

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

INSIDERefugees, class struggle and the
fight to unify the working class

— PAGE 4

Build Socialist Workers Party ‘Militant’ fund drive efforts

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The Socialist Workers Party drive to win new and renewing readers to the *Militant* is nearly on schedule, with 820 subscriptions sold in the first three weeks. A simultaneous eight-week effort to raise \$100,000 to fund the party’s work over the coming year is also making progress, with four areas raising their quotas this week.

Continued on page 3

Party-Building Fund Week 3

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$3,605	42%
Boston	\$3,250	\$1,270	39%
Chicago*	\$11,000	\$1,700	15%
Lincoln	\$175	\$50	29%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$1,310	16%
Miami	\$3,000	\$750	25%
New York	\$20,000	\$2,240	11%
Oakland*	\$14,500	\$5,730	40%
Omaha*	\$1,400	0%	
Philadelphia	\$3,200	\$620	19%
Seattle	\$8,300	0%	
Twin Cities*	\$3,400	\$550	16%
Washington	\$7,700	0%	
Other	\$1,200	0%	
Total	\$93,725	\$17,825	18%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$37,500	38%

* Raised goal

Castro at UN: Cuba speaks for the toilers of the world

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — In three speeches during his visit at the United Nations, Cuban President Raúl Castro drew attention to the deteriorating conditions faced by billions of workers and farmers around the world. He called for measures to close the gap between imperialist and semicolonial countries. And he appealed for support in the continued fight to end Washington’s economic war against Cuba.

In his Sept. 28 speech to the U.N. General Assembly, the revolutionary leader said that since 1945 when the organization was founded “there have constantly been wars of aggression, and interference in the internal affairs of states; the ousting of sovereign governments by force.”

Today “795 million go hungry, 781 million adults are illiterate, and 17,000 children perish every day from curable diseases, while annual military expenses worldwide amount to more than \$1.7 trillion. Barely a fraction of that figure could resolve the most pressing problems afflicting humanity,” he said.

“Even in industrial nations the ‘welfare society,’ usually presented as the model to imitate, has practically disappeared,” Castro added, describing

Continued on page 6

Chicago rally says, ‘Defend abortion rights, defend Planned Parenthood’



Sept. 19 rally in Chicago defends right to choose abortion.

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO — “We need to say that Chicago stands with Planned Parenthood and against Illinois Governor Rauner’s austerity budget,” Lauren Bianchi told some 200 participants at

a Sept. 19 rally and march at Federal Plaza here in defense of women’s right to choose abortion. Participants opposed moves to stop federal funding of Planned Parenthood.

Bianchi was speaking for FURIE — Feminist Uprising to Resist Inequality and Exploitation — which called the action.

“We’re for repealing the Hyde amendment, which blocks federal funding for abortion,” she told the mostly young and spirited crowd, “and for free publicly funded child care; free reproductive health care, including prenatal care, health screenings and contraceptives; and zero cuts to women’s health care, child care and public education in the 2016 Illinois state budget.”

About 50 opponents of women’s

Continued on page 3

Join Oct. 11 march for rail safety in Quebec!

Rail workers framed up for gov’t, boss disaster



Photos: Reuters/Mathieu Belanger
Above, burned tankers after 2013 derailment in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, killed 47. Canadian government, rail bosses are responsible for disaster, organizers of Oct. 11 protest say. Inset, from left next to cop, train controller Richard Labrie (hidden), company manager Jean Demaitre and train engineer Thomas Harding, face frame-up as officials try to shift blame.



BY JOHN STEELE

MONTRÉAL — As organizing for the Oct. 11 mobilization for rail safety in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, enters its final week, word is spreading about the Sept. 8 resolution passed unanimously by the City Council in Nantes placing the blame for the 2013 disaster on the Canadian government and the bosses of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railroad. Nantes, just seven miles from Lac-Mégantic, is where the 72-car train carrying volatile crude oil was parked before it began to roll and then derailed and exploded, killing 47 people.

Steelworkers picket ArcelorMittal mills protesting bosses’ cutback demands

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. — Some 50 members of United Steelworkers Locals 1010 and 1011 waved picket signs supporting the union’s contract demands at a main road leading into the ArcelorMittal steel mill here Sept. 30 during the early morning shift change. Just about every driver passing by honked and waved.

More rallies were held at shift changes throughout the day here, at the mill in nearby Burns Harbor and at company mills and mines across the country in response to the Sept. 28 resumption of negotiations between the USW and ArcelorMittal. The company walked out of negotia-

Continued on page 7

VOL. 79/NO. 36 OCTOBER 12, 2015

Inside

Moscow sends bombers and troops to back Syria’s Assad 2

Fire Chicago cop who killed Rekia Boyd, protesters say 6

Do workers gain from Corbyn election to head Labour Party? 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Deaths on the job rise as union membership falls

Teachers in Kelso, Wash., end 11-day strike

Moscow sends bombers and troops to back Syria's Assad

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Russian jets and helicopter gunships dropped bombs outside Homs, Syria, Sept. 30, escalating Moscow's intervention in the region. Though Russian President Vladimir Putin says he is joining Washington and others in fighting Islamic State, the group is not active in Homs.

Moscow has also reached a deal to cooperate with the Iraqi government in sharing information about Islamic State. The agreement, announced Sept. 27, also includes Tehran and the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria. U.S. officials were not notified beforehand, despite the fact that some 3,500 U.S. troops are in Iraq training its armed forces.

The Russian government has rapidly been building up its military presence in Syria, including sending the Syrian government fighter jets, helicopters and tanks. Moscow is reinforcing its naval base in Tartus and building a forward air base in Latakia — both on Syria's western coast under control of Assad's forces — and starting work on two more bases in the area. Over Washington's objections the Iraqi government is allowing Russian military transport flights to Syria through its airspace.

"Russia will not participate in any troop operations in the territory of Syria or in any other states. Well, at least we don't plan on it right now," Putin said in a Sept. 27 interview with CBS' "60 Minutes."

In its "reset" of relations with the Russian and Iranian governments the Barack Obama administration has dropped its previous call for the ouster of Assad, a

longtime ally of both Moscow and Tehran. In his speech at the U.N. Sept. 28, Obama instead called for a "managed transition" away from Assad's rule over an unspecified period of time.

The more than four-year-long civil war, launched by the Assad regime against opposition forces wanting to end his rule, has killed about a quarter of a million people while displacing more than half the country's prewar population of 23 million. And Assad's forces continue their use of deadly shrapnel-filled barrel bombs targeting civilians.

The Kremlin says its deployment is part of the fight against Islamic State, but its main function is to prop up Assad.



Reuters/Abdalrhman Ismail

Residents in Aleppo, Syria, after Assad's forces bombarded area with barrel bombs in June. Civil war launched by Syrian dictator in 2011 has killed 250,000, uprooted millions.

VW scandal: Bosses junk safety in drive for profits

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Revelations about Volkswagen cheating on emission tests highlight how the auto barons sacrifice safety and the environment in their drive for profits.

For years Germany-based Volkswagen, the biggest automaker in Europe, rigged exhaust emissions to pass laboratory tests. On the road, however, the cars emitted up to 40 times the amount of nitrogen oxides allowed by the U.S. Clean Air Act.

After the California Air Resources Board noted these high pollution levels, VW recalled half a million cars in December 2014, purportedly to adjust software devices. But a new on-road test in May found little difference.

The two agencies threatened to withhold government certification for VW's

2016 diesel models. The company in mid-September then admitted it had installed "defeat device" software that programmed cars to produce acceptable emission results during lab tests — on some 11 million diesel cars worldwide!

As VW stock plummeted and CEO Martin Winterkorn resigned, company officials said they'd set aside \$7.3 billion — over half VW's annual profits — for penalties and recall costs.

Volkswagen, the largest corporation in Germany, employs some 300,000 workers in 29 plants.

Under capitalism auto companies, and other industrial giants, often rely on "cost-benefit analysis" in determining whether fixing a malfunctioning part would cut into their profits more than paying for resulting injuries and deaths.

One of the most blatant examples was the Pinto, millions of which were produced in the 1970s. "For seven years the Ford Motor Company sold cars in which it knew hundreds of people would needlessly burn to death," said a *Mother Jones* article in September 1977.

The subcompact car's fuel system was placed in the rear not far from the bumper, making it highly likely a rear-end collision even at slow speeds would rupture the gas tank and explode. Fixing the problem would cost

between \$5 and \$8 per vehicle. But a secret company memorandum argued that the company had little to gain financially from making the repair; it was cheaper to pay out for deaths and injuries resulting from the auto fires they knew would occur. More than 500 people died from the defect.

The bosses' callous attitude hasn't changed. In 2012 Toyota recalled about 2.5 million vehicles in the U.S. because of window switches that could cause fires. The automaker also paid \$1.2 billion in fines for withholding information on sudden acceleration problems with some of its vehicles.

Hundreds of people died in crashes in General Motors cars as a result of defective ignition switches and likely related air-bag failures. The company, which has recalled 1.6 million of these vehicles, knew about the defect in 2001 and did nothing. Fixing the problem would have cost as little as \$1 per car.

Two decades ago General Motors installed defeat devices on half a million cars that distorted actual carbon monoxide emissions. And in 1998 seven manufacturers of heavy-duty diesel engines, including Caterpillar and Volvo Truck, implanted devices disabling nitrogen-oxide controls.

THE MILITANT

Fight for \$15 and a union gains strength

The fight for \$15 an hour, full-time work and a union is growing among fast-food, Walmart, airport, home-health care and other workers. The young workers leading the fight are inspiring steel and auto workers and others under attack by the bosses today.



OUR Walmart members fighting for \$15 an hour rally in Pico Rivera, California, Sept. 10 demanding jobs lost when store closed.

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The Militant

Vol. 79/No. 36

Closing news date: September 30, 2015

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Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in August and one week in September.

Business manager: Lea Sherman

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899

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E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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

Build 'Militant,' fund drives

Continued from front page

"The Chicago branch decided to have a 'target week' that will put us ahead, with a goal of selling 50 subscriptions in nine days," said Alyson Kennedy in Chicago Sept. 29. "Yesterday we took part in a demonstration calling for the suburb of Oak Park to raise the minimum wage to \$15. Tomorrow a couple of us will join the rally to support workers at ArcelorMittal in their contract fight, and then go door to door in one of the nearby rural towns in Indiana."

Taking the *Militant* to labor resistance, social protests and onto workers' doorsteps in small towns and rural areas as well as the cities is an essential part of the party's political effort. It's the only way to reach all sections of the working class in an undifferentiated way, around all the important questions of the day.

Last week members of the Communist League went to Farnham, a rural town an hour outside Montreal where Canadian Pacific rail has a major hub. Thomas Harding, the train engineer who faces frame-up charges in the 2013 oil train disaster in Lac-Mégantic, lives there, as do other rail workers.

"We had a really interesting discussion with a retired couple," reports Philippe Tessier. "The man started saying Harding was responsible, because he didn't set the handbrakes right. After discussing the working conditions imposed by the rail bosses

and the support Harding has from people in Lac-Mégantic, he changed his mind. The woman was very hesitant at first about us being communists, but we explained what we are for, pointing to the example of the Cuban Revolution, and they decided to subscribe.

"We're going back to Farnham next week to continue building the Oct. 11 demonstration for rail safety in Lac-Mégantic," Tessier said.

The Chicago branch of the Socialist Workers Party decided to raise its goal to 175 this week to help close the gap between local quotas and the overall international goal for the subscription effort. This is an example to emulate, so we can meet the target of 2,300 by Nov. 3.



Militant/Carole Lesnick
Socialist Workers Party table at protest against racial profiling and cop brutality in Sacramento, California, Sept. 2. Six books on revolutionary politics are on special for *Militant* subscribers.

Join effort to make SWP \$100,000 fund goal

BY JOHN STUDER

Socialist Workers Party branches in Oakland, Chicago, Omaha and Twin Cities raised their fund goals this week, helping boost the national total by \$3,700.

The \$100,000 fund drive helps finance the work of the party as there is increasing interest in the SWP and the *Militant*, the party's press.

The capitalist "world order" of imperialist alliances and spheres of influence that have marked social relations for decades is coming apart, from the unraveling of the European

Union; to Moscow's steps to insert itself more forcefully in the Middle East, sending troops and using fighter bombers in Syria; to rising challenges to Washington's hegemony in Asia and elsewhere. The grinding world crisis of capitalist production, trade and falling profit rates are pushing the bosses to deepen attacks on workers' jobs, wages, working conditions and social and political rights.

"At last night's Militant Labor Forum we picked up close to \$500 in new pledges," Frank Forrestal wrote from the Twin Cities Sept. 26.

"Another plus: we sold four *Militant* subscriptions at the meeting — two renewals and subs to a teacher and a truck driver." Twin Cities SWP members raised their goal by \$300 a couple days later.

Join the effort to reach the \$100,000 goal and bring the drive home. Help get the word out to other *Militant* readers, fellow participants on strike picket lines and protesters fighting cop brutality and others.

John Studer is the 2015 fund drive director.

Chicago: 'Defend abortion, Planned Parenthood'

Continued from front page

rights counterprotested, trying to drown out speakers with chants and drums. But abortion rights supporters

were louder.

"When abortion rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up and fight back!" rally participants chant-

ed, along with "Not the church, not the state, women must decide our fate!" and "Pro-life, your name's a lie — You don't care if women die!"

Opponents of women's rights in Congress have stepped up efforts to place further restrictions on women's right to abortion and moved to ban federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Heavily edited videos filmed by agents of anti-abortion groups who infiltrated Planned Parenthood posing as supporters were released this summer showing members of the family health organization talking about plans to sell aborted fetal tissue.

The House passed a ban on funds for Planned Parenthood the day before the demonstration, but the bill failed in the Senate Sept. 24. Some legislators have threatened to try and prevent passage of a new federal budget and shut down the government if the ban isn't adopted.

Dolores Pankey from Austin, a western suburb, was one of several shoppers who joined the march through downtown. "Join us," she said to others on the sidewalk, "We can't let them close Planned Parenthood. They serve millions of women."

"We're trying to get something going on campus," Pam Novinski, one of five students from Northwestern University, told the *Militant* at the rally. "There are a lot of students and also professors who would give us their support."

"It's important to have protests like this one, even if they're modest," said David Winnyk, who recently moved to the area from Ohio. "It makes us stronger and gives us confidence when we're out in the public eye."

Socialist Workers Party drive for new readers!

Help win 2,300 subscribers
Sept. 5 - Nov. 3 (week 3)

Country	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Omaha	40	31	78%
Lincoln	12	7	58%
Atlanta	160	70	44%
Washington	110	46	42%
Oakland	180	72	40%
Seattle	125	49	39%
Chicago*	175	67	38%
Twin Cities	65	23	35%
Los Angeles	140	49	35%
Philadelphia	120	38	32%
New York	380	112	29%
Boston	70	20	29%
Miami	120	22	18%
Total U.S.	1697	606	36%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Manchester	100	52	52%
London	100	44	44%
Total U.K.	200	96	48%
CANADA			
Calgary	65	24	37%
Montreal	80	29	36%
Total Canada	145	53	37%
AUSTRALIA			
75	28	37%	
NEW ZEALAND			
65	28	43%	
PRISONERS			
15	9	60%	
Total	2197	820	36%
Should be	2300	863	38%

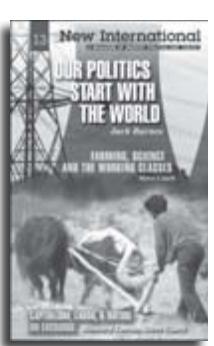
*Raised quota

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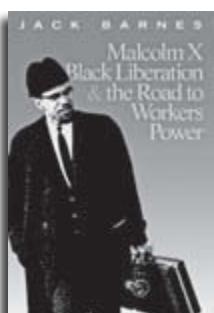
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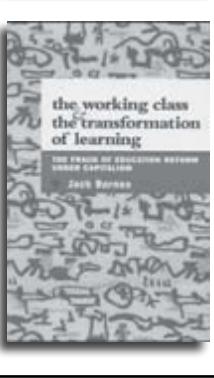
Our Politics Start with the World by Jack Barnes

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Also in Spanish, French, Swedish,
Greek, Farsi, Arabic



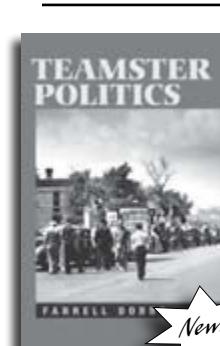
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\$8 with subscription
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Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun by Jack Barnes

In New International no. 12
\$8 with subscription
(regular \$16)
Also in Spanish, French, Swedish,
Greek, Farsi, Arabic

If you subscribe or renew, these special offers are for you.
Contact a distributor listed on page 8.

Refugees, class struggle and the fight to unify the working class

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The *Militant* received half a dozen letters (see below) responding to the editorial "Solidarity with Syrian Toilers, Refugees Key for Working Class," in the Sept. 28 issue. Several criticized the statement that "a general call to 'open the borders'" is a utopian demand that "if adopted under capitalist rule would lead to increased competition among workers, unemployment, lower wages

The line of march of the working class is toward overturning the dictatorship of capital and establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat — a struggle that takes place within national borders in some 190 different countries today. "Working men have no country," Karl Marx and Frederick Engels wrote in the *Communist Manifesto* in 1848. But, they immediately add, "Since the proletariat must first of all acquire political supremacy ... it is so far, itself national, though not in the bourgeois sense of the word."

REPLY TO READERS

and social misery."

The editorial made it clear that the *Militant* is against the deportation of Syrians and others who make their way to Europe, or to the U.S. for that matter. "It's a pressing question for the working class today to fight to organize these men and women as part of the class struggle, in whatever country they end up," we said.

But unlike the liberals and petty-bourgeois left who seek a universal slogan and focus on refugees and immigrants as poor, suffering victims, communists see fellow workers, potential revolutionaries. We start with the class struggle reality within the countries where we fight and how to unify the working class along the road toward revolutionary struggle to take power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and open the road toward building socialism.

The Sept. 28 editorial explained the need to fight to organize and unionize *all* workers — regardless of where they were born, what language they speak or what papers they do or don't have. The chauvinist refusal of the labor misleadership in the U.S. and other imperialist countries the world over to do this is one of the largest obstacles for our class to overcome today.

We promote the fight against every attempt to deny political rights and equal treatment, on and off the job. We join the fight to stop immigration raids and deportations, including the latest move by the German government to speed up removals of those they say are "economic migrants." And we oppose the fences, internment camps and troops deployed by the capitalist rulers.

Position of Bolsheviks

We stand on the position the Bolsheviks led by V.I. Lenin successfully fought for at the 1907 congress of the Socialist International in Stuttgart, Germany. That gathering decisively rejected a proposal by the Socialist Party of the U.S. to restrict immigration by workers of the "yellow race," which it said had no other aim than "to destroy labor organizations, to lower the standard of living of the working class and to retard the ultimate realization of socialism."

It is simply a fact that mass immigration intensifies competition among workers. The resolution adopted by the Stuttgart conference explained that the bosses seek to take advantage of this and the only counterweight to falling wages and worsening job conditions is to organize immigrant workers along with all others and fight against all attempts by the bosses to discriminate, illegalize or deport them. That remains true today.

But we don't campaign for the abstract demand "open the borders" as an immediate goal — as an editorial in the Sept. 21 *Militant* and recent statements by Socialist Workers Party candidates and from the Communist Leagues in the U.K. implied — much less as a way forward to "solve" the crisis. It is not only utopian, but an obstacle to laying out a concrete, fighting road forward for uniting workers and advancing the class struggle.

The hundreds of thousands who have found their way to Germany, Sweden, Hungary and elsewhere in Europe over the last year are a small minority of the more than 11 million people in Syria



Revolutionary leader Rosa Luxemburg speaks at 1907 conference of Second International in Stuttgart, Germany. That gathering rejected chauvinist position against workers from Asia, called for organizing immigrant workers along with all others and fight against all attempts by bosses to discriminate, illegalize or deport them, the position communists stand by today.

alone, roughly half the population, who have been forced from their homes first and foremost by the brutalities of the Bashar al-Assad regime and, to a lesser extent, by Islamic State. They are largely those with resources to afford a "coyote" to take them out in hopes of a better life.

Some 7.5 million are "internally displaced," still living in Syria, and millions more are in Lebanon, Jordan or Turkey. Their eyes are on how to move forward where they are and they do not consider leaving the region either a personal option or a way to advance their interests or those of their families and fellow toilers.

Not a repeat of 1930s

Contrary to what is presented in much of the bourgeois press, the current refugee crisis — both in scope and in the conditions of the refugees — is not a repeat of what faced Jews, Communists, Social Democrats, unionists, Roma and others fleeing Hitler's national socialist regime in the 1930s and during World War II.

Millions died in the pogroms and Nazi concentration camps. As many as 250,000 prisoners were murdered or died on forced marches out of the camps during the last 10 months of the war in Europe, up to one-third of them Jews.

Many of the millions of refugees throughout Europe at the end of the war were near death from starvation, a sharp contrast to the refugees in Europe today,

however harsh their current circumstances.

Under those conditions, the Socialist Workers Party and the world communist movement demanded the capitalist rulers open their doors to refugees from countries and regions where working people faced devastating consequences of wars, counterrevolutions, anti-Jewish pogroms and holocausts. In November 1938 the National Committee issued a statement in the party's press, then the *Socialist Appeal*, titled, "Let the Refugees into U.S.! Open the Doors to Victims of Hitler's Nazi Terror."

But this has not been the political demand raised by communists in most wars, social crises or sharp class battles under capitalism. Instead, internationalist solidarity with their struggles and demands for imperialist hands off have been the watchword. Crisis-wracked capitalism will continue to push millions of people to leave their homelands, driven by economic conditions as well as wars and political repression.

Communists fight for working-class solidarity, and to organize our own proletarian political parties that can lead the fight to take power out of the hands of the capitalist class. Workers who hail from Syria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mexico, Poland and elsewhere who find themselves in the imperialist centers will be part of these battles — not as a category of immigrants or refugees, but as part of the class struggle.

LETTERS

Refugees and 'Open the borders'

You describe the demand for Europe, North America and the world to open its borders to Syrian refugees as "utopian." [But] workers must take responsibility for coming to the aid of these victims of imperialist wars and exploitation. Your editorial only addresses the plight of Syrian refugees, when four-fifths of those attempting to enter Europe are not Syrian. What is your policy to non-Syrian refugees, such as the sub-Saharan Africans attempting to cross the Mediterranean? Or the Latin Americans risking their lives to enter the United States?

John Smith
Sheffield, England

On the question of immigrants and refugees, it is one thing to oppose concrete demands, such as those put forward by the *Militant* in its Sept. 28 editorial, to a general and utopian call for open borders. But it's an unnecessary error to go on to say that under capital-

ist rule, open borders "would lead to increased competition among workers, unemployment, lower wages, and social misery."

This could create the impression that the *Militant* believes that immigrants or refugees, and not capitalism, are to blame for these social ills, and, by logical extension, favors restrictions on immigration.

Terry Coggan
Auckland, New Zealand

I agree with the editors that "Open the borders!" is both a utopian and unclear slogan that doesn't help advance a course for working people to fight along.

However, the phrase "if adopted under capitalist rule" seemed an unnecessary hypothetical. I felt the demand for open borders was utopian precisely because it's impossible under capitalism. In that sense the slogan reminded me of demands to "dissolve the police" or "end police brutality," both of which

in a general sense represent aspirations of our class but in practice offer only a radical substitute for political activity.

Harry D'Agostino

New Paltz, New York

I don't think you can say that the "Welcome refugees" rallies are calling for "Opening the borders." Most of those workers and students, about 30,000 in Sweden, were in favor of a more humane treatment of refugees looking for shelter in Europe.

Such demands should be supported as well as the U.N. right to seek asylum.

Lasse Erlandsson
Stockholm, Sweden

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.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Fight Frame-up of Quebec Rail Workers. Speaker: Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2826 S. Vermont, Suite 1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

Oakland

The Fight to Organize California Farm-workers in Face of Grower Hostility, Government Complicity. Speakers: Joel Britton, Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

CANADA

Montreal

Only Workers Control Can Assure Job Safety — Build Oct. 11 Lac-Mégantic Rail Safety March! Drop the Charges Against the Framed-up Rail Workers! Speaker: Michel Prairie, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 9, 8 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles across the country!

This column is dedicated to giving voice to those engaged in battle and helping build solidarity. ATI Steelworkers are locked out; major contracts in rail, auto, basic steel and East Coast Verizon have expired or are approaching expiration. I invite those involved in fights against concessions to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

—Maggie Trowe

Teachers in Kelso, Wash., return to work after 11-day strike

KELSO, Wash. — After striking for 11 days and defying a judge's back-to-work order, members of the Kelso Education Association voted 226-0 to approve a contract and return to work Sept. 28.

The teachers, who were working without a contract since June, voted to strike Sept. 16. Two days later Cowlitz District Court Judge David Koss ordered the 250 teachers back to work by Sept. 22. The teachers voted 221-20 to defy the injunction and continue their walkout.

The main sticking point for teachers was compensation for nonteaching days, preparatory time and grading papers.

"We are willing to do extra work and have an increased load of students," said Angie Blum, a teacher for 29 years, on the picket line Sept. 21, "but we want to be compensated for this."

The new contract provides pay for 10 extra days, two more than the school district proposed, five this year and five more next year. Teachers had demanded 13 days.

The judge found the union and its president, Sharon Dolan, in contempt of court Sept. 25 and said he would fine the union \$2,000 a day starting Sept. 28 if teachers didn't return to work.

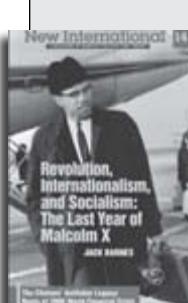
Kelso is adjacent to Longview, where the International Longshore and Warehouse Union fought the EGT grain terminal bosses' union-busting assault in 2011-12, and the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers recently struck KapStone Paper.

During the strike parents and students as well as postal and longshore unionists joined the picketing.

"Washington state is 42nd in class size nationwide and they are increasing the number of students we teach in a year," Lonna Devora, a science teacher at Ceweeman Middle School, told the *Militant* Sept. 21. "Kelso teachers want equitable pay with Longview and other nearby districts. In addition they are lengthening the school day without any compensation."

New International no. 14

"The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor"
Statement of the Socialist Workers Party



"The fight in the mines, factories, fields, and other places to protect life and limb of the working classes and broader public is the germ of struggles for workers control of industry and for independent working-class political action. It is the germ of advances in labor solidarity leading the way toward a workers and farmers government and a giant leap in human solidarity." \$14

pathfinderpress.com

"The teachers are teaching the next generation and they are always there for us," said Kyle Torgerson, a junior at Kelso High, who was on the line with his picket sign.

Several teachers are spouses of KapStone workers, and others said they were inspired by Seattle and Pasco teachers who recently struck for better contracts.

—Edwin Fruit and John Naubert

After one-week strike, Seattle teachers approve contract

SEATTLE — After a weeklong strike, Seattle teachers voted 83 percent to accept a proposed contract Sept. 20.

While the main demand was a pay increase and compensation for longer days, the union made gains on other issues that helped garner community support. These included increased recess time for elementary school students, opposition to excessive student testing and concern about racial discrimination in discipline of students.

At the ratification meeting teachers expressed a range of opinions about the



Striking teachers and supporters picket in Kelso, Washington, Sept. 21. Teachers voted to defy back-to-work injunction, but voted 226-0 for a new contract before court-set deadline.

contract.

"I feel good about it," third grade teacher Jill McGrath told the *Militant*. "There is room for improvement. The parents are backing us. Now it's the legislature's turn to do their part to find the funding to support education."

"Those most opposed to the contract were nurses and counselors who were trying to lower the number of students they are responsible for," said administrative secretary Paula Murray.

"I support the union," said Peter Koslik, a special education instructional assistant. "But I'm learning quickly that I'm working a job that doesn't cover my cost of living. Boeing gets multimillion

dollar handouts but teachers can't get a raise that covers what it costs to live in Seattle. A lot of good people are busting their hind ends to help the children."

Brian Black, a history teacher at Franklin High school, said the strike and settlement "are an important victory for working people. We won some important concessions from the school district. We discovered our collective power. That being said, we could have won more. The union leadership was not prepared to lead the kind of fight that the rank-and-file was ready to wage." He added, "Thanks for putting an article in the *Militant* about the strike."

—Edwin Fruit and John Naubert

Deaths on the job rise as union membership falls

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK — "It's dangerous every day. We never work fast enough for them," said Felix, a construction worker originally from Guatemala. "With more and more construction going on and many new workers, I think there will be more people killed and injured."

Felix, 25, who declined to give his full name, was part of a group of workers who spoke to the *Militant* Sept. 26 outside a construction site in Harlem before going into work. None of them are in a union and most don't have papers.

On Sept. 17 the Bureau of Labor Sta-

tistics released its preliminary report on work-related deaths for 2014. When finally revised, the number is expected to top 4,700, the highest since 2008.

More workers died on the job in agriculture, construction, mining and manufacturing. Deaths in the oil and gas fields rose by 27 percent, the highest figure in more than two decades. In construction, nearly 900 workers were killed, the highest number in six years.

Behind these figures are speedup, lower wages and longer hours. Less than 7 percent of workers in the private sector have union protection, and every year

fewer are covered. What bosses call productivity — how much they squeeze out of every worker — was close to an all-time high in July, while wages are stagnant or falling.

"Bosses don't care about the workers and our safety. I've worked for three years now and learnt to look out for myself, but when I started it was just luck that nothing serious happened," Felix said. "I've worked with union members. They work safer, their wages are higher, the training better and they have benefits. We have nothing. I think being in a union would be better for us."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 12, 1990

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — The United Mine Workers of America held its first convention since joining the AFL-CIO last year. Delegates celebrated 100 years of the miners union, inspired by their recent victory over Pittston Coal Group.

The strike against Pittston Coal in Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia lasted 11 months. The convention reflected the pride and increased confidence of many mine workers. Virtually all the delegates participated in some form of strike support activity. UMWA members from the Decker and Big Horn mines in Wyoming and Montana drove nonstop for 36 hours to participate in the Pittston strike.

Outside the meeting hall a half dozen videos and slide shows recounted the four-day occupation of the Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant.



October 11, 1965

On Sept. 30 in Hayneville, Ala., a jury of local racists acquitted Tom Coleman, admitted killer of civil rights worker Jonathan Daniels. But the real responsibility for this miscarriage of justice lies primarily with the Johnson administration and the federal government.

Contempt for the lives and rights of Negroes and civil rights workers in the South was expressed by Johnson's Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach when he heard of the acquittal.

Echoing the arguments of Coleman's lawyers, Katzenbach said, "There is a good deal of feeling particularly in rural areas in some parts of the country. If something happens, there is a sort of feeling, 'Well, they came down here, they are outsiders and they are agitating.'"



October 12, 1940

MINNEAPOLIS Oct. 2 — In a 54-page ruling, District Judge Paul S. Carroll today terminated the two-year-old "fink suit" against Minneapolis General Drivers Union, Local 544. The Judge denied to the plaintiffs, four tools of the Associated Industries gang, their main demands — for the removal of the union's officers, the appointment of a receiver for the union, and the holding of a special election.

The case against the outstanding union local in the Northwest, a local which had been the spearhead since 1934 in establishing Minneapolis as the best organized town in the country, began on February 16, 1938. It was filed in the name of five independent truck owners, who at one time held membership in Local 544's Independent Truck Owners Section.

Fire Chicago cop who killed Rekia Boyd, protesters say

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — For the fifth time in as many months, protesters gathered outside police headquarters here where the Chicago Police Board was meeting Sept. 17 to demand the firing of Dante Servin, the police detective who shot and killed 22-year-old Rekia Boyd in March 2012.

Servin, who was off duty, got into a verbal altercation with a group of youths near his home and one of the young men allegedly walked toward the detective's vehicle holding a cellphone. Servin pulled his gun and fired five shots, killing Boyd.

Servin was stripped of his police powers in November 2013 and charged with involuntary manslaughter, reckless discharge of a firearm and reckless conduct. However, he walked out of the courtroom a free man April 20 after Associate Judge Dennis Porter dismissed the charges.

The day before the demonstration the City of Chicago Independent Police Review Authority, established in 2007 to investigate allegations of police misconduct, recommended that Servin be fired.

Some 100 demonstrators cheered as Angela Helton, Boyd's mother; Martinez Sutton, Boyd's brother; and other members of her family made their way through the crowd to attend the meeting. While the majority of protesters were African-American a significant number were Latino, Asian or Caucasian. More than 20 fast-food workers wearing "Fight for 15" T-shirts joined the protest.

"I'm here to support Rekia Boyd's family," Adriana Sanchez, a Fight for \$15 activist and worker at McDonald's in downtown Chicago, told the *Militant*. "The whole system of policing does not treat working people with respect," she said, describing her own experiences with cop harassment.



Charges against Dante Servin, Chicago cop who killed Rekia Boyd, 22, in 2012, were thrown out in April. Above, Aug. 20 protest at Chicago Police Board meeting demands he be fired.

the back."

"I came out today to help make sure Servin gets fired," said Dorothy Holmes. Her son Ronald "Ronnieman" Johnson was gunned down by a Chicago cop last October. "I also want to make people aware of what happened to my son and demand that the Chicago Police Department release the dash-cam video of the shooting, which shows he was shot in

Castro at UN: Cuba speaks for toilers of the world

Continued from front page

ing the effects of the growing capitalist crisis of production and trade.

Castro condemned the continuing attempts by imperialist powers, principally the United States, to undermine any government that doesn't follow imperialist dictates, including those of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela and Rafael Correa in Ecuador. He reaffirmed Cuba's support of independence for Puerto Rico "after more than a century of colonial domination."

U.S. economic war against Cuba

Despite the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States, Castro noted that the U.S. economic war against Cuba continues.

Normalization of relations between the two governments "will only be achieved," he said, "with the end of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba; the return to

our country of the territory illegally occupied by Guantánamo Naval Base; the cessation of radio and TV broadcasts, and of subversion and destabilization programs against the island; and when our people are compensated for the human and economic damages they still endure."

"No less than 2.7 billion people in the



UN photo/Amanda Voisard
Cuban President Raúl Castro at UN Sept. 29.

world live in poverty," Castro said at the Sept. 26 U.N. Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. "Wealthy individuals and transnational companies grow richer while the number of poor, unemployed and homeless people increase dramatically as a result of the harsh so-called austerity policies, and waves of desperate immigrants arrive in Europe escaping misery and conflict that others have unleashed," he said.

The next day the revolutionary leader addressed a U.N. "leaders meeting" on women's empowerment and gender equality, pointing to advances on women's conditions and rights in Cuba, with one of the lowest rates of deaths in childbirth in the world and the large number of women in the workforce there.

"We shall never renounce honor, human solidarity and social justice, for these convictions are deeply rooted in our socialist society," Castro told the Sept. 26 summit.

Protesters demand cop be fired

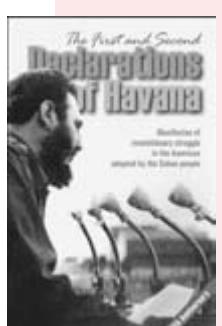
When the floor was opened to the public, several people demanded Servin be fired, among them Mark Clements, a leader of the successful fight to prosecute and convict former police commander Jon Burge, who had organized a gang of cops who engaged in torture and frame-ups on Chicago's South and West sides in the 1970s and '80s. Tortured into confessing to a crime he did not commit, Clements spent 28 years behind bars.

Continued on page 9

Further Reading

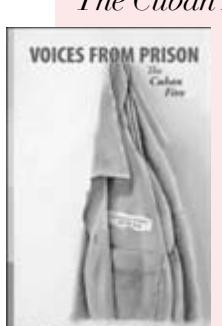
The First and Second Declarations of Havana

Nowhere are the questions of revolutionary strategy that today confront men and women on the front lines of struggles in the Americas addressed with greater truthfulness and clarity than in these two documents, adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962. \$10



Voices from Prison The Cuban Five

How the unbending dignity, truthfulness, and integrity of the five Cubans framed up by the U.S. government won them the admiration and respect around the world and among their fellow prisoners as well. \$7



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DC meeting takes up fight to end US embargo of Cuba

WASHINGTON — "We are at an historic moment. Work we have been doing for years has helped change Cuba-U.S. relations," Alicia Jrapko told some 100 participants gathered here Sept. 18 for a conference titled, "The U.S. Blockade Against Cuba: Why It's Wrong and What We Need to Do to End It." Jrapko is a leader of the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity for the Peoples.

"After the victory winning the release of Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero last December," she said, "many of us froze."

The three were the remaining members of the Cuban Five still held in U.S. prisons, framed up for carrying out an assignment in Florida to monitor the actions of paramilitary groups with a record of assaults against Cuba and supporters of the revolution. "What do we do now?" she said. "We focus on ending the embargo and return of Guantánamo to Cuban sovereignty."

"The blockade remains in place," Cu-

ban Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas told the conference. Cabañas became ambassador after the historic agreement between Cuba and Washington last December that freed the three revolutionaries and opened the door to re-establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. He said Cuba needs more solidarity.

"The entire blockade must be lifted," Cabañas said. "Guantánamo is Cuba's best bay — they have to return it."

One conference panel featured graduates and students from the Latin American Medical School in Havana. Cuba has sponsored thousands of students from all over the world to attend who have returned to their countries to provide medical care. Adriano Rodrigues from East Timor noted that before the program there were no doctors in his country. "Now there are 1,080 graduates," he said. "We were not only trained as doctors. We learned values — solidarity, humanism, equality, altruism, sacrifice and what it means to be truly revolutionary."

Another panel was dedicated to the fight to free Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera, imprisoned in the U.S. on frame-up charges for more than 34 years. "The fight of the Puerto Rican people for sovereignty is what makes Oscar who he is," said Rafael Cancel Miranda, who spent more than 27 years in U.S. prisons for his actions for Puerto Rican independence. "Cuba is an example. Cuba shows that you have to fight to be free."

The conference was preceded by two days of lobbying Congress, an ecumenical service and an excellent photo exhibit titled, "The Cuban 5 Return: An Entire Country Celebrates."

All events were sponsored by the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity for the Peoples, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Institute for Policy Studies, and endorsed by the National Network on Cuba and a number of other groups.

Martin Koppel contributed to this article.

Do workers gain from Corbyn election to head Labour Party?

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — Jeremy Corbyn, a Labour Party Member of Parliament since 1983 who is well known for what the media calls his “hard left” views, was elected party leader Sept. 12. Corbyn won 59 percent of the 422,000 votes cast, including the overwhelming bulk of 105,000 newly registered party supporters who paid £3 (\$5) to be able to vote.

In the context of the growing capitalist depression on a world scale and spreading political instability, Corbyn’s campaign — originally given a 200-to-1 chance of victory by bookmakers — was a reflection of the same pressures that have produced the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign in the U.S. and the emergence of leftist political parties like Syriza in Greece and Podemos in Spain.

The Labour Party was born out of hard-fought class battles at the beginning of the 20th century. Although the party’s program urged reform of capitalism’s excesses, its establishment meant that workers, who previously could only abstain or vote for the parties run directly by the capitalists — the Liberals and Conservatives — were able to cast a class vote.

Over the last quarter century, under the impact of blows against working people and the refusal of the pro-imperialist union leadership to mount

any sustained resistance, Labour has been transformed from a class-based party to a left-of-center capitalist party, much like the Democrats in the United States. The election of Corbyn does nothing to change this.

The weight of rank-and-file workers has declined substantially. In 1994, 800,000 affiliated union members voted in the party leadership election. In 2010 the number was 270,000. This time it was only 71,546.

During the 1990s, Labour Prime Minister Anthony Blair fought to weaken the weight of trade union leaders in party affairs and push it to the center in capitalist politics, rebranding it the “New Labour.” He bolstered the “special relationship” with Washington, including through massive participation of U.K. armed forces in the Iraq war. Blair’s course led many individual members to leave the party.

In the course of Corbyn’s campaign, thousands rejoined and new supporters signed up. Among them were younger people, attracted to his radical history and verbiage, his pledge of “straight-talking, honest politics” and record of clashes with Labour’s leadership. Corbyn also won backing from the officialdom of the main trade unions, who had felt marginalized.

The decline of the U.K.’s economic

Communist League in UK: Workers need our own party



Militant/Claude Bleton

“The Labour Party leadership’s shift to the left doesn’t strengthen working people,” Jonathan Silberman, Communist League candidate for mayor of London, said Sept. 27. “Workers need to overthrow the capitalist rulers and put working people in power, not shift capitalism to the left or the right. This means organizing distinctly from the capitalist parties and forging a labor party based on the unions that carries out an independent working-class course.”

Above, Silberman, left, joins Pakistani immigrants in a demonstration at a refugee camp in Calais, France, Aug. 8.

— PETE CLIFFORD

and political influence, the increasing coming apart of the European Union, and the lack of any meaningful recovery for working people have fueled disenchantment with the main capitalist parties and interest in both left- and right-wing radicals.

Corbyn is “the left-wing equiva-

lent of Nigel Farage,” wrote Melanie Phillips in the *London Times*. They are both “part of a Europe-wide revolt against an entire political establishment.” Farage is leader of the populist UK Independence Party that secured 4 million votes in the May election. Another precursor to Corbyn was the landslide victory in Scotland for the Scottish National Party, taking 40 seats from Labour.

In his acceptance speech, Corbyn said his victory reflected that people were “fed up” with inequality, injustice and poverty. The party reports that more than 50,000 people have joined since Corbyn’s election.

“My dad, who retired from the mill, only gets a pension of \$700 a month after 30-plus years,” said Carmen Hernandez, a wrapping machine operator who has worked at ArcelorMittal for 38 years. “The company wants families to pay \$250 for health insurance with higher co-pays and deductibles.”

Steelworkers have been picketing 12 Allegheny Technologies Inc. plants in six states since the company locked out its 2,200 union employees Aug. 15. ATI is also demanding steep concessions and is attempting to run production with management and strikebreakers.

Corbyn’s platform centers on relaxing government austerity by using the state to provide stimulus and jobs, opposing NATO membership and use of British forces in Syria or elsewhere, and an end to Trident, London’s nuclear-armed submarine program. He told the Labour conference Sept. 29 that he was for “a kinder politics and a more caring society.”

Corbyn is a leader of what’s called the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs, but went to great length during the campaign to avoid the word “socialist.” In an interview on

Continued on page 9

Steelworkers picket against bosses’ cutback demands

Continued from front page

tions on Sept. 12.

Contracts affecting some 30,000 Steelworkers at ArcelorMittal and U.S. Steel expired Sept. 1. The steel giants are demanding steep concessions, including lower wages and benefits for new hires and increased health care costs for currently employed and retired members.

The bosses claim that deep and lasting concessions are needed due to a contraction in steel production rooted in falling demand in China and elsewhere. Thousands of steelworkers have been laid off, both at iron ore mines and union-organized steel mills.

The initial offer from ArcelorMittal, the world’s largest steel producer, proposed health care plans for active and retired workers with reduced coverage and increased costs, instituting for the first time monthly premiums of \$150 for an individual and \$250 for a family, a three-year contract with no wage increase, and major reductions in vacation pay and sickness and accident benefits.

“We are in for a long fight,” Darrell Reed, a member of Local 1010’s grievance committee, told the *Militant*. “I’m not optimistic that the latest negotiations will get us something we can live with. Both active and retired members have to stand together.



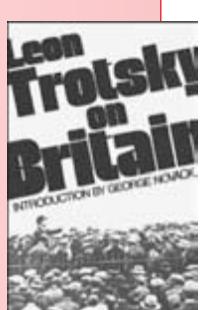
Militant/Alyson Kennedy

Members of United Steelworkers hold morning shift-change rally against concessions at road leading into ArcelorMittal steel mill in East Chicago, Indiana, Sept. 30. Contracts between 30,000 Steelworkers and U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal expired Sept. 1.

For further reading ...

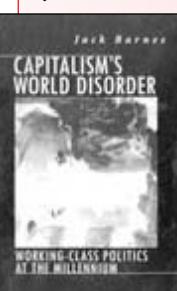
Leon Trotsky on Britain

The displacement of British industry, trade and finance by its U.S. rival after World War I opened a period of social crisis and class battles across Britain, discussed in these articles. Includes an analysis of the 1926 general strike, betrayed by the labor officialdom. **\$27**



Capitalism’s World Disorder

by Jack Barnes



“The uneven development of capitalism in the UK, and the forms it inherits from previous periods of class society, are being thrust forward into politics in new ways by the crisis of the world imperialist system” — Barnes

\$25 Also in Spanish, French, Farsi

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters

\$7 Also in Spanish, French, Farsi, Swedish

See distributors on page 8.

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Malcolm X: 'Our scope is broad, our scope is worldwide'

Malcolm X on Afro-American History is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. A revolutionary internationalist leader of the working class, Malcolm was an intransigent opponent of the U.S. government and its imperialist policies; of the rulers' twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans; and an uncompromising fighter against the racist oppression of Blacks. He gave this talk Jan. 24, 1965, at a public meeting sponsored by the Organization of Afro-American Unity. Malcolm was assassinated at an OAAU-organized meeting in New York four weeks later. Copyright ©1967 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Tuskegee University

Malcolm X with students at Tuskegee University, Feb. 3, 1965. In an interview printed later that month, Malcolm told the *Village Voice* that key to helping youth broaden their scope was "to wake them up," not to their exploitation, but "to their humanity, to their own worth."

in things local — Harlem, that's it; or Mississippi, that's it — national. But seldom do you find them taking a keen interest in things going on worldwide, because they don't know what part they play in things going on worldwide.

But those of us who come here, come here because we not only see the importance of having an understanding of things local and things national, but we see today the importance of having an understanding of things international, and where our people, the Afro-Americans in this country, fit into that scheme of things, where things international are concerned. We come out because our scope is broad, our scope is international rather than national, and our interests are international rather than national. Our interests are worldwide rather than limited just to things American, or things New York, or things Mississippi. And this is very important.

You can get into a conversation with a person, and in five minutes tell whether or not that person's scope is broad or whether that person's scope is narrow, whether that person is interested in things going on in his block where he lives or interested in things going on all over the world. Now persons who are narrow-minded, because their knowledge is lim-

ited, think that they're affected only by things happening in their block. But when you find a person who has a knowledge of things of the world today, he realizes that what happens in South Vietnam can affect him if he's living on St. Nicholas Avenue, or what's happening in the Congo affects his situation on Eighth Avenue or Seventh Avenue or Lenox Avenue. The person who realizes the effect that things all over the world have right on his block, on his salary, on his reception or lack of reception into society, immediately becomes interested in things international. But if a person's scope is so limited that he thinks things that affect him are only those things that take place across the street or downtown, then he's only interested in things across the street and downtown.

So, one of our greatest desires here at Organization of Afro-American Unity meetings is to try and broaden the scope and even the reading habits of most of our people, who need their scope broadened and their reading habits also broadened today.

Another thing that you will find is that those who go to other places usually think of themselves as a minority. If you'll notice, in all of their struggling, programming, or even crying or demanding, they even refer

to themselves as a minority, and they use a minority approach. By a minority they mean that they are lesser than something else, or they are outnumbered, or the odds are against them — and this is the approach that they use in their argument, in their demand, in their negotiation.

But when you find those of us who have been following the nationalistic thinking that prevails in Harlem, we don't think of ourselves as a minority, because we don't think of ourselves just within the context of the American stage or the American scene, in which we would be a minority. We think of things worldly, or as the world is; we think of our part in the world, and we look upon ourselves not as a dark minority on the white American stage, but rather we look upon ourselves as a part of the dark majority who now prevail on the world stage. And when you think like this, automatically, when you realize you are part of the majority, you approach your problem as if odds are on your side rather than odds are against you. You approach demanding rather than using the begging approach.

And this is one of the things that is frightening the white man. As long as the Black man in America thinks of himself as a minority, as an underdog, he can't shout but so loud; or if he does shout, he shouts loudly only to the degree that the power structure encourages him to. He never gets irresponsible. He never goes beyond what the power structure thinks is the right voice to shout in. But when you begin to connect yourself on the world stage with the whole of dark mankind, and you see that you're the majority and this majority is waking up and rising up and becoming strong, then when you deal with this man, you don't deal with him like he's your boss or he's better than you or stronger than you. You put him right where he belongs. When you realize that he's a minority, that his time is running out, you approach him like that, you approach him like one who used to be strong but is now getting weak, who used to be in a position to retaliate against you but now is not in that position anymore.

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

One of the main things that you will find when you compare people who come out here on Sunday nights with other people is that those who come here have interests that go beyond local interests or even national interests. I think you will find most who come out here are interested in things local, and interested in things national, but are also interested in things international.

Most Afro-Americans who go to other meetings are usually interested

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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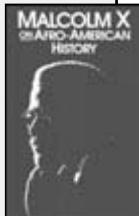
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Continued from front page

Congress of the Union of Quebec Municipalities Sept. 26, where the representatives of some 300 towns adopted it unanimously.

As a profit-raising cost-cutting measure, Transport Canada in 2012 under then Minister of Transport Denis Lebel approved Montreal, Maine and Atlantic's request to run its trains, including those carrying crude oil from the Bakken shale fields in North Dakota to the Irving refinery in New Brunswick, with a "crew" of only one person.

To divert attention from its role in the disaster, the federal court in Quebec, with backing from the rail bosses, filed frame-up charges against Tom Harding, the train's locomotive engineer, and train controller Richard Labrie, both members of Local 1976 of the United Steelworkers union. They each face 47 counts of criminal negligence causing death. Conviction could result in life imprisonment. Minor former company official Jean Demaitre faces similar charges.

"The federal government is as guilty as the MMA for the disaster," André Blais of the Citizens' Coalition and Groups Committee for Rail Safety in Lac-Mégantic, one of the groups organizing the Oct. 11 protest, told the *Militant*. "Transport Canada let the MMA get away with not maintaining its tracks and equipment in safe condition."

The weekly *Écho de Frontenac* published the Citizens' Coalition release urging people across Quebec to participate in the protest, which is assembling at the Lac-Mégantic Sports Centre at 12:30 p.m. and marching at 1 p.m.

Labor and environmental groups in Chicago have called a rally outside the Canadian Consulate Oct. 12 at noon on the theme: "Bomb Trains. Show Solidarity with Quebec! We Could Be Next!"

As momentum for the Lac-Mégantic action builds, dangerous conditions on the railroads are becoming a growing issue in the Oct. 19 Canadian federal elections.

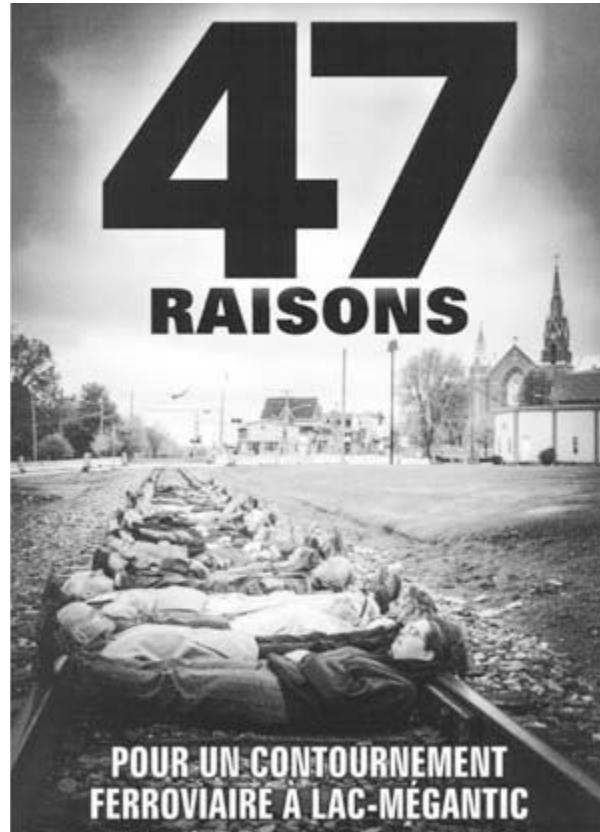
Protest organizers say the demonstrators plan to return to the Sports Arena to participate in a debate on the Lac-Mégantic disaster among federal candidates in the area, to demand they support safer conditions on the rails.

Harding has widespread support in Lac-Mégantic. After the derailment and explosion, he, along with a group of workers from the city, put themselves in harm's way to uncouple some full oil cars still on the tracks and move them to prevent further explosions.

Government prosecutors are attempting to move his trial out of the area.

The Steelworkers union has set up a fund, www.justice4USWRailworkers.org, to help finance the two workers' defense. A September 2014 union newsletter noted the widespread support in the area, saying people there "shared a widely held view that workers were being made scapegoats."

Taking advantage of the ongoing federal election campaign, the Toronto-based Safe Rail Communities sent a questionnaire to the four main federal parties Aug. 31 on their policy on rail safety. The replies received to date from the Liberal, New Democratic and Green parties all complained about the current Con-



"47 reasons for a rail bypass around Lac-Mégantic" reads poster hung in restaurants and stores throughout town.

servative government budget cuts to Transport Canada. However, none raised the need for rail workers to win control over conditions on the job, or discussed the government-backed profit drive of the rail and oil bosses, or spoke out against the frame-up of the USW rail workers.

The candidates of the Communist League, Beverly Bernardo running in Montreal Papineau and Joseph Young in Calgary Skyview, have been distributing a statement demanding, "Drop the charges against Lac-Mégantic train engineer Tom Harding and train controller Richard Labrie now!" It explains why working people should join the fight against the frame-up of Harding and Labrie by the rail bosses and the government.

"We stand with working people in Lac-Mégantic who are demanding that Ottawa build a railway bypass around the town," the statement says. "In addition we should fight to make it illegal for the railroads to operate without four-person crews" and demand "a maximum train length of 50."

They are campaigning to build the Oct. 11 protest.

The immediate focus of the march is to demand the City Council get a court injunction to prevent the Central Maine and Quebec Railway from hauling dangerous goods until it repairs the unsafe track system through Lac-Mégantic.

The railway transports propane and other dangerous cargo and is expected to resume crude oil shipments sometime in early 2016. Most recently Central Maine and Quebec bosses refused a request by the City Council to repair a rusted-out culvert under its tracks.

For information or to send letters of solidarity to the October 11 march contact: infosecurail154@gmail.com.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: The Militant.

2. Publication Number: 0349-040.

3. Filing Date: 9/30/15.

4. Issue Frequency: Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in August and one week in September.

5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 47.

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$35.

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (*Not printer*) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4#): 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482.

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (*Not printer*): 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482.

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (*Do not leave blank*). Publisher (*Name and complete mailing address*): The Militant Publishing Association, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482. Editor (*Name and complete mailing address*): John Studer, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482. Managing Editor (*Name and complete mailing address*): N/A.

10. Owner (*Do not leave blank*). If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address. Full Name: Susan LaMont; Complete Mailing Address: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482.

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagors, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None.

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Does not apply.

13. Publication Title: The Militant.

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: October 5, 2015.

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: a. Total Number of Copies (*Net press run*): 4280. b. Paid Circulation (*By Mail and Outside the Mail*) (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (*Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies*): 1758; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (*Include paid*

distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 91; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®: 1578; (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (*e.g. First-Class Mail®*): 61; c. Total Paid Distribution (*Sum of 15b, 1), (2), (3), and (4)*): 3488; d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (*By Mail and Outside the Mail*): (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 37; (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 3; (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (*e.g. First-Class Mail*): 8; (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (*Carriers or other means*): 117; e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (*Sum of 15d, 1), (2), (3), and (4)*): 165; f. Total Distribution (*Sum of 15c and 15e*): 3653; g. Copies not Distributed (*See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3)*): 627; h. Total (*Sum of 15f and g*): 4280; i. Percent Paid (*15c divided by 15 times 100*): 95.48%; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date, a. Total Number of Copies (*Net press run*): 4100; b. Paid Circulation (*By Mail and Outside the Mail*): (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (*Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies*): 1538; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (*Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies*): 53; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 1696; (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (*e.g. First-Class Mail*): 65; c. Total Paid Distribution (*Sum of 15b, 1), (2), (3), and (4)*): 3352; d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (*By Mail and Outside the Mail*): (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 38; (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 3; (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (*e.g. First-Class Mail*): 7; (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (*Carriers or other means*): 121; e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (*Sum of 15d, 1), (2), (3), and (4)*): 169; f. Total Distribution (*Sum of 15c and 15e*): 3521; g. Copies not Distributed (*See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3)*): 579; h. Total (*Sum of 15f and g*): 4100; i. Percent Paid (*15c divided by 15 times 100*): 95.2%.

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership. If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October 12, 2015, issue of this publication.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Lea Sherman, Business Manager (signed). Date: 09/30/15

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Rekia Boyd protest

Continued from page 6

"It's not only Servin who should be fired," Clements told the board. "There are still more than 100 people, mostly African-American men, who were framed for crimes they did not commit, based on false confessions elicited through torture by Burge and his subordinates. And some of those subordinates, like detectives Kenneth Boudreau and James O'Brien, are still on the police force."

"I live in the Douglas Park neighborhood four blocks from where Dante Servin lives," said Frank Bergh, a Caucasian who is a member of Standing Up for Racial Justice. "I'm here to ask you to fire him. I don't feel safe as long as someone like Servin remains on the force."

"I'm kind of uneasy about [Police Superintendent Garry] McCarthy making the right decision," said Sutton. "He said Servin should never have been charged, that the shooting was justified. That's been one of the hardest things to live with — that this public official is saying that it's right for my sister to have died."

"Not only Servin should be fired. The cops who killed Ronald Johnson, Rashad McIntosh, Laquan McDonald and Dakota Bright need to go too," Sutton said, referring to other victims of police brutality here.

"This is not just a Black thing. It's not just Black people who are concerned about this," Sutton told the board. "Look at who's here. This is about all of us."

At a rally outside, Sutton thanked all present for their support. "When we get tired and overwhelmed," he said, "you all pick us up. When I feel like I'm on empty, you are my fuel."

Corbyn election

Continued from page 7

the BBC he described Karl Marx as a "fascinating" philosopher.

"The Labour Party is now a threat to our national security, our economic security and your family's security," Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader David Cameron said after Corbyn's victory, sounding themes sure to mark future election contests. This opinion was echoed by a number of Labour Party figures who fear losses are coming.

In contrast to the way the union officialdom and radical groups have responded, Corbyn's campaign generated little excitement among rank-and-file workers. Less than half of the 148,000 union members entitled to vote did so, with just 41,000 voting for Corbyn.

Lee Wallace, a union shop steward at the Tulip pork factory in Ashton, Manchester, told the *Militant* he supports Corbyn because "he wants to return to the founding principles of the Labour Party."

Tyrone Smart at the same factory expressed a much more prevalent view among workers. "Labour is not the party it was. It's no longer for the working classes," he said. "It's hard to see a difference with the Conservatives."

Corbyn's program has nothing to do with a challenge to capitalist rule. What he calls a "strategy to grow the economy" through "a people's quantitative easing" to boost house-building and other infrastructure projects has backing across a wide spectrum.

"The accusation is widely made that Jeremy Corbyn and his supporters have moved to the extreme left on economic policy. But this is not supported by the candidate's statements or policies," said an Aug. 23 letter to the *Guardian* signed by 42 economists. "His opposition to austerity is actually mainstream economics, even backed by the conservative IMF [International Monetary Fund]. He aims to boost growth and prosperity." Signers ran from David Blanchflower, a former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, to a number of self-proclaimed "Marxists."

Correction

The photobox titled "Petition: 'No Hazardous Cargo Til Tracks Are Fixed'" in the Oct. 5 issue should be datelined Montreal, not Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. In the photo Robert Bellefleur, of the Citizens' Coalition and Groups Committee for Rail Safety, is delivering petitions to City Clerk Chantal Dion, not to Mayor Colette Roy-Laroche.