter Hain argued that mines should not be closed in response to the deaths.

### **The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning**

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# Cuban revolutionary fights double life sentence in U.S.

Received incompetent defense, appeals for new trial

BY MICHEL POITRAS

Gerardo Hernández is one of five Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. prisons for more than 13 years who have filed habeas corpus motions in federal court to vacate their 2001 convictions and sentences on trumped-up conspiracy charges. With the Supreme Court two years ago having refused to hear all appeals by Hernández and his four compañeros, the habeas motions are the remaining legal option in the fight to reverse the frame-up and win their freedom.

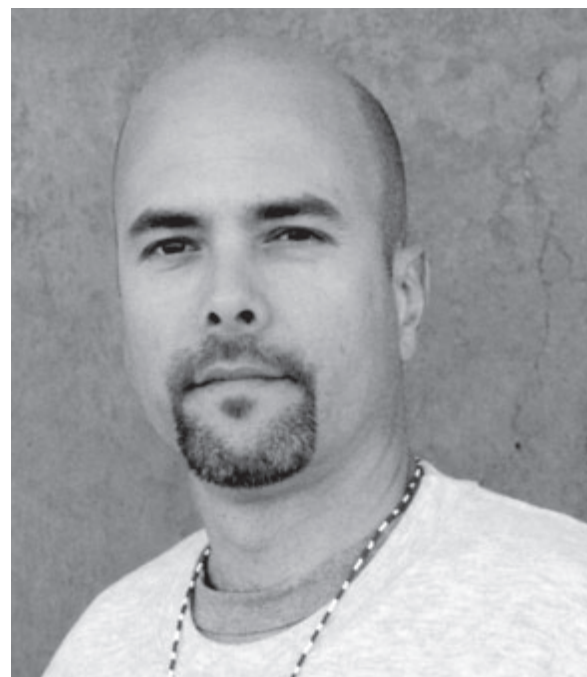
Hernández, together with Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González, are known internationally as the Cuban Five. They were arrested by the FBI in Florida in 1998 and in 2001 were convicted, among other charges, of conspiracy to commit espionage. Hernández was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder as well. The five have been serving prison sentences ranging from 15 years for René González to double-life plus 15 years for Hernández.

The five had been living and working in Florida in order to gather information for the Cuban government on activities of U.S.-based Cuban counterrevolutionary groups with a long history of violent attacks against Cuba, and tacit support from Washington. An international campaign to win their release has gained broad and growing international support.

## Conspiracy murder charge

Hernández's conviction on murder conspiracy charges stems from the U.S. government's effort to connect him to the Feb. 24, 1996, action by the Cuban air force shooting down two planes that had entered Cuban air space. The four pilots died. The flights were staged from U.S. soil by Brothers to the Rescue, a Miami-based counterrevolutionary organization that had repeatedly violated Cuban air space despite Havana's formal protests to Washington and warnings about the consequences.

In his Oct. 12, 2010, habeas corpus petition, Hernández argues that his conviction and sentence should be vacated, among other reasons, because he did not receive a proper defense at his trial.



Gerardo Hernández, one of Cuban Five prisoners, 2008.

In an April 25, 2011, response, Washington's attorneys opposed Hernández's habeas motion and request for an evidentiary hearing where he could present new information. They argued that the court at the time of the trial had "appointed experienced criminal counsel, Paul McKenna, who ably defended [Hernández] with great energy, loyalty, diligence, and professional skill, easily surpassing the minimal threshold for effective assistance of counsel."

This is not McKenna's opinion, however, as he explained in an Aug. 15, 2011, affidavit in support of Hernández's habeas motion. "Hernández's trial was more complicated than any other case I have ever tried," wrote McKenna, "involving unusual facts, novel questions of law, and very high profile proceedings."

McKenna went on to explain why Hernández's conviction and sentence should be overturned. "I never considered," he wrote, nor discussed with his client, "the possibility of filing a motion on Hernández's behalf to sever [the conspiracy to commit murder charge] from the remaining allegations against him."

A separate trial, explained Hernández in a March 16, 2011, affidavit, would have allowed him to testify on his own behalf without being compelled to present testimony regarding the other charges he and his codefendants faced. Hernández would also have been able to call on one or more of his codefendants to testify in a separate trial, without foregoing their Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination.

"Had I known that, I would have insisted that my lawyer make every effort to secure a separate trial on that count," Hernández emphasizes in his affidavit. He goes on to describe in detail how he would have testified to rebut evidence used against him by prosecutors.

## Undermined the defense

McKenna says in his affidavit that at the time of the trial he acted on the belief "that if I could show that the shootdown had occurred in Cuban airspace, my client would have a viable defense" to the conspiracy to commit murder charge because it was "a justifiable act by the Cuban government."

"I now believe that my decision to pursue this line of argument—which was impossible to prove as a factual matter, and of questionable relevance as a legal matter—resulted in my client's conviction, as our presentation undermined our credibility and focused the jury on the actions of the Government of Cuba," McKenna wrote.

In fact, as Hernández's current lawyer, Richard Klugh, explained at a September 12 press conference, McKenna never pursued the line of defense that could have led to an acquittal—simply that "Gerardo was never involved" in the downing of the planes.

Finally, McKenna wrote in his affidavit that during the trial he had acted on the belief that "the Court was going

## Miami meeting defends Cuban Five



Militant photos by Dean Hazlewood

MIAMI—Eighty people gathered here September 18 for a meeting in solidarity with the Cuban Five, organized by the Alianza Martiana, a coalition of Cuban-American organizations opposed to U.S. policy toward Cuba. The decision by Judge Joan Lenard that René González must remain in Florida following his release from prison October 7 means this is a "new moment of commitment" for all supporters of the fight, said Andrés Gómez, inset, president of the Antonio Maceo Brigade. Also speaking were Max Lesnik, president of the Alianza Martiana, and Elena Freyre of the Foundation for Normalization of US/Cuba Relations. September 12 through October 6 has been set by supporters of the Cuban Five as a period of concentrated activity worldwide to call attention to the case.

—NAOMI CRAINE

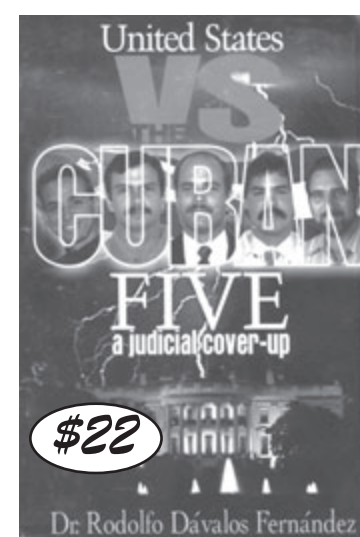
to issue an instruction stating that the Government was required to prove that my client had intended for the shooting to occur over international waters, a burden of proof that the Government acknowledged was 'insurmountable.'" But McKenna wrote in his affidavit that while the trial was under way he did not catch the fact that the judge did *not* issue such an instruction, and instead instructed the jury only regarding the murder and conspiracy charges.

"My errors at, before, and during the trial," McKenna wrote, "allowed the Government to convict my client even though it had no direct evidence of criminal intent on his part."

At the September 12 press conference, Klugh stated that McKenna's "very candid recognition" that Hernández did not receive the competent defense he had a right to provides a strong argument for setting aside his conviction and life sentence.

Next week, the *Militant* will discuss an additional argument by Hernández, one central to the habeas motions filed by all five Cuban revolutionaries. It is based on information revealed well after

their conviction and sentencing showing that the 2001 trial was corrupted by the fact that the government prosecuting them was at the very same time paying thousands of dollars to so-called independent journalists to write articles, and to give interviews on radio and TV in the Miami area, where the trial was held, that were biased and inflammatory against the five and the Cuban Revolution.



PathfinderPress.com

## 'Militant' subscription drive

### Continued from page 4

in the bourgeois press as evidence, in part, of growing racist attitudes among workers who are Caucasian. Writing in the *National Review*, Michael Rosen said the vote is a sign of a loss of Democratic support "especially among working-class whites alienated by the president's elite status, wealth, and yes, racial-ethnic background."

The Democrat lost, said the *Daily Beast*, because the 9th C.D. "is not a liberal enclave. It includes the neighborhood where the fictional Archie Bunker once lived—a misshapen district largely populated by what was once known in crude political science terms as 'white ethnics.'"

### Workers of all backgrounds

"We'll go and talk to workers from all backgrounds, including Irish and Italian," said LaMont, "and find out if the capitalist pundits' opinions, echoed by the liberals and petty bourgeois left,

that the Republican victory . . . shows a resurgence of racism among 'working-class whites' is right. We don't think it is."

Five books that help workers learn more about the class struggle and the SWP's fighting history remain on special discount with subscriptions (see ad on page 4). Selling subscriptions and books together "is at the heart of what we're doing and will be a measure of our success," LaMont said.

Class-conscious workers and others can make this campaign your own. Help get the *Militant* and books on working-class politics into the hands of coworkers, friends, and relatives. To join the effort, contact distributors of the paper listed on page 8.

Together with the subscription drive, the SWP is organizing an eight-week \$100,000 fall Party-Building Fund. We encourage readers to contribute to this fund to support the party's political work.







# Solidarity with sugar workers’ fight

The 1,300 workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar in the Upper Midwest are waging a battle on behalf of all working people. They deserve our solidarity. The company’s “last and final offer” would widen a two-tier wage system, hike medical costs, and gut seniority. In resisting these demands, the locked-out workers are standing up to the indignities imposed on working people as the employing class insists that we pay for the crisis of capitalism—their system, not ours.

The donations reported in this issue of \$10,000 by members of United Steelworkers Local 560 from Gwinner, N.D., and more than \$1,000 from members of the Nebraska AFL-CIO are recent examples of solidarity that can make a difference. Teamsters, nurses, airline workers, teachers, grain

millers, and others have organized support.

Get your union to emulate these examples and make a contribution. Whether or not you’re a union member, talk to coworkers and other unionists in your area about organizing plant-gate collections. Get in a car and head to the picket lines in North Dakota and Minnesota, to be better armed to explain the stakes in the battle. The *Militant*’s weekly coverage is a valuable source of information about this and other working-class struggles.

Solidarity messages from unions or groups of workers—as well as fighters for Black rights, supporters of women’s equality, and student groups—let workers at American Crystal know that thousands of working people stand with them. End the lockout!

## 50 years in the fight for socialism

Continued from page 6

gle came to know as somewhere they could meet and talk. “There was no requirement you agreed about everything with Pearl or Morris,” said Barnes.

After the government blacklisted Morris from working as a seaman in the late 1940s, Barnes said, he held a job for many years in Philadelphia in a plant organized by the United Electrical Workers. While the UE leadership was dominated by the Communist Party, they made up a small percentage of workers there.

“Morris won respect on the job,” Barnes said. During the many strikes and skirmishes against the boss there over those years, “he fought together with fellow unionists, CPers and others alike. And he never hid his views or stopped pushing the *Militant*.”

It was also in Philadelphia, Barnes said, that the SWP had been most deeply involved in organized defense work to stop the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and to free Morton Sobell, convicted in 1953 by federal authorities on frame-up charges of “conspiracy to commit espionage.” Pearl, a well-known SWP cadre, was a respected member of the defense committee there.

“It’s not accurate, as a few messages said, that Eva—or Judi—were ‘red diaper babies,’” Barnes said. “Yes, they had conflicts with their parents. Families are families. What can you say? “But they never had to come to grips with their parents *politically*, as many children of Communist Party cadres did. They never had to make up rationalizations about how their parents were ‘good people’ despite the world movement they’d been part of. They never had to listen to second thoughts by Morris and Pearl about what they had done with their lives.”

Eva was deeply affected by the new rise in the late 1960s of the struggle for women’s rights and then gay rights, Barnes said. “To her that fight was a deeply personal one.”

But like others in the communist movement, he said, she also came to recognize there will be no American socialist revolution that doesn’t build on the growing confidence of women as they are incorporated in larger numbers into the workforce and become engaged in social and political battles of all kinds.

Barnes said Chertov had asked him about progress on the next book by Pathfinder, *Making the Revolution within the Revolution in Cuba: From the Santiago Underground to the Federation of Cuban Women* by Vilma Espín and Acela de los Santos.

“Eva had lived and worked in Cuba for six years in the 1960s,” he said, “and she knew a lot about women’s efforts there, with support from the central leadership of the revolution, to confront the pressures and transform the conditions carried over not just from capitalism but from millennia of class society.”

### Fighting 365 days a year

Barnes said he would never forget the 1970 SWP campaign in New York when Chertov ran for Congress against Barry Farber on the Republican and Liberal party tickets and Bella Abzug on the Democratic ticket.

“We don’t run bourgeois election campaigns,”

Barnes said. “We don’t run to win votes. We run in order to reach out more broadly not with ideas, not with platforms, not to say our party can beat the bosses’ parties, but above all to involve other workers along with us in fights that point a way forward for our class.”

He pointed to the example of a battle by 1,300 locked-out sugar workers in the Upper Midwest. “SWP candidates and campaign supporters talk about the *Militant*, which tells the story of fights like that every week,” Barnes said. “We use books and pamphlets that Eva, like hundreds of other Print Project members the world over, worked to keep in print for use by party cadres.”

Our campaigns not only help us protect our constitutional rights as a political party, Barnes said. Above all, they “attract working people toward a proletarian organization whose year-round political activity will eventually make bourgeois elections redundant, as the working class carries out a successful revolutionary fight for power.

“We don’t tell workers what ‘our’ candidate or ‘our’ party can do *for* you,” Barnes said, “but how our class can and will fight *together with you*.”

Chertov was a master at that kind of campaigning, Barnes said. And that drove the Stalinists who in the 1960s honeycombed Democratic Party clubs in Lower Manhattan crazy. That’s why he enjoyed walking into a public school in Greenwich Village to vote for Chertov. When Barnes asked those staffing the polling station how to cast a write-in vote, “some of them Democratic Party volunteers wearing the big hats Abzug was famous for, the room suddenly became very quiet and very cold,” he recounted.

### No need for mirrors

“Eva was totally comfortable in her own skin,” Barnes said. “She didn’t need a lot of mirrors in her apartment to know who she was, what she was doing, or why. She was classy, not fashionable.”

Barnes described running into her more than once on a late Sunday afternoon, both before and after she got ill, at the Bronx Botanical Gardens. “She loved walks there. She loved the free concerts. She never had children of her own, but she loved spending some time with the kids running all over.

“She reveled in the massive Henry Moore nudes that were on exhibit at the Botanical Gardens a few years ago,” Barnes said. “She marveled at their immense space and perspective.”

Chertov never stopped being interested in revolutionary working-class politics, Barnes said. It was part of her world, part of the many things she took pleasure in.

For those in the communist movement, “your life is part of a continuity not only with revolutionary proletarian struggles of the past two centuries, but with those who have resisted oppression throughout the history of class society,” Barnes said.

“And you know—as we’ve learned from revolutionary leaders from Lenin and Trotsky, to SWP leaders such as Jim Cannon and Farrell Dobbs—that we fight not for a set of ideas, but for the line of march of a class whose triumph opens a marvelous road to putting an end to exploitation and oppression of every kind.”

## Int’l bank crisis

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more—is still on the rise. On September 7 Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos announced a further 20 percent cut in government workers.

On behalf of bondholders pressing to squeeze more wealth from working people in Greece, the IMF, ECB, and European Commission—the so-called troika—have told Athens it must lay off 100,000 workers by 2015 and shift 50,000 into a “special labor reserve” to work at 60 percent of their wage. Among other measures demanded—“here and now”—are rescinding all government hiring for the past 20 months, cuts in pensions to farmers and seamen, and major tax hikes.

Among banks hit hardest are those in France and Germany, Europe’s strongest capitalist powers. French bank loans to Greece total \$89 billion, says the Bank for International Settlements. “Germany is assuming a 50% loss for their banks and insurance companies” if there’s a default, says financial writer John Mauldin.

U.S. banks such as JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, and Bank of America are vulnerable too. This is largely due to their trafficking with banks in Europe in what are called credit default swaps. Painted up by Wall Street as “insurance” against defaults, the “swaps” are really a form of massive speculative bets by competing capitalists since the mid-1990s, as prospects shrivel for profitable returns on investment in expanding industrial plants, equipment, and jobs.

Even if U.S. financial institutions have extended relatively little in loans to Greece or other weaker capitalist powers in Europe, it remains to be seen how much they’re on the hook for in the event of runs on major banks in Europe drowning in such debt.

At stake, among other things, is survival of the eurozone, that is, the 17 countries using the euro as their currency. These countries are ruled by competing capitalist classes and have sharply different levels of industrial development and social conditions.

The class arrogance and callousness of the capitalist rulers of the strongest EU countries toward workers and farmers in the weaker nations—Portugal, Ireland, Greece, and Spain—is shown by an acronym for these countries that’s become common in the capitalist media. “Leave the Euro to the PIGS” is how that imperial attitude was captured in the headline of a recent *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece.

## Legal lynching

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road to the revolutionary conquest of workers power.

Like the vast majority on death row, Troy Davis was from the working class and, like more than a third of those executed since 1976, he was Black. After arresting Davis for the killing of a policeman in 1989, cops and prosecutors locked in the frame-up by pressuring “witnesses” to finger him.

Davis maintained his innocence right up to his final words on the lethal-injection gurney in the death chamber. Despite post-trial evidence raising much more than “a reasonable doubt” about his conviction, neither the state parole board nor the Georgia or U.S. Supreme Courts gave Davis a new trial or commuted the sentence.

We salute those around the world who raised their voices and went into the streets—during the final days, and for many years before—to demand: “Stop the execution of Troy Davis!” We will join together to fight for other Troy Davises to come.

The *Militant* urges workers, farmers, and young people engaged in labor battles and social protests of all kinds to join in building a mass working-class socialist movement in the United States and the world over that can wage a revolutionary battle to wrest state power from the capitalist exploiters, war makers, and executioners.

### Correction

An article in last week’s issue, “Court hearing held on settlement for Black farmers,” identified Thomas Burrell as president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association. There are two organizations using this name. Burrell’s group is based in Memphis, Tenn. There is also a Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, led by Gary Grant, based in Tillery, N.C.