

Readers take
action to get
subscription
drive on track

BY EMMA JOHNSON

“I’m on my way to Broward County right now to do a sale,” said Anthony Dutrow in Miami as I reached him on the phone at 5 p.m. Wednesday. “We’re doing two door-to-door teams tonight and two tomorrow night.”

Supporters of the *Militant* in Miami and across the U.S. are hitting the streets to catch up after falling behind in the fall subscription and books campaign.

“To turn this around we needed to get out of the cellar,” Dutrow said. “Earlier we could maybe get one team out during the week, so this is a real step-up. We’re also staying out longer at every sale.”

All the experience of subscription teams shows that interest in a revolutionary working-class explanation for the deepening crisis of capitalism and thirst for discussion about what we can do to fight to defend ourselves

Continued on page 3

Fall ‘Militant’
subscription campaign
Oct. 12 - Dec. 10 (week 3)

Country	quota	sold	%	2,500
UNITED STATES				
Lincoln	22	9	41%	
Philadelphia	130	49	38%	
Seattle	160	58	36%	
San Francisco	180	61	34%	
Chicago	180	58	32%	
Boston	65	20	31%	
Atlanta	160	49	31%	
Twin Cities	135	39	29%	
Los Angeles	160	44	28%	
New York	380	99	26%	
Miami	95	23	24%	
Washington	90	20	22%	
Houston	110	22	20%	
Des Moines	160	25	16%	
Omaha	220	32	15%	
Total U.S.	2247	608	27%	
PRISONERS	15	7	47%
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	150	45	30%	Should be
Manchester	100	38	38%	767
UK Total	250	83	33%	
CANADA	110	32	29%	
NEW ZEALAND	80	20	25%	
AUSTRALIA	75	17	23%	
Total	2777	767	31%	
Should be	2500	938	38%	

‘Working class needs
to take political power’

Socialist candidate: ‘SWP campaigns 365 days a year’



Dan Fein, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City mayor, speaks with Jennifer Ulloa, who signed up for *Militant* subscription, at Frederick Douglass houses Nov. 3.

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — “The capitalist system is in crisis on a worldwide scale and working people are being laid off, our wages are being cut, our unions are being attacked, we’re being attacked by the police through ‘stop and frisk’ and other repressive measures,” Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, told moderator Errol Louis Oct. 31 on NY1’s “Road to City Hall” program. “This is due to the capitalist system. All the bosses can do, all the government — which belongs to the bosses — can do, is to squeeze more out of working people to try to keep their profits high enough.”

Fein appeared on the program with Libertarian Party mayoral candidate Michael Sanchez and Jimmy McMillan, perennial candidate of The Rent Is Too Damn High Party. The three were among the 15 mayoral candidates on the Nov. 5 ballot. NY1 is the 24-hour news show of Time Warner Cable in New York City.

“Unemployment is the biggest issue and is totally ignored by my op-

ponents,” Fein, 68, an electronic assembly factory worker, said. “We call for a public works program to put the millions of unemployed to work building affordable housing, child care centers, and so forth. This would

Continued on page 4

‘Militant’ wins new round against
censorship in Florida state prisons

BY JOHN STUDER

In another victory against censorship in prison, authorities at the Lake Correctional Institution near Clermont, Fla., said Nov. 5 they had delivered a number of previously impounded issues of the *Militant* to a subscriber behind bars there.

“We’re pleased that the Florida prison authorities have reversed course,” Benjamin Stevenson, the Florida American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing the *Militant* in its fight against censorship in Florida state prisons, said in a phone interview.

Bosses make
workers pay
for capitalist
economic crisis

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Lacking any solution to the worldwide slowdown of capitalist production and trade, U.S. bosses are pressing to squeeze more work from fewer workers and driving down real wages in an effort to shore up the profits they extract from productive labor. And without incentive for the bosses to hire, more and more working people are without employment, increasing competition among workers and providing an added lever in the drive against our living standards.

As they confront the consequences of the economic contraction, the rulers have been debating how far and fast to cut government expenses — starting with those things that affect working people. For example, starting in November, workers with the lowest wages were also hit with a 7 percent across the board cut in food stamps, which helps put food on the table for some 48 million people.

Some bourgeois economic com-

Continued on page 9

Ecuador president blocks bill that
would lessen abortion restrictions

BY RÓGER CALERO

Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa blocked an attempt by legislators from his own governing alliance, Alianza País, to bring a proposal before the National Assembly to ease abortion restrictions.

Legislators Paola Pabón, Gina Godoy and Soledad Buendía sought to decriminalize abortions in cases of rape or when a woman’s life or health is at risk. Pabón, who had made the motion to change the legislation Oct.

10, retracted it the following day under threats from Correa to end their terms as deputies in the National Assembly. The three were suspended for a month by the Alianza País’ ethics commission.

Correa called Pabón, Godoy and Buendía “treacherous and disloyal” and demagogically threatened to resign his post if the National Assembly loosened abortion laws. “I will never approve the decriminalization of

Continued on page 9

Also Inside:

Guantánamo hunger strikers demand end to force-feeding	2
NY forum discusses rights of workers behind bars	4
London rally protests deaths in cop custody	5
UN condemns US embargo against Cuba	6

Guantánamo hunger strikers demand end to force-feeding

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Prisoners on a hunger strike at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay appealed to end their force-feeding — a daily assault on their person, rights and dignity.

The most recent hunger strike by inmates at the Guantánamo prison camp against indefinite detention and abusive treatment began in February. Nearly two-thirds of the 164 inmates currently being incarcerated were involved at its height in July, with 46 being force-fed, according to U.S. military reports. As of Oct. 24, there were 14 still refusing food, all of whom were being force-fed.

The Barack Obama administration contends that U.S. courts have no jurisdiction at military prisons like Guantánamo. In previous court rulings judges have upheld this position.

But at hearing on the latest challenge Oct. 18, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., questioned the administration’s position that force-feeding and other practices in U.S. military prisons are outside the court’s jurisdiction. The judges have not yet issued a ruling.

The suit was filed by the U.K. legal aid group Reprieve and Jon Eisenberg on behalf of three Guantánamo inmates currently being force-fed — British resident Shaker Aamer; Abu Wa’el Dhiab, a Syrian; and Ahmed Belbacha, an Algerian. The three are among 84 prisoners who were “cleared for release” by the Obama administration in January 2010, but remain in Guantánamo because neither the U.S. government nor their home country will allow them in.

“Force-feeding is an extremely pain-

ful process,” Andy Worthington, a British journalist who writes extensively about Guantánamo, said in an Oct. 25 phone interview. “A tube is forced up his nose, down his esophagus and through to his stomach twice a day while being held in a restraint chair. Nutrients are pumped in and if he vomits, the whole process happens again.” The practice is prohibited by the World Medical Association, an organization of physicians from 27 countries established after World War II to promote ethical standards of behavior and care.

In another development, an attorney representing a Guantánamo inmate on trial before a secret tribunal of Pentagon-appointed officers claimed that U.S. military guards seized private documents marked “attorney-client privilege” from his cell, reported Reuters. The allegation was made by Navy Lieutenant Commander Walter Ruiz. He represents Saudi defendant Mustafa al Hawsawi, who is accused by Washington of wiring money to the Sept. 11 airplane hijackers.

Out of a total of 779 persons who have been incarcerated at the Guantánamo prison camp over the past 11 years, only seven have been convicted of any crime.

Syrian gov’t imposes starvation siege on more than 1 million



Reuters/Yazan Homsy

More than 1 million Syrians live in neighborhoods under total or partial siege by forces backing the Bashar al-Assad regime. These tactics are aimed at isolating, starving and punishing largely working-class areas, where demonstrations against the regime broke out in 2011 and remain strongholds of the opposition. Above, sieged area of Homs Oct. 12. Those caught bringing food or medicine to besieged areas are imprisoned.

Some 12,000 people remain in Mouadamiya, on the outskirts of Damascus, which was among the areas hit by chemical weapons strikes Aug. 21 that killed hundreds. The town, which is 90 percent destroyed, has been under siege for a year.

Pro-government forces are also targeting farmers and their crops.
— JOHN STUDER

Montreal: Mariela Castro discusses gains for Cuban women, gays

BY KATY LEROUGETEL
AND JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Mariela Castro Espín, director of Cuba’s National Center for Sex Education and a delegate to Cuba’s National Assembly, spoke at the Simon Bolivar Cultural Centre here Oct. 20 about gay rights and women’s

right to abortion in Cuba, where women have made giant social advances since the 1959 socialist revolution that brought workers and farmers to power there.

“Before the revolution, many women sought clandestine abortions,” Castro explained. Today, she said, women around the world forced into backroom abortions often risk death or prison.

Among the immediate steps taken by the new revolutionary government that replaced the U.S.-backed military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista was an end to the enforcement of laws banning abortion. In 1965 the procedure was legalized, making it the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to do so. Today it is among only four such nations, including Puerto Rico, Guyana and Uruguay. Along with all other med-

ical services, abortion in Cuba is accessible for all and provided free of charge.

“One hundred twenty out of 100,000 women used to die of abortion-related causes in Cuba,” Castro said. “In Cuba, the problem has been solved, but we are in solidarity with others, and we want to help all women.”

Castro also spoke about a public discussion being organized by the Cuban government on a proposed law to recognize same-sex civil unions and an ongoing education campaign to promote broader acceptance of homosexuality.

The day before, Castro accepted an award at the 10th annual Rainbow Gala, organized by the Quebecois Council of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people, for her work in promoting the rights of homosexuals in Cuba.

THE MILITANT

Join the int’l fight to free the Cuban Five!

The ‘Militant’ champions the international fight to free the five Cuban revolutionaries — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — working-class fighters framed up by Washington on conspiracy charges 15 years ago.



Militant/Tim Craine
Meeting, exhibit Oct. 24 in Albany, N.Y. build support to free the Cuban Five.

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306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

Join subscription drive

Continued from front page
is stunningly high. Organization of a real, sustained campaign is what has been lacking.

Miami is one of the areas where supporters have taken special steps to get back on schedule, organizing target weeks, stepping up the number of sales, staying out longer and appealing to new readers to join in the effort.

The drive is built around taking the paper and revolutionary books from Pathfinder Press on special offer with a subscription to workers' doorsteps, picket lines and political events.

"We had our best weekend yet, selling 11 subscriptions going door to door, one renewal and one to a longshore worker at their hiring hall," Dutrow said.

This was the final weekend to campaign for Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami in the Nov. 5 election.

Enrique Rodríguez, a campaign supporter active in the Cuban-American Alianza Martiana, joined Baumann and Craine Nov. 3 campaigning in the working-class neighborhood of Allapattah. They sold four subscriptions on one block.

"It was very fruitful," Rodríguez said, after joining the campaign for the first time. "It taught me a lot, working in favor of the most oppressed classes."

Rodríguez also came to the social wrapping up the campaign Tuesday night along with two of Baumann's neighbors.

"On Saturday [Nov. 9] we're doing a morning team to the longshoremen's hiring hall and another team is going north to the sugarcane fields to meet agricultural workers," Dutrow said.

Supporters in Washington, D.C., adopted a goal of selling 90 subscriptions and sold twice as many last week than in the two previous weeks.

"While we are still behind, the momentum is shifting," said Paul Pederson. "We sold four subscriptions at a rally of taxi cab drivers. Going door to door we met a grocery store worker, who told us about a contract dispute and invited us to stop by a store where they would be leafleting. We did and two workers got subscriptions."

A *Militant* subscriber joined in an evening door-to-door team for the first time and helped lead the effort, Pederson said. The team sold three subscriptions. He works at McDonald's and is part of the fight among fast-food workers to increase the minimum wage.

Topping the scoreboard is subscriptions to prisoners. Two inmates renewed and two new ones signed up in the last week, reaching seven out of a goal of 15.



Militant/Janet Post

UPS worker Titus Edwards, right, got subscription Nov. 2 from Osborne Hart in Philadelphia's Overbrook neighborhood. Edwards was attracted to article on fight against cop brutality.

Philadelphia is also on target. The key is to stay on schedule each week, reported Janet Post. One of the new subscribers is Titus Edwards, a part-time worker for United Parcel Service, who they met Nov. 2 on his doorstep in the working-class neighborhood of Overbrook.

"He told us he had passed his test to be a truck driver, but now they say he needs eye surgery to drive," Post said. "Of course, he doesn't have health insurance to get that."

Edwards was attracted to a working-class paper and expressed special interest in the front-page article on the protests against the cop killing of Andy López in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Lincoln, Neb., has been at the top of the scoreboard since the beginning of the drive. "For us it's steady as you go, consistently following up for renewals and getting back to people who are interested," said Joe Swanson.

"Last weekend we went to a confer-

ence organized by a food co-op that a subscriber told us about. A couple days later we visited with a person we met there. He got a subscription and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*," one of nine books on special offer along with a subscription (see ad below).

In Sydney, Australia, Rebecca Pinkstone bought *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* when she renewed for a year at a Nov. 3 abortion rights rally with 100 participants, reported Ron Poulsen.

Send reports and photos on the progress to catch up by Monday morning. Be sure to include sales of books in your reports.

Join the effort to expand the *Militant's* readership. See page 8 for a distribution center near you or contact the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018 or call (212) 244-4899.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Oppose Prison Censorship, Part of a Broader Fight for Free Speech. Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

FLORIDA

Miami

Defend a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion. Speaker: Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

The Politics of the Civil War in Syria. Speaker: Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Defend a Woman's Right to Abortion. Speaker: Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Fri., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. 3302 Q St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (402) 871-0735.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

A Socialist and Working-Class Perspective on the New York City Elections and the Stop-and-Frisk Lawsuit. Speaker: Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

TEXAS

Houston

Oppose New Attack on Women's Right to Abortion. Fri., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C50L. Tel.: (713) 476-0733.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Unify the Working Class: What Has Been Gained in Recent Struggles by Farmworkers, Machinists and Teamsters. Sat., Nov. 16. Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Bethany United Church, 6230 Beacon Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The 1913 General Strike in New Zealand: How Unions Were Built Through Class Combat. Speaker: Mike Tucker, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 15, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 wage, \$2 unwaged. 4/125 Grafton Road. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

Special offers with 'Militant' subscription

The Cuban Five

Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free
from pages of the 'Militant'
\$3 with subscription (regular \$5)

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes
\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions

by Thomas Sankara

Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87
\$5 with subscription (regular \$10)

Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

See distributors
on page 8

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Cuba and Angola

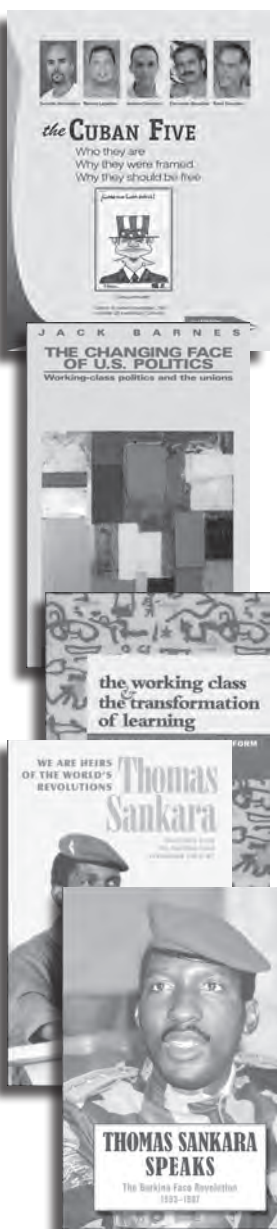
Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own
by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro; Cuban generals and combatants; Gabriel García Márquez
\$6 with subscription (regular \$12)

Women in Cuba

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Women and Revolution

The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution
by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
\$3 with subscription (regular \$7)



NY forum: Defend rights of workers behind bars

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK — “The three fights we are discussing tonight are part of one common struggle for the rights and dignity of working people in face of the growing coarseness and brutality of the so-called justice system under capitalism,” said Doug Nelson, editor of the *Militant* and the opening speaker at a Militant Labor Forum here Nov. 1 titled, “Defend the Rights of Workers Behind Bars.”

The meeting, attended by some 40 people, featured talks by Dayann Molina McDonough, god-sister of Kyam Livingston, who died as a result of willful negligence in police custody, and Ralph Poynter, representing the campaign to free Lynne Stewart, a criminal defense lawyer framed-up in 2006 and imprisoned by the U.S. government for the last four years.

“How can I not fight?” said McDonough. “When I learned that Kyam was dead, she said, ‘I offered my experiences from marching in Harlem against the shooting of Rodney King, to organizing protests when Amadou Diallo was shot, and linking up with the fight for justice for Sean Bell.’”

Kyam Livingston died in the Brooklyn Central Booking jail July 21, where she had been detained since the previous night for allegedly violating a protection order.

While in the cell, Livingston became gravely ill and pleaded for medical attention. Other prisoners tried to comfort her and demanded action from the guards, who were indifferent to her suffering. “Let it play out,” one guard said when Livingston started going into convulsions.

“They let her lie there and after seven hours she died,” McDonough said. “I consider this torture. They decided her life wasn’t worth anything. But she had rights.”

The Justice for Kyam Livingston committee organizes protests on the 21st every month.

Nelson spoke about the fight against efforts by prison authorities to censor the *Militant*. “We won a victory in early October when the Florida Department of Corrections reversed a decision to impound an issue of the paper because it reported on the recent hunger strike by inmates in California. They backed down in face of publicity and growing support from other publications and organizations in the fight.”

“Kyam Livingston didn’t ‘die,’ she was killed by the cops who denied her medical attention,” Nelson said.

“Such callousness and contempt toward working people is all too common. But when we decide to fight, it gets a resonance among other workers who confront not only the frame-ups and brutality of capitalist justice, but whose living standards and rights are under assault today.”

Nelson pointed to the cold-blooded killing of Miriam Carey by Capitol Police outside the White House Oct. 3, and how her executioners got a standing ovation from Democratic and Republican legislators in Congress as another example of the increasing brutality and coarseness meted out to working people today.

“Political prisoners have always had a special place in the struggles and movements of the oppressed and exploited,” Nelson said. “And prison authorities’ efforts to break our fighters like Lynne Stewart, like the Cuban Five, and like many others tend to fail.”

Fight to free Lynne Stewart

Ralph Poynter, of the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee, was the final speaker. Stewart, 74, was given a 10-year sentence for supposedly violating Special Administrative Measures the U.S. government imposed on her client Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, a Muslim cleric convicted in 1995 of “seditious conspiracy.”

Stewart has been diagnosed with cancer and her doctor estimates she has 16 months left to live. Her request for compassionate release was re-



Dayann Molina McDonough, campaign leader of Justice for Kyam Livingston, speaking Nov. 1 at New York Militant Labor Forum titled “Defend the Rights of Workers Behind Bars.” Other speakers on panel, from right, Ralph Poynter, leader of Lynne Stewart Defense Committee, and *Militant* editor Doug Nelson. Bernie Senter, left, chaired forum program.

jected June 24 by the Federal Prison Bureau and again on Aug. 9 by federal Judge John Koeltl, the same judge who sentenced her.

“They have basically decided that she’s going to die in prison, it’s a death sentence,” Poynter said. “All legal avenues are exhausted, what is left for us is the fight for compassionate release.”

The defense committee has designed a postcard it wants supporters to send to Stewart and has a petition to sign on its website lynnestewart.org. Most recently supporters of Stewart organized a rally on Oct. 28, her birthday.

Poynter described how Stewart has won tremendous respect among fellow inmates for speaking out against prison brutalities and helping inmates with legal questions and a range of

other matters, despite the fact that such acts of solidarity run counter to prison regulations.

“She has changed the culture in that prison by just being Lynne,” Poynter said. “At times they’ve sanctioned her, taken away her commissary, denied her phone calls and visits. But she has kept going. She is unbroken.”

**Write to
Lynne Stewart**
Order postcard from:
Lynne Stewart Organization
1070 Dean St., Brooklyn NY 11216
Tel.: (917) 853-9759
Sign petition at:
www.lynnestewart.org

‘Working class needs to run the country’

Continued from front page

unite the working class and put us in a stronger position to be able to fight for other issues.”

Fein heads the Socialist Workers Party ticket, which includes John Studer for comptroller and Deborah Liatos for public advocate, as well as Sara Lobman, Seth Galinsky and Róger Calero, running for borough presidents of Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx.

The SWP campaign platform supports the struggles of all working people worldwide and opposes Washington’s wars and drone attacks, from Somalia to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The socialist candidates have been speaking out against U.S. military threats against Syria, where millions of workers and farmers have paid a huge price in blood and ruin in their struggle against the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

They defend a woman’s right to choose abortion and have used their campaigns to win support in the fight to free the Cuban Five, framed up and imprisoned in the U.S. for their defense of Cuba’s socialist revolution.

“I read where you were surprised, even offended, that Bill de Blasio gets called supposedly a far left candidate,” moderator Louis said.

“He is a bourgeois socialist. He is a candidate that defends capitalism 100 percent,” Fein said. “His party is one of the main capitalist parties which defends this system, which only has war, racism and economic devastation for working people on the agenda for us.

“I’m the candidate who’s for the working class,” Fein said. “When I say socialist I mean the working class taking control of this country, taking control of the economy, and running it in our interests and not in the interests of the big corporations.”

Sanchez said he agreed with Fein that stop and frisk should be ended. “It’s a terrible violation of civil rights.”

McMillan promised that if he were elected mayor, rents would be reduced.

“You think, Mr. Fein, we should not just increase the minimum wage but say double or triple it?” asked Louis.

“Yes. The minimum wage right now is \$7.25 an hour. The bosses love that, more money in their pockets,” Fein said. “But it’s devastating for working people, and I was telling Jimmy at the break this is one of the reasons why we can’t pay rent. They don’t pay us enough, and wages are in fact going down if you take inflation into account. So what’s happening is rent goes up, food goes up, gas goes up, wages don’t go up.

“The working class needs, the unions need, to fight for a higher minimum wage,” Fein said, “which would put us in a stronger position and help unify the working class to fight for other things that the working class needs, as far as stopping the deportations, eliminating stop and frisk, and eliminating the superexploitation of working people.

“Now de Blasio and Obama, they want all of \$9 an hour, that doesn’t cut it. Try to raise a family in New York on \$9 an hour. Doesn’t work,” Fein said.

Both Sanchez and McMillan said they opposed any raise in the minimum wage, which they argued would be bad for business.

“The Socialist Workers Party is a 365-day-a-year party,” Fein said, holding up a copy of the *Militant* newspaper, wrapping up the program. “We will be campaigning for the working class, joining picket lines and demonstrations and defending the working class, the day before, the day of and the day after the elections.”

On Nov. 3 Fein and supporters campaigned at the Frederick Douglass housing project in Harlem.

Saying she liked Fein’s proposals for fighting for a public works program and a big raise in the minimum wage, Margaret Fields, a library assistant at Columbia University campaigners met at the housing project, took some campaign flyers and a copy of the *Militant*.

“I’m going to take this stuff in to work and show it around. For both co-workers and students, it’s the perfect paper for them to read,” she told Fein.

Sara Lobman contributed to this article.

**Rally:
“Justice for
Kyam Livingston”**
November 21, 5:30 p.m.
East 18th Street/Church Avenue
Brooklyn
Speakers include family members,
representatives of Campaign for
Justice for Kyam Livingston and
from Justice Committee
Sign petition at:
www.causes.com/justice-for-kyam

**March to Free
Oscar López Rivera**
Sat. Nov. 23 New York City
Assemble: 11 a.m.
Clemente Soto Velez Cultural
Center, 107 Suffolk St., Manhattan
**March: to Continental Army
Plaza, Brooklyn**

London rally against deaths in cop custody: ‘Charge killers!’

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON — “Charge the killers now,” chanted protesters at a rally here Oct. 26 against deaths in police custody.

According to the charitable organization INQUEST, since 1990 nearly 1,500 have died in England and Wales while in police custody, or “otherwise following contact with the police.” INQUEST reports no successful prosecutions in that time.

In the 15th such protest organized by the United Families and Friends Campaign, about 200 demonstrators marched from Trafalgar Square to the residence of Prime Minister David Cameron on Downing Street.

“We will not be brushed aside,” Stephanie Lightfoot-Bennett told participants. In 1992, her twin brother Leon Patterson died at the age of 31 in a police jail after being denied urgently needed medical care for six days.

Becky Shah, whose mother was among the 96 killed by actions of police at a soccer stadium in Sheffield in 1989 in what is commonly referred to as the “Hillsborough disaster,” also spoke. The original “accidental death” ruling was overturned and new inquests are scheduled for next year.

“I’m here still fighting after 20 years,” Myrna Simpson told the *Militant*. Simpson is the mother of Joy Gardner, who died in 1993 four days after cops broke into her north London home to deport her. They bound and gagged the 40-year-old Jamaican woman in front of her 5-year-old son, using body belts and 13 feet of tape wrapped around her head. Three officers were acquitted of manslaughter charges in 1995.

“It’s hard to believe this can happen in a country like Britain,” said Ajibola Lewis, whose son Olaseni Lewis was killed in 2010 after being restrained by 11 cops. “It’s worth the fight, we can’t give up, we can’t let them get away with it.” In August the High Court invalidated a 2011 investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission — which effectively exonerated the police from the outset — and ordered a new inquiry.

“They treated Sean like a dog, not a human being,” Marcia Rigg told the rally. Her brother Sean died half-naked on a concrete floor in the Brixton police station in 2008. As a result of the

family’s unrelenting fight for the truth in face of police obstruction, many of the facts surrounding his death have come to light. A year ago an inquest jury heavily criticized the police and in April a separate review slammed the IPCC’s conduct of the investigation.

Another speaker was Jo Orchard, whose brother Thomas Orchard, 32, died last year, a week after a restraining belt was tied over his mouth in Exeter.

In July, an inquest jury reached an “unlawful killing” verdict in the case of Jimmy Mubenga, who was killed in 2010 by private security guards who abusively restrained him in the process of his deportation to Angola.

Police testimony at the ongoing inquest of the August 2011 shooting of Mark Duggan in North London is full of lies, Carole Duggan, Mark’s aunt, told protesters. The killing of Duggan, who was shot after police stopped his taxi, sparked a protest nearby in Tottenham, followed by riots across London and other cities.

Also among the protesters were fam-



Militant/Debra Jacobs

Demonstrators march in London Oct. 26 to residence of British Prime Minister David Cameron to protest nearly 1,500 deaths in police custody in England and Wales since 1990.

ily members of Anthony Grainger, who was unarmed and sitting in a car when he was shot dead by Greater Manchester Police in March 2012. The family has condemned the leaking of an IPCC report on the shooting. Possible criminal charges are still pending.

Meanwhile, a public inquiry into the shooting of Azelle Rodney in London in 2005 — described by his mother as “an execution” — rejected the account of the cop who killed him and concluded he had no legal justification for opening fire.

Scotland refinery imposes cuts after lockout, threats to close

BY ANNE HOWIE

LONDON — In response to a 48-hour strike scheduled to start Oct. 20 at the Grangemouth oil refinery and petrochemical plant in Scotland, Ineos Group Limited shut down the complex and said it would not reopen until workers accepted the company’s concessionary demands. The decision to strike came as contract talks broke down and in response to company treatment of a Unite union convener.

Unite officials then called off the planned walkout before it began. Ineos used its threat to stay closed to press cuts, including a three-year wage freeze, pension benefits reductions, reduced shift allowances and ending the presence of a full-time union convener on site. The company offer included a one-time contract-

signing bribe of £15,000 (\$24,000) for each worker.

“This is cynical blackmail from a company that is putting a gun to the heads of its loyal workforce to slash pay, pensions and jobs,” Pat Rafferty, Unite’s Scotland secretary, told Reuters Oct. 17.

Ineos insisted workers vote on its plan. About half the directly employed workforce rejected the contract in results announced Oct. 21. The proportion voting against the offer among the union members — who comprise the majority — was 65 percent.

Two days after the announcement of the vote, the company said the petrochemical plant would remain closed for good, eliminating 800 jobs. On Oct. 25, after negotiations involving Scottish and U.K. government min-

isters, Unite General Secretary Len McCluskey announced the union would accept the company’s plan “in the wake of the closure decision,” according to the Scotland *Herald*.

Ineos then announced that the plant would reopen, ending the 12-day shutdown.

While Ineos operates the complex, the refinery is part-owned by PetroChina. Some 1,370 workers are directly employed there, along with about 2,000 contract workers. The refinery is Scotland’s main fuel supplier, processing 200,000 barrels of crude oil every day. Crude oil is also imported to the site from around the world via its deep-sea terminal on the west coast of Scotland. The petrochemical plant manufactures 2 million tons of products per year.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 18, 1988

Exposure of racist and sexist harassment within the New York City police department has spotlighted what seems to be growing brutalization among cops as social pressures in this capitalist society deepen. And in explosive situations, the internal discipline of the cops seems to suddenly break down as was shown last August when several hundred went on an all-night rampage in a city park, beating many homeless workers and youth.

The role of cops in capitalist society, as protectors of capitalist property and order, dictates that as the social and economic crisis deepens, working people are going to face increasing savagery and violence from police forces. This means protecting each other against assaults — by exposing them and mobilizing broad opposition — will become increasingly necessary for working people.



November 18, 1963

DETROIT, Nov. 11 — A highly successful Northern Negro Grass Roots Leadership Conference was held here this weekend. The conference outlined a program of militant action, including support to the idea of independent Negro political action and the Freedom Now Party.

The working session of the conference was attended by 156 Negro delegates from 18 cities and nine states. The wind-up rally at the King Solomon Baptist Church, featuring speakers Muslim leader Malcolm X, Rev. Albert Cleage and newsman William Worthy, was attended by an enthusiastic audience of several thousand, many of whom volunteered for petitioning to put the Freedom Now Party on the ballot in Michigan.

Worthy might be in jail during the 1964 election. He is appealing conviction on a charge of returning to the U.S. from Cuba without a passport.



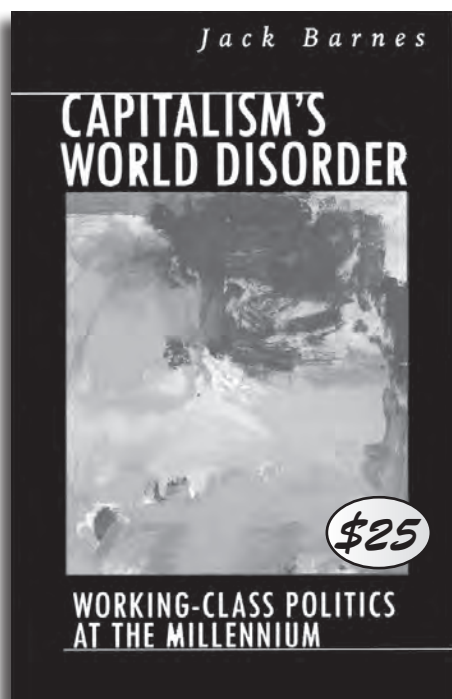
November 19, 1938

Throughout Germany bands of Nazi gangsters organized and commanded by their leaders, have wrecked and looted stores owned by Jews. Jewish synagogues have been burned and destroyed by the instructed Fascist mobs. The workers of Germany, who hate and despise Hitlerism with all their strength, were unable to come to the aid of the brutalized Jews because they are themselves still in the straitjacket of the Nazi terror.

The workers of the United States must take the initiative in a mighty and effective protest against the Hitlerite pogroms.

To let the Fascist massacres go unanswered, is only to prepare for our own defeat and enslavement at the hands of Fascist reaction in this country.

Throw open the doors of the United States to the victims of the Hitlerite pogrom regime!



Pathfinderpress.com

UN condemns US embargo of Cuba for 22nd year in row

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — For the 22nd year in a row the United Nations General Assembly Oct. 29 voted to condemn the U.S. embargo of Cuba.

“During the government of President Obama, the blockade has been intensified,” Cuba’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Bruno Rodríguez told the assembly before the vote, “particularly in the financial sector.”

The embargo began in October 1960, less than two years after the Cuban people, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, overthrew U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista and drew millions into the building of a new society based on the conquest of political power by workers and farmers.

Seeking to undermine the socialist revolution and punish the Cuban people, President Dwight Eisenhower initiated what became an almost total economic, trade and financial embargo, as well as a ban on U.S. citizens traveling to the island. It has been maintained by every U.S. president since then.

In his speech, Rodríguez gave numerous examples of the “human damage resulting” from the U.S. sanctions. Washington has blocked the drug Kalestra used to treat children born with AIDS and the Amplatzer device for children with heart defects.

Rodríguez said 30 U.S. and non-U.S. companies have been fined more than \$2.45 billion since January 2009 for violating U.S. rules. In December 2012, the Treasury Department fined the British HSBC bank \$375 million and Japan’s Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi \$8.6 million.

Representatives of governments across the globe voted to condemn the embargo. Only two — the U.S. and Israel — voted against. The Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau, effectively U.S. colonies, abstained.

U.S. Ambassador Ronald Godard complained that “Cuba still has one of the most restricted economic systems in the world” and claimed that Cuba “silences critics, disrupts peaceful assem-

bly, impedes independent journalism.” In response to Godard’s demand that Cuba grant “unfettered access to the Internet,” Rodríguez explained that Washington denies Cuba access to high-speed underwater cables available to other nations, greatly restricting Cuba’s bandwidth.

“The government of the U.S. does not have the slightest moral authority to present itself as the accuser,” Rodríguez said. “It is responsible for wars that cause the deaths of millions of civilians, carried out extrajudicial executions with drones and deadly technologies, and has a pattern of racial and social differentiated use of the death penalty.”

‘Militant’ wins new round against censorship

Continued from front page

had been blocked for several weeks. The paper has 32 subscribers in state prisons and three in federal lockup.

After the Florida fight began, the paper received word from an inmate in Washington state that a number of issues with articles on the California hunger strike were taken from him. The *Militant* is working with the ACLU there to get the newspapers returned.

“Excellent news,” Mary Ratcliff, editor of the *San Francisco Bay View*, told the *Militant* when she heard about the new Florida victory.

The *Militant’s* fight against censorship is part of a broader, nationwide battle. Prison authorities have worked overtime to bar publications that cover the fights of prisoners against harsh conditions and abuses, including *Bay View* and *Prison Legal News*.

“We’ve faced a lot of censorship,” Ratcliff said, “ever since we took the paper over and put out our first issue in 1992. We got interest from prisoners right away because we left issues outside the county jail in San Francisco and they made their way inside.

“We also began getting articles from prisoners,” she said. “It’s a big challenge



William Soler Cardio Center, Havana, blocked by Washington from using Amplatzer device in treatment of children with heart problems. Center performed 6,000 operations in 25 years.

Washington “atrociously uses torture and force-feeds hunger strikers,” Rodríguez said, referring to protests against torture and indefinite detention of in-

mates at the U.S. prison camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba — where Washington maintains a naval base in disregard of Cuban sovereignty.

to deal with the censorship. I’ve written letters to wardens and pressed to get the paper released through the internal review process in a number of prisons.

The *Bay View* has received and published statements by leaders of California prisoners incarcerated in the Security Housing Units who initiated a series of hunger strikes in 2012 and 2013.

“They talk about what’s wrong and what should be done. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation hates it,” Ratcliff said. “We were very pleased to publish the ‘Agreement to End Hostilities’ from the SHU Short Corridor Collective at Pelican Bay State Prison.”

“Now is the time for us to collectively seize this moment in time and put an end to more than 20-30 years of hostilities between our racial groups,” the agreement, signed by Black, Latino and Caucasian prisoners, said.

“This agreement has held in the prisons,” Ratcliff said. “It’s taken the biggest weapon the authorities had out of their

hands, because they can’t divide and conquer the prisoners.

“Sometimes the censorship almost appears random,” Ratcliff said. “The paper will get in for a while, then get rejected, with no notice or reason. Then it will start again.”

JOIN THE FIGHT

Help get out the word. Print out copies of this article and get them around.

Get statements of support for the *Militant’s* appeal from defenders of workers rights and free speech.

Send a check or money order to The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”

If you are a prisoner let the *Militant* know if you haven’t been receiving your subscription.

Special effort needed to win pledges to Party-Building Fund

BY TONY LANE

With \$9,930 contributed to the Socialist Workers Party fund after week two of the drive, fund supporters need to make a special effort to get the drive back on track. A combined effort of collecting pledges made and winning new contributors can make that happen.

Frank Forrestal reports from Minneapolis that Mike Sinh, a worker at American Crystal Sugar in Drayton, N. D., who was one of 1,300 workers locked out by the company for 20 months, says he will renew his *Militant* subscription and make a contribution to the Party-Building Fund. Sinh told Forrestal that many of his co-workers have been talking about a lockout of union members at the Kellogg Company factory in Memphis, Tenn., that began Oct. 22.

Payments need to reach the SWP National Office by Monday to be reflected in the weekly scoreboard. Reports on efforts to win new contributors for future columns would also be appreciated.

Send contributions to the fund to

the SWP office nearest you (see directory on page 8) or directly to the SWP National Office at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Free the Cuban Five!



Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with “conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information.”

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder, based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s 1996 shoot-down of two Brothers to the Rescue aircraft that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana’s repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years. His wife Adriana Pérez is barred from entering the United States.

All but René González remain in prison. He was allowed to return to Cuba in May this year, halfway through a three-year term of supervised release.

Party-Building Fund Week 2 of 9

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Lincoln	\$200	\$50	25%
Des Moines	\$2,600	\$506	19%
San Francisco	\$13,000	\$2,400	18%
Twin Cities	\$5,750	\$1,000	17%
Atlanta	\$8,800	\$1,504	17%
Boston	\$3,500	\$500	14%
Los Angeles	\$8,200	\$1,025	13%
New York	\$20,000	\$2,064	10%
Washington	\$7,500	\$660	9%
Chicago	\$9,200	\$191	2%
Miami	\$3,000	\$30	1%
Houston	\$3,000		0%
Omaha	\$2,500		0%
Philadelphia	\$4,200		0%
Seattle	\$8,800		0%
Other			
Total	\$100,250	\$9,930	10%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$22,222	22%

Socialist Workers adopts course of action to build party

BY EMMA JOHNSON
AND DOUG NELSON

NEW YORK — Members of the Socialist Workers Party and other supporters of the *Militant* are engaged in an eight-week international drive to sell 2,500 subscriptions along with hundreds of books on revolutionary working-class politics centered on door-to-door campaigning in working-class neighborhoods. They are stepping up their involvement in political activity. And they have renewed free-speech Militant Labor Forum series on a weekly basis in cities across the country.

These activities are essential to building the party today, concluded the party's National Committee in adopting reports by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes at a leadership meeting here Oct. 19-21. They are part of the party's political response to the sustained openness to communist politics among working people, whose lives and outlooks have been shaken by the deepening crisis of capitalism on a world scale.

The propertied rulers of the U.S. and worldwide have no solutions to the deepening crisis rooted in a slowdown of capitalist production and trade. They are blowing up giant financial bubbles, chasing after higher returns through speculation as they seek to shore up their industrial rates of profit by squeezing more from our labor and driving against our living standards under conditions of persistently high unemployment.

An integral part of these assaults is chipping away at workers' rights and more open contempt and coarseness toward the working class. One stark example is the Oct. 3 cold-blooded murder of Miriam Carey by Capitol Police after she ran into a White House barrier, and

the standing ovation her killers received by Democratic and Republican party legislators in Congress.

The conditions imposed on working people in the U.S. and the social crises they see unfolding around the world foster both distrust of those in power and interest in a fighting revolutionary perspective. This is true, despite the current lack of any major working-class resistance or sustained social protests.

Over the last several months, the party's propaganda work has been supplemented and strengthened by SWP election campaigns for public offices organized in 10 cities through Nov. 5. The party's socialist campaign platform has complemented door-to-door discussions and *Militant* sales, and has allowed the party to reach a broader audience through media coverage, debates and other election campaign events.

Campaigners talked with working people about the party's immediate demands to fight for a public works program to provide millions of jobs and for a big raise in the minimum wage, aimed at strengthening the unity, confidence and fighting spirit of labor. Campaigners engaged questions of world politics from the point of view of the interests of workers and their allies, from the civil war in Syria to workers' fight for life and limb in the garment shops of Bangladesh.

The candidates sought to distinguish themselves as tribunes of the people, addressing the real questions of concern to workers posed by the election contests. The SWP candidate for Seattle Port Commissioner, John Naubert, for example, stood out as the only candidate who took a stand for workers' safety on the docks and pledged to use the commissioner's office to defend and build soli-

Members of Socialist Workers Party are engaged in drive to sell *Militant* subscriptions and Pathfinder books and are stepping up participation in political activity. **Right**, Phillip Purket signs up for subscription and gets copy of *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power* from Leroy Watson in Chicago, Nov. 2. **Below**, Tom Baumann, front, SWP candidate for Miami mayor, joins Oct. 6 protest in Miami Beach demanding prosecution of cops who killed 18-year-old Israel Hernández.



Militant/Laura Anderson



Militant/Naomi Graine

arity with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union under assault by the port bosses.

Socialist workers, the National Committee concluded, must be attuned to joining in labor actions, social protests and other political events. Such actions often draw workers and young people looking for ways to confront the social problems and crises bred by capitalism, whether they be meetings on developments in world politics or demonstrations against any of the myriad assaults on the living standards, rights and dignity of working people — from defense of a woman's right to choose abortion to fights against police brutality or deportations of immigrant workers.

Members of the party in cities across the U.S. had been organizing Militant Labor Forums every other week or so as they concentrated their attention and energy on carrying out consistent sales of the socialist press and other literature to a broad cross-section of the working class, with a focus on door to door campaigning. Having made substantial progress in this regard, organizing and building weekly Friday night Militant Labor Forums as a regular political institution in more than a dozen cities across the country has become a top priority.

These public meetings provide a platform for fighters with various points of view and a venue for participants to discuss political questions of interest to working people. For example, this issue of the paper includes an article on a forum held in New York Nov. 1 titled, "Defend the Rights of Workers Behind Bars," which featured a panel of speakers on the fights to prosecute the cops responsible for the death of Kyam Livingston in police custody, to free Lynne Stewart, a framed-up lawyer who dedicated herself to defending workers rights, and against efforts to censor the *Militant* in prisons.

The listing on page 3 includes eight forums for Nov. 15-16 on top-

ics ranging from the civil war in Syria and women's right to choose abortion to struggles of farmworkers, Machinists and Teamsters in the Northwest and the New York cop's stop-and-frisk practices.

Defense of the Cuban Five

In a report on the party's international work, party leader Mary-Alice Waters

emphasized the priority for party members in every city to *act* now to work with others to build support for the international campaign to free the Cuban Five.

Immediate opportunities include organizing events around showings of political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández and paintings by Antonio Guerrero, particularly the most recent work by Guerrero titled, "I Will Die the Way I Lived."

The collection of 15 watercolors depict the Five's first 17 months of imprisonment, including six spent in solitary confinement. They speak to the fight for dignity and against the type of brutalities and indignities meted out to millions of working people behind bars today and bear witness to the kind of exemplary working-class fighters the Five are.

An example of what is possible was the exhibit of "I Will Die the Way I Lived" that opened Sept. 12 at the Pillsbury House community center in Minneapolis, hosted by Obsidian Arts, backed by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3800 and United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1189, and promoted by *Insight News*, an African-American community newspaper.

At the same time, participants at the National Committee meeting discussed the gut reaction among party cadre

Continued on page 9



Militant/Jacque Henderson

Militant supporters are renewing weekly Militant Labor Forum series in cities across U.S. Above, forum in Omaha, Neb., Oct. 26 with SWP candidates David Rosenfeld, Des Moines City Council; Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Senate from Nebraska; and Jacob Perasso, governor.

For further reading...

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

by Jack Barnes

Building the kind of party working people need to prepare for coming class battles through which they will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all society. A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on socialist foundations. \$24



The Struggle for a Proletarian Party

by James P. Cannon

On the eve of World War II, a founder of the communist movement in the U.S. defends the program and party-building course of the Communist International in Lenin's time. \$22

Available from pathfinderpress.com
or from distributors on page 8



Militant/Joanne Murphy

SWP leadership meeting discussed need to act on opportunities to work with others to build support for fight to free Cuban Five. Above, participants at opening of Antonio Guerrero's "I Will Die the Way I Lived" exhibit in Minneapolis Sept. 12.

Che: Enthusiasm for work is a foundation for building socialism

Below is an excerpt from Che Guevara Speaks, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. It is taken from a speech by Guevara, then head of Cuba's Ministry of Industry, at a May Day celebration meeting April 30, 1963, honoring outstanding workers and technicians. Guevara refers to what the U.S. government and press called the "Cuban Missile Crisis," when the Cuban people led by their revolutionary government defended Cuba's sovereignty and unfolding socialist revolution against Washington's provocations and designs for a military invasion that pushed the world to the brink of nuclear war. Copyright © 1967 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

We meet once again, on the eve of the International Workers Festival, to honor those compañeros who by their efforts in the service of production for our country, and in the service of the noble cause of building socialism, have distinguished themselves as vanguard workers in each of the different enterprises into which our ministry is divided.

During the twelve months of the past year, we have held periodic talks with those compañeros who, by their dedication to work, month by month excelled among all the workers in our enterprises.



Ernesto Che Guevara, second from left, during factory visit as minister of industry in Cuba's revolutionary government, a responsibility he carried out from 1961 to 1965.

We have repeated over and over that, in the case of vanguard workers, excessive modesty is not a virtue but a defect; that the vanguard worker must show his example, make it vivid and palpable, communicate it, spread it far and wide. He must make his enthusiasm contagious to all the other compañeros, and see to it that his individual effort is transformed into a great, united, collective effort of all the workers. He must help transform the efforts of the vanguard factories into the great collective effort of all the factories of the country, of all the centers of production. He must see to it that simultaneously there is a deepening of both efficiency at work and the consciousness of our people, in order to obtain both the material abundance needed for the construction of socialism and the indestructible strength of consciousness of the country's sons and daughters, which are also needed for its defense in difficult moments.

During an entire year these two tasks have been completely fulfilled. Not without defects, not without more or less serious missteps, not without mistakes, stumbles, backward steps in order to get back on the road. But with unquenchable enthusiasm and complete dedication to our task in 1962, we laid more solidly the foundations for our society. We contributed, too, to the development of revolutionary consciousness in the entire world when, confronted

with the atomic threats of the Yankee invader, our entire people rose last October and November and gave an answer that without doubt will pass into history.

It was an example of how a people in revolution can confront the greatest dangers, even the threat of atomic destruction itself — a threat unknown to other societies in world history. And it was an example of how with revolutionary consciousness and determination to win, and the militant solidarity of all the countries of the socialist camp and of all free men throughout the world, a small people, living at the gates of the most aggressive and powerful imperialist power on earth, can triumph, can maintain its sovereignty, and, most importantly, continue building its own society.

The central task assigned to us, compañeros, in the trench of production, is to constantly continue building, no matter what dangers threaten or what difficulties have to be overcome. And this is the task we are developing and improving.

Each year that passes we do less badly at least; each year we learn from our own errors and the experience of other peoples. In this way we are forging the basis of what will be in the future a powerful, autonomous, self-supporting industry in this country, a country that will have to rely on its great agricultural riches based on the fertility of its soil, on its favorable climate, and on

a relatively low population density. . . .

You all know the immense number of illiterates we had in Cuba. We are all witnesses, and in some form participants in that battle, as heroic as any other battle, which we fought against lack of culture, in this case illiteracy.

But illiteracy is only the extreme expression of a people's lack of culture. Whoever learns just to read and write has taken only the first step toward culture, but cannot yet contribute anything to it.

Modern technique is advancing by giant steps. In order to be a qualified technician in this country, very soon it will be necessary to have a speaking knowledge of more than one language; to be able to read technical books will require knowledge of more than one language, to learn how to read the technical specifications and directions in whatever language, since the capitalists have also produced a great deal in technology — and produced it very well — and it is necessary to know how to take advantage of all those experiences.

Raising skill levels then is a cardinal task of the government and of all the people and it must not be abandoned. Men and women, even when tired after work, must make the indispensable effort to study, even if only for an hour or half-hour a day, and in this way try to keep increasing their knowledge.

It is not important that in a few weeks or months the distance covered may seem small. This is a task of years, and a task that must never end. It is also a task that is very difficult for a beginner, for a worker of a certain age who can barely read and write. But to the degree that new knowledge is acquired, culture will cease to be a revolutionary duty or something more or less painful that must be done to fulfill a revolutionary obligation, and will instead become a human need. And then it will cease to be an effort to continue the task of learning.

In this work tremendous efforts and a prodigious amount of society's goods have been consumed and will continue to be consumed. We believe that culture and public health are services on which we can never spend enough for our people. The more we can give, the better it will be for all. And so we will continue to give as much as possible.

November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Cuban revolutionary leader Che Guevara exposes the workings of the imperialist system and seeks to imbue the working people of Cuba and their fellow fighters around the world, with unshakable confidence in their capacity to transform the world — and themselves.

\$15. **Special price: \$11.25**



Blacks in America's Wars

by Robert W. Mullen

\$11. **Special price: \$8.25**

Art and Revolution

by Leon Trotsky

\$22. **Special price: \$16.50**

Le désordre mondial du capitalisme

(Capitalism's World Disorder)

by Jack Barnes

Social devastation, financial panic, imperialist aggression are products of the lawful workings of capitalism. The future can be changed by a united struggle of workers and farmers conscious of their power to transform the world.

\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**



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Workers pay for economic crisis

Continued from front page

mentators insist that something should be done to spur economic growth. An Oct. 14 *Financial Times* article by former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers calls for “focusing on growth,” arguing against what he sees as too much emphasis on cutting government expenses in response to the economic contraction. Aside from the fact it includes no proposal that could actually “spur growth,” the striking thing is that it makes not one mention of jobs.

Over the course of the nearly four-and-a-half years of so-called economic recovery since the 2008-2009 recession, huge numbers of workers have been jobless for record lengths of time, with more and more being pushed out of the workforce altogether.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 90.6 million men and women over the age of 16 are not working — an all-time high. This figure has risen by nearly 10 million over the past five years, affecting workers of all ages.

According to the Federal Reserve of San Francisco, 19.5 percent of the workforce is part time in 2013, “a historically high proportion,” notes the *Wall Street Journal*.

Bosses are pressing against wages, often through lockouts, union busting, the imposition of multitier contracts, firing of employees and hiring of “temporary” contract workers at lower wages. The owners also rely on the more subtle method of driving down real wages through inflation, often with the use of longer and longer contracts with wage freezes.

Caterpillar bludgeoned the union at its mining equipment assembly plant in Milwaukee in June to

approve a revised contract that imposes a six-year hourly wage freeze. The company also announced it would hire temporary workers to fill job openings through attrition at lower pay and fewer benefits.

While the monetary policies of the U.S. Federal Reserve can have no effect on economic growth or job creation — the ostensible purpose behind the massive money-printing “easing” scheme it has been carrying out for the last five years — it has stoked inflation.

“The Fed, in a break from its historic focus on suppressing inflation, has tried since the financial crisis to keep prices rising about 2 percent a year,” wrote the *New York Times* Oct. 27.

“Executives at Walmart, Rent-A-Center and Sparta Stores, a Michigan grocery chain have ... bemoaned the lack of inflation in recent months,” the *Times* article noted. The motivation for the capitalists is higher profits in the short term as companies raise prices to match inflation while real wages sink.

The consequences of inflation are particularly harsh for those on fixed incomes like Social Security or pensions.

After nearly five years, industrial production has not reached the output level it was at prior to the 2008-2009 recession — when it dropped 19 percent. It’s now at 96 percent of its 2007 average, according to the Federal Reserve.

But this same amount of work is being done with 2 million fewer workers, as bosses impose faster line speeds amidst deteriorating safety conditions. This process began prior to the last recession. The number of manufacturing workers has declined from 17.3 million in 2000 to under 12 million today, according to the Heritage Foundation.

Socialist Workers

Continued from page 7

around the country who, without exception, have declined to take part in a campaign being promoted by some defenders of the Five to co-opt the wearing and display yellow ribbons as a symbol of support for the international campaign to free the Five. In the United States — and by extension the rest of the Western imperialist world from Canada to Europe to Australia — the yellow ribbon has and continues to represent support for imperialist war. It has become the most prominent symbol of support for the foot soldiers of the imperialist armed forces — “our boys” — which often includes a strong dose of resentment for the hated officer corps that “let them down,” supposedly led them to defeat, or abandoned them in the trenches and prison camps.

While the yellow ribbon appeals primarily to those least likely to back the Five and everything they represent, the gut aversion to it exists among many of those who are most inclined to support them and their fight for freedom — from supporters for Puerto Rican independence and Black rights to opponents of Washington’s wars, militant unionists and the many working people with their own experiences at the hands of U.S. capitalist “justice.”

Among the political opportunities and responsibilities the National Committee discussed under Waters’ report is helping build and participate in the delegation from the U.S. to the World Festival of Youth and Students this December in Quito, Ecuador, where thousands of young people from around the world will gather to discuss and debate the next steps in the struggle against imperialism.

‘Tradition makes us’

The National Committee discussed the need for renewed attention to the party constitution, the guiding principles of which were laid out more than 150 years ago by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, founding leaders of the modern communist movement. “The purpose of the party,” the constitution of the Socialist Workers Party opens, “shall be to educate and organize the working class in order to establish a workers and farmers government, which will abolish capitalism in the United States and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism.”

The basic criteria for membership is the same as that established by the Bolshevik Party, which under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin led the workers and farmers to power in Russia in 1917: “Every person who accepts the program of the party and agrees to submit to its discipline and engage actively in its work shall be eligible to membership.”

“We do not make tradition,” Barnes said. “Tradition makes us.”

The struggle to build any revolutionary working-class party must be rooted in continuity with the political conquests of the communist movement won in the course of struggles from those led by Marx and Engels to the Russian and Cuban revolutions. The major lessons of two key turning points in the fight for such a party in the U.S. are codified in *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*, first published in 1943, and *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, first published in 1981.

The key accomplishments in building a communist party rooted in the working class in the late 1970s, as laid out in *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, are not registered primarily in the colonization of basic industry carried out universally by the party cadre at the time, but in the *political* conquests recorded there. Among these was the recognition of Malcolm X as a revolutionary leader of the working class and of the 1959 Cuban Revolution as the first example since the early years of the Russian Revolution of a genuine socialist revolution that brought the working class to power and used that power to advance a proletarian internationalist course in the interests of toiling humanity. The course of the Cuban Revolution stands as an example for workers and farmers the world over.

The National Committee meeting also voted to call the 47th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party for March to build on the work being carried out now and debate the next steps forward along this course.

Ecuador president opposes women’s rights

Continued from front page

abortion,” said Correa in an Oct. 10 television interview. “Our constitution pledges to defend life from the moment of conception.”

In Latin America more than 4 million women are forced to resort to illegal, and often substandard, abortions each year. Thousands suffer serious injury as a result.

“The traitors are not those who thought it was correct to defend the life of women,” said Pabón in her statement withdrawing the proposal. “With much affection we have to tell you that this time you are mistaken.”

Correa, a self-described “left-wing, humanist, Roman Catholic,” who claims to be leading a “citizens’ revolution” in Ecuador, is among other leading left bourgeois politicians in Latin America who are fighting against women’s right to choose abortion.

In 2006, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega’s Sandinista Front backed a new law banning all abortions. In 2008, former Uruguayan President Tabaré Vázquez, a long-time leader of the Socialist Party, vetoed a bill decriminalizing abortions. In Venezuela, abortion is illegal, forcing many working-class women to resort to unsafe abortions. “Call me a conservative, but I don’t agree with abortions to stop a pregnancy,” said late President Hugo Chávez in 2012.

Abortion “of course is a crime,” said Evo Morales, Bolivia’s president, back in July in response to a public debate provoked by a challenge to an existing abortion law, which restricts the procedure to cases of rape and health.

Patricia Mancilla, a deputy of Morales’ Movement Toward Socialism party, said she was motivated to press for changes “because of the deaths of so many women as a result of our country’s underdevelopment.”

LETTERS

Staff assaults inmate

Recently I witnessed prison staff brutally assault a prisoner. He is known to be mentally ill and takes several different psychotropic medications.

When the prison’s Extraction Team, informally known as “Orange Crush,” was called in to forcibly remove him from his cell, they pepper sprayed him three times. Then the prisoner was handcuffed and shackled. After that he was maced a fourth time at point blank range and frogmarched down the gallery and out of the cell house.

The prisoner did not once threaten to harm himself or anybody else. All he did was refuse to throw away a milk carton.

In solidarity and struggle,
A prisoner
Illinois

Cover Militant Labor Forums

One of my strongest desires is to attend a Militant Labor Forum (among the MLFers — as Malcolm X would say). I believe I’m correct in assuming that MLFs are open to the public. As I believe they

are used as centers of education for workers, why does the *Militant* not cover the wide-ranging topics presented at the forums? Would it be possible to dedicate, if only periodically, a portion of the paper to the discussions and talks heard at these forums as there are spaces reserved for “On the Picket Line” and “Books of the Month.”

A prisoner
Maryland

‘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.

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.