

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
**UN condemns Washington's embargo of Cuba**  
 — PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 40 NOVEMBER 9, 2015

## Join Socialist Workers Party in 'Militant,' fund drives

BY NAOMI CRAINE

There is growing receptivity to the working-class perspective the Socialist Workers Party puts forward, from demands to meet the immediate needs of working people to support for revolutionary Cuba to the necessity to break with the bosses' parties and construct a labor party based on the trade unions. The subscription drive, which is entering its final week, is a focused effort to turn that interest into an expanded readership of the party's paper, the *Militant*.

Last week nearly 300 people subscribed, bringing the total close to 1,700. This was the best result in several weeks, though a big challenge remains to meet the international goal

Continued on page 3

## Washington, Moscow step up war moves in Syria, Iraq

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After nearly a month of intense airstrikes overwhelmingly targeting forces opposed to the dictatorial Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria, Moscow is sending special operations forces to better coordinate combined ground attacks by the Syrian army, Iranian troops and Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia units from Lebanon. The Russian government says it is joining efforts by Washington and others to target Islamic State forces, but most of its bombardments have not been near territory IS occupies.

Despite strong objections from Washington, Baghdad has invited Moscow to conduct airstrikes in Iraq. Washington insists that Assad must eventually go, but its bombing campaign

Continued on page 9

## 'Workers need our own party, a labor party'

Socialist Workers Party campaigns in Phila.



Militant/Janet Post

WHYY reporter Katie Colaneri tapes Socialist Workers Party candidates Osborne Hart, right, and John Staggs talking with Cherylann Yeager while campaigning door to door in Philadelphia.

BY JOHN STUDER AND JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — "A new wind is blowing," Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, said in a statement featured in the Oct. 25 *Philadelphia Inquirer* (see statement on this page). Hart is running with John Staggs, SWP candi-

Continued on page 4

## Phila. SWP candidate: 'New wind is blowing'

The following is a campaign statement by Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, run on the front page of the Opinion section of the Philadelphia Inquirer Oct. 25.

Workers in Philadelphia, like working people around the world, are facing a slow-burning capitalist depression with no end in sight.

The percentage of the working class with a job has fallen to a decades-long low; temporary, part-time, and agency work is everywhere from the Philly airport to our city's schools; and wages are stagnant. Philadelphia, the fifth-largest U.S. city, has the highest deep-poverty rate of the country's top 10 cities.

But a new wind is blowing. As a native of North Carolina and a longtime

Continued on page 9

### Socialist Workers Party drive for new readers!

Help win 2,300 subscribers  
 Sept. 5 - Nov. 3 (week 7)

Country	quota	sold	%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
Twin Cities	65	65	100%
Lincoln*	15	14	93%
Chicago*	175	157	90%
Philadelphia	120	106	88%
Oakland	180	154	86%
Atlanta	160	135	84%
Washington	110	86	78%
Los Angeles	140	106	76%
Seattle	125	78	62%
New York	380	231	61%
Boston	70	35	50%
Miami	120	57	48%
Other	40	41	
Total U.S.	1700	1265	74%
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
Manchester	100	92	92%
London	100	82	82%
Total U.K.	200	174	87%
<b>CANADA</b>			
Calgary	65	52	80%
Montreal	80	59	74%
Total Canada	145	111	77%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>			
	75	65	87%
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>			
	65	54	83%
<b>PRISONERS*</b>			
	20	18	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2205</b>	<b>1687</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>2300</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>88%</b>

\*Raised quota

**Fight for \$15 and a union!**  
**National day of action**  
**Tuesday, November 10**

For more info on protests in your city visit: [fightfor15.org](http://fightfor15.org)

## Florida protest demands answers in police killing of Corey Jones



South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP/Carline Jean

Hundreds protested Oct. 22 after cop in street clothes shot and killed Corey Jones in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Jones was waiting for tow truck at 3 a.m. after his car broke down.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — "I need some answers. I need to know why! Why my son is gone today," Clinton Jones Sr., the father of Corey Jones, a 31-year-old Black man who was killed by Palm Beach Gardens police officer Nouman Raja, told a rally of hundreds outside the police station here Oct. 22.

Many carried handmade signs saying, "Justice for Corey," "Black Lives Matter" and "All Lives Matter."

Jones, a worker at the Delray Beach Housing Authority and musician in a local band and at his church, was returning from a gig Oct. 18 when his car broke down about 3 a.m. He pulled off the highway onto the Palm

Continued on page 7

### Inside

US manufacturing contracts as world depression grinds on 2

Trump, Sanders, turmoil mark 2016 campaign 4

Build Nov. 10 protests for \$15 and a union 6

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Uber drivers rally in San Francisco, begin to organize

'Unless we fight, steel bosses do whatever they want'

# US manufacturing contracts as world depression grinds on

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In September one-third of all containers leaving the Port of Long Beach, California, were empty, a more than 20 percent increase from a year ago. Figures are similar or worse at other large ports on the East and West coasts.

This is a graphic illustration of what is essentially a recession in manufacturing — marked by stagnant exports, falling production, fewer new orders and rising inventories — in the midst of a slow-burning worldwide capitalist depression. U.S. factories are working at just 77.6 percent of capacity and exports are at their lowest levels in three years. Manufacturing is contracting in China and stagnant in the European Union. Brazil, with the largest economy in Latin America, has entered a full recession.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that seven of the industries it tracked showed growth in September while 11 contracted, among them oil, coal, electrical equipment, machinery, computers, transportation equipment and chemical products.

These facts help expose the bosses' lie that the economy is approaching full employment and better times are ahead.

In response to the 2008-2009 steep economic downturn, Washington implemented "stimulus" measures aimed at getting production going again. Interest rates were slashed to zero and the government pumped trillions of dollars into the financial system over six years. But capitalists found bigger profits in speculation in stocks, derivatives and other paper "assets." Industrial produc-

tion did not reach pre-recession levels until 2013 and has now contracted for eight of the last nine months.

Over the past year oil prices have declined 50 percent. The industry has slashed 78,000 jobs so far this year and the Energy Information Administration lowered its growth forecast for oil production both for this year and next. In oil-producing states such as Texas and North Dakota tens of thousands of workers have lost jobs.

Steel production nationwide dropped 9 percent from a year ago. U.S. Steel has closed plants or cut production in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Alabama. At its Granite City, Illinois, plant more than 2,000 workers are on notice that they might be laid off around Christmas. On the Iron Range in northern Minnesota, the company plans to close taconite mines in Mountain Iron and Keewatin, laying off 1,100, roughly a quarter of the miners in the area.

Coal exports have dropped for nine quarters in a row and production this year is projected to be the lowest in 29 years. It has slumped most in the Appalachian coalfields of Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, with wide-ranging social effects. Martin County, Kentucky, couldn't afford to open its swimming pool last summer. Officials in Boone County, West Virginia, are considering ending free garbage pickup. Across the region school budgets are being cut and stores closed down.

The labor force participation rate — the percentage of the working-age population with a job — is just 53 percent in West Virginia and 56 percent in Ken-

## Calgary marchers protest killings of aboriginal women



Militant/Katy LeRougetel

CALGARY, Alberta — "We're not going to rest till we see justice for Jackie," Sandra Manyfeathers, sister of Jackie Crazybull, who was killed here in 2007, told 40 marchers Oct. 17. "We are here for all the missing and murdered aboriginal women, for the missing and murdered aboriginal youth. We pray for everyone, not only aboriginal but non-aboriginal, too."

Crazybull was one of five people randomly stabbed over the course of an hour by three men July 11, 2007. Every year protesters gather for a Justice for Jackie action to demand the police find her killers.

Between 1980 and 2012 there were well over 1,000 missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada, a homicide rate some 4.5 times higher than that for all other women in the country. The federal government in Ottawa has refused to honor calls for a national inquiry.

"This happens to many people, but there's not always an action," Smokey Littlelight, Crazybull's nephew, told the *Militant*. "It's beautiful when we get together to show that she wasn't a nobody."

— KATY LEROUGETEL

tucky. The national average is 62.4 percent, the lowest rate since October 1977.

Bosses in the U.S., Europe, Japan and Australia had looked to rapid growth in China for salvation. But the Chinese "miracle" is drying up. The manufacturing sector there contracted for the seventh straight month in September, shrinking at its fastest rate in six and a half years.

The manufacturing recession will exacerbate the depression conditions that are grinding on working people with no end in sight. To boost their profits bosses push to lower wages, cut the workforce, speed up production and drive out unions. U.S. manufacturing production today is 20 percent higher than in 2005, with roughly 2 million fewer workers.

The pressure on profits in the race to get a competitive edge against rivals

is a reality throughout the economy. In October Walmart, the world's largest employer, announced it expects profits to drop up to 12 percent next year. The company blamed higher wages and stiff competition with Amazon for online sales. Amazon's competitive edge is based on massive speedup and use of robots in its warehouses.

Warehousing in general has gone through a rapid transformation, with a smaller number of workers handling an increasing number of items and orders. Many grocery chains have contracted out distribution to big operators, who have relocated to areas with lower minimum wages and no union protection. Teamsters officials estimate that 6,700 union jobs have been eliminated in grocery warehouses nationwide over the past 20 years.

## THE MILITANT

### End attacks on Jews, brutal Israeli actions

Recent attacks on Jews in Israel, praised by Hamas and acquiesced to by the Palestinian Authority, and the brutally disproportionate response by the Israeli regime pose more sharply than ever the need for a revolutionary working-class leadership in Palestine and Israel.



Active Stills/Oren Ziv  
Checkpoint in East Jerusalem Oct. 18.

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## The Militant

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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.

# SWP drive for new readers

Continued from front page of 2,300. The simultaneous Party-Building Fund also got a boost toward the goal of \$100,000 (see article on this page).

“What is socialism?” Doran Schmeiser, a retired aerospace worker who now works as a carpenter, asked SWP supporters at a literature table with a big sign reading “Socialist Workers Party: The working class alternative to the Democrats and Republicans” outside a meeting for Donald Trump in Burlington, Iowa, Oct. 21. Another person nearby said they didn’t like socialism because it meant the government takes care of everything and people have no control over anything.

“That’s the opposite of what we are fighting for,” retired steelworker Josefina Otero responded. “My party is not at all for the government butting into the affairs of working people. We say workers need to organize their own party independent of the capitalist parties.”

Schmeiser picked out some books — *Teamster Politics, Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* — and a subscription to learn more.

Three people subscribed and 27 bought copies of the paper. Ebony Wright, a young unemployed worker, came with a friend to hear Trump out of curiosity. Chicago SWP member Ilona Gersh described the confidence other workers have gained from the fight of fast-food and other low-wage workers for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and a union. “Yeah, we don’t get paid enough to live,” Wright said as she signed up for her subscription. “They expect us to work like a horse but eat like a bird.”

Among the new readers are eight members and supporters of United

Steelworkers Local 1165 who took part in an Oct. 26 informational picket at the ArcelorMittal plant in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. John Staggs, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Philadelphia City Council at-large, and supporters took part in the action against the steel bosses’ concession demands.

Workers involved in that fight welcomed not only the labor solidarity, but also discussion on the broader questions workers face in the world. Grandille Crothers said he appreciated the *Militant’s* coverage of Israel and the Palestinians. “Both sides’ leaders create the problems, but it’s all the workers in the middle who suffer,” he said.

After meeting Staggs, Steelworker Don Kuhns noted “how important it would be to get Walmart workers organized.” Staggs, who is a Walmart worker involved in the fight for \$15 an hour, regular work schedules and a union, encouraged the Steelworkers to join the Nov. 10 “Fight for \$15” actions in Philadelphia to show solidarity and to get out the word about the fight against the steel bosses.

Party members and supporters in New York had their best week yet, selling 53 subscriptions by organizing a day-to-day plan that included going door to door in working-class neighborhoods throughout the city and in small towns in the region.

“We met a Ukrainian-born research worker in Farmingdale, Long Island,” reported Maggie Trowe. “He was surprised to learn that the SWP exists. He supports the fight for \$15. He knew that revolutionary Cuba provided medical care for 25,000 after the 1986 Chernobyl, Ukraine, nuclear disaster.

“He wasn’t sure he shared our confidence in the capacity of workers to



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

Josefina Otero talks to Doran Schmeiser, a carpenter, about the Socialist Workers Party outside rally for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Burlington, Iowa, Oct. 21.

make a social revolution and change history, but he was interested in what we had to say,” Trowe said.

“We showed him the article ‘U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War’ in *New Internationalist* magazine. He decided to get it along with a subscription. We told him more about the SWP, its histo-

ry and what we are doing today, and he gave \$15 to the Party-Building Fund.”

The final scoreboard in next week’s issue will include all subscriptions received by 9 a.m. Wed., Nov. 4.

Join in the final effort to make our goal. Contact one of the party units listed on page 8.

## Help to make Party-Building Fund

BY JOHN STUDER

As we enter the final stretch of the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund drive, supporters have sent in over \$63,000 toward the \$100,000 goal.

Members, supporters and friends of the SWP in the Twin Cities and Omaha have set the pace, surpassing their goals by \$1,388. This is what is needed to go over the top — for every area to make their target and as many as possible to exceed it.

Interest in and backing for the party and its participation in working-class battles today is winning contributions from people who have only recently met party members.

SWP supporters in Philadelphia have been joining actions by Steelworkers at ArcelorMittal mills in both Coatesville and Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, and building solidarity with their fight against the bosses’ concession demands.

Vonie Long, president of Steelworkers Local 1165 in Coatesville, gave \$20 to the party-building fund Oct. 26. “I appreciate that the Socialist Workers Party and the *Militant* provide a voice for workers who are fighting like we are, so I’m glad to help out,” he told party supporter Mitchel Rosenberg after they picketed outside the mill.

Long is one of a number of Steelworkers who have written reports for the party paper on their contract fights.

A growing number of new subscrib-

ers have also chipped in to the drive, as members discussed the party with them on their doorsteps, at labor picket lines and protest actions.

The grinding depression conditions workers face today are fueling working-class resistance to attacks by the bosses and their government — from the growing fight for \$15 and a union to protests against police killings and brutality. As the 2016 election campaign heats up, more workers are interested in the SWP’s program and activities.

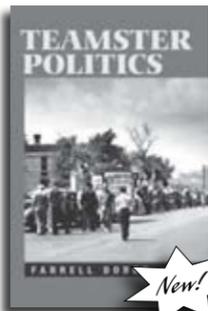
The Party-Building Fund makes it possible for the SWP to participate in a wide range of activities — from international gatherings to build solidarity with revolutionary Cuba and the fight to end Washington’s embargo to strike rallies to introducing people to the party at meetings for capitalist candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

All contributions will be counted that arrive before the final scoreboard is printed Nov. 11.

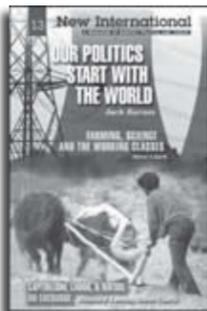
Help us go over the \$100,000 goal. To join in, and to make as generous a contribution as you can, contact the nearest SWP branch in the directory on page 8.

John Studer is the 2015 SWP Party-Building Fund director.

## Special book offers for *Militant* subscribers



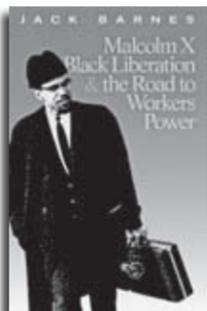
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by Farrell Dobbs  
Third in four-volume series  
\$10 with subscription  
(regular \$19)  
Also just released in Spanish



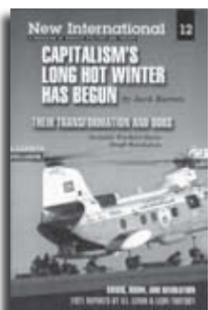
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Also in Spanish, French, Swedish, Greek, Farsi, Arabic



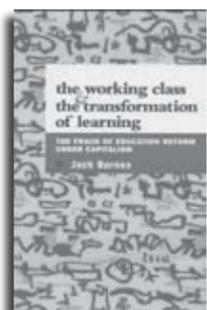
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If you subscribe or renew, these special offers are for you. Contact a distributor listed on page 8.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CANADA

**Calgary**  
Join and Support the Fight for \$15 an Hour and a Union Now. Speaker: François Bradette, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4909 17th Ave. SE, Unit 154. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.

**Montreal**  
The Deepening Crisis in Syria and the Middle East. Support the Kurdish Struggle. Speaker: Philippe Tessier, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 6, 8 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

## Party-Building Fund Week 7

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Omaha*	\$1,400	\$2,111	151%
Twin Cities*	\$3,645	\$4,322	119%
Oakland*	\$14,500	\$12,923	89%
Atlanta*	\$9,500	\$7,665	81%
Miami	\$3,000	\$2,152	72%
Chicago*	\$11,000	\$7,595	69%
Boston	\$3,250	\$2,145	66%
Lincoln	\$175	\$110	63%
Philadelphia	\$3,200	\$2,000	63%
New York	\$20,000	\$11,670	58%
Seattle	\$8,300	\$4,080	49%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$3,801	48%
Washington, DC	\$7,700	\$3,312	43%
Other	\$1,200		0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94,870</b>	<b>\$63,886</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Should Be</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$87,500</b>	<b>88%</b>
*Raised Goal			

# 'Workers need labor party'

Continued from front page  
date for City Council at-large, in the Nov. 3 election.

"Young fast-food workers, and those working for airport contractors, in home health care, and for Wal-Mart, and in other low-paid jobs, are striking and marching," Hart wrote. "These workers and youth are inspiring others to stand up and fight — serving as an example of the way forward for the working class as a whole."

Both Hart and Staggs work at Walmart and are part of the campaign for \$15, full-time work and a union. "Come out for the Nov. 10 National Day of Action for \$15 and a union," the two SWP candidates tell people as they campaign. "Join us at the rally at City Hall at 3:30 p.m."

"The Philadelphia campaign is really the beginning of the Socialist Workers Party's 2016 campaign for president and state offices across the country," Staggs told the press when he and Hart filed their petitions to get on the ballot Aug. 3. "We're campaigning to win people to the Socialist Workers Party."

The campaign here has played out as more than a dozen Republicans and a handful of Democrats vie to be their party's standard bearer in 2016. Hart and Staggs are often asked how they are different Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who says he is a "democratic socialist," and what they think of Donald Trump, the other presidential candidate who is drawing big working-class crowds.

The SWP candidates explain that their starting point is how to strengthen the organization and self-confidence of the working class, in face of the capitalist rulers' attacks — here and around the world. They point to the need for working people to organize politically, independent of the bosses and their parties. "The go-to answer for Osborne Hart" in the first televised mayoral debate, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* wrote Sept. 30, was "independent mobilization."

Hart's "well-stated arguments for stronger representation of workers' rights and benefits have given mainstream credence to the Socialist Workers Party he represents," said a profile published by the *Philadelphia Daily News*.

## Campaign wins broad hearing

Over the last four months the Socialist Workers Party candidates have picketed with steelworkers fighting concession demands at ArcelorMittal and Allegheny Technologies; marched against police brutality in New York, South Carolina and Philadelphia; protested to defend and extend the Americans with Disabilities Act and Medicare; debated

## Recommended Reading

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

by Mary-Alice Waters



Explains why a socialist revolution is not only possible, but more importantly why revolutionary struggles by working people are inevitable. \$7

www.pathfinderpress.com

their Democratic, Republican and other opponents on television and public meetings; and visited with workers on their doorsteps in neighborhoods all across the city.

Hart spoke at a church service against Washington's colonial treatment of Puerto Rico and for freedom of imprisoned Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López, addressed members of Steelworkers Local 10-1 at their union meeting, and participated in the Movement for Black Lives conference in Cleveland. Staggs marched with residents of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, demanding the Canadian government and Central Maine & Quebec Railroad be forced to repair the tracks there, where 47 people were killed in a 2013 oil-train derailment and explosion.

On Oct. 24 the mayoral candidate joined a march against police brutality in New York City. He met and talked with a number of relatives of young men who had been killed by police around the country, including Andree Penix-Smith, mother of Justin Smith Jr., beaten to death by five cops in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1998; Jessica and Vanisha Gatewood, mother and aunt of 23-year-old Richard Linyard, who died in July following a police chase in Oakland, California; and Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson, who was 23 when he was shot to death by cops in New York in 2000.

"We stand and continue to fight," Young told Hart. "We demand that the cops be charged, that they be suspended during the investigations. Not on paid leave. Not on desk jobs. And if convicted that they go to prison."

"Because mothers like yourselves and thousands of workers and youth have mobilized in the streets, the ruling class has taken steps to rein in the police," the socialist candidate said. "More beatings and killings are seeing the light of day. More cops are being indicted."

"The cops are there to protect capitalist rule and defend the bosses' profits. It will take a social and political revolution before the character of the police changes," Hart told Thomas Hedges, who interviewed him at the

# Trump, Sanders, turmoil mark 2016 campaign

BY NAOMI CRAINE

A year away from the 2016 presidential election, the campaign is in full swing and the two main parties of U.S. capitalism are in disarray. Republicans in Congress are having difficulty picking a Speaker of the House. Donald Trump remains in front of the crowded Republican primary race, to the consternation of the party "establishment." While Hillary Clinton remains the most likely Democratic nominee, large numbers of people say they don't like her and Bernie Sanders continues to garner more enthusiasm and larger crowds.

Battered by the slow-burning capitalist depression that has led to stagnant wages and employment, worsening conditions on the job, and spreading conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, workers want to know why the crisis continues and are looking for a political road to defend themselves and others. Many are attracted in particular to those candidates who say they speak for working people and come from outside the bourgeois political norm — most notably Trump and Sanders.

These conditions have also increased

**Their Vision for the City**  
The five candidates for mayor were asked to share their vision for the city and to talk about the issues that would take priority in their administration.

REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT	SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY	DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT
<b>Melissa Murray Bailey</b> is the Republican candidate for mayor	<b>Jim Foster</b> is an independent candidate for mayor	<b>Osborne Hart</b> is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor	<b>Jim Kenney</b> is the Democratic candidate for mayor	<b>Boris Kirdij</b> is an independent candidate for mayor
On a foundation of growth, moving forward after years of failure.	A 10-point plan for overhauling Phila. starts with patronage jobs.	A new wind is blowing, calling for justice and a living wage.	For safe streets and good schools, we all must work together.	Creating jobs, raising wages, and rebuilding trust in government.
<b>Y</b> ear after year, election after election, we see the same results: failing schools, crime, poverty, and economic stagnation. This is the reality for most Philadelphians. I am one of the lucky ones. My family lives on a safe	<b>T</b> ruth be told, Philadelphia is insolvent and has been fiscally, socially, and economically failing its citizens for many years. A one-party political machine has derailed down the other one with side deals.	<b>W</b> orkers in Philadelphia, like working people around the world, are facing a slow-burning capitalist depression with no end in sight. The percentage of the working class with a job has	<b>W</b> hat are you going to do? There is no other question I hear more often. And every time I do, I am reminded of the enormous challenges and opportunities facing Philadelphia.	<b>H</b> ow will Philadelphia look after four years of a Kirdij administration? Many jobs will be created. The majority of African Americans and Latinos will not be hopeless, jobless, homeless, penniless, angry at

Socialist Workers Party election campaign has won broader hearing for its program and activities. Above, Oct. 25 *Philadelphia Inquirer* featured statements by mayoral candidates.

march for *The Real News* network. "It took the Cuban Revolution — workers and farmers overthrowing Washington-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista — to change the police there."

Besides participating in fights against police brutality and for higher minimum wages, the socialist candidates say they would use City Hall to fight in workers' interests. "The Socialist Workers Party fights for a massive, government-funded public works program to put people to work at union wages rebuilding crucially needed infrastructure, rail tracks and bridges, housing, schools, hospitals and other things working people need," Staggs told workers on Labor Day as they marched in South Philadelphia.

## Fight for \$15 and a union

On Oct. 22 Hart and Staggs were joined by Katie Colaneri, a reporter for WHYY radio, the local PBS affiliate, as they knocked on workers' doors in Mayfair, a mainly Caucasian neighborhood in Northeast Philadelphia.

They met Madeline Klimovich, a retired court reporter, and told her about how they were part of the fight for \$15 and a union. "I've been a fighter for the rights of working people all my life," Klimovich said. "You can't sit on the sidelines."

"I'm a fighter for women's rights. We have to remember that fight continues

today," she said. "When I was younger, I had women co-workers who couldn't get a loan without their fathers co-signing the papers."

"I may be retired, but I'm still working-class," Klimovich said. "Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help your campaign."

Colaneri asked Staggs why he and Hart were running. "You can see from the response door to door that more and more people are upset with the two capitalist political parties," Staggs said. "We explain workers have to fight for our own party, a labor party based on our unions that will mobilize our class in action. A party that points toward taking political power out of the hands of the capitalist class and building a workers and farmers government."

"The Cuban Revolution is a living example of what workers and farmers can accomplish when they fight to take political power, transforming themselves in the process," Hart said. "They continue to set an example today, standing up to Washington's threats, extending internationalist aid in the fight against Ebola in Africa and elsewhere."

"Through our struggles, we will be transformed in the same way," he said, "gaining the experience, confidence and capacity to join toilers elsewhere in the fight for a socialist world."

receptivity to the Socialist Workers Party, which puts forward the only working-class voice and program in the campaign.

John Boehner announced Sept. 25 he would resign as Speaker, setting off weeks of contentious debate among Republican House members. Boehner quit under pressure from a vocal minority of Tea Party-backed congressmen who had been pushing for a "government shut down" — a course most Republicans see as damaging to the party's prospects.

There are 15 candidates contending for the Republican presidential nomination. Despite months of predictions by traditional Republican politicians and pundits in the bourgeois press of his imminent demise, billionaire real estate mogul Trump has stayed in front. The only candidate close to him in the polls is Ben Carson, a former surgeon and political novice especially popular with evangelical Christians.

## Trump draws working-class crowd

Trump draws a largely working-class crowd, including unionists, Blacks and Latinos, and rural toilers. Some are en-

thusiastic supporters, others say they come because working people face a growing crisis and they are looking for new answers.

Some liberals and the petty-bourgeois left say Trump is a fascist, pointing especially to his right-wing demagoguery against undocumented immigrants, including calls for building a wall along the Mexican border. When 30,000 turned out for a Trump rally in Mobile, Alabama, Aug. 21, Chris Matthews of MSNBC referred to the area as the "Redneck Riviera."

What's drawing the large crowds to Trump's rallies is not racism, but rather his insistence that a sharply different course is needed for workers and his disdain for establishment candidates and politics as usual. He says he's a successful businessman and tough negotiator who will get things done, especially getting people working. Trump talks about rebuilding infrastructure and promoting trade policies he claims will "bring jobs back to America."

He says all the other candidates, of both parties, have created a mess for

Continued on page 9

# —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 building solidarity today — including workers fighting for \$15 and a union; locked-out ATI Steelworkers; auto, steel and Verizon workers whose contracts have expired. I invite those involved in workers' battles 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

### Uber drivers rally in San Francisco, begin to organize

SAN FRANCISCO — Thirty Uber drivers rallied in front of the company's national office here Oct. 16. Abe Husein, 29, organizer of the Uber Freedom movement from Kansas City, Missouri, said his group had called for a nationwide strike Oct. 16-18 and is building a national organization of Uber drivers.

Uber Freedom demands the company raise UberX (the least expensive ride) fares by 60 percent, add a tip option on the online order form and raise the minimum fare and cancellation fee to \$7 each.

Uber, the largest of a number of on-demand transportation companies launched in recent years, connects riders to drivers through an online website.

The company treats drivers, who they call "partners," as independent contractors. By providing and maintaining their own vehicles, the company claims they can gross \$35 an hour. But when the cost of gas, insurance and vehicle upkeep are taken into consideration, what drivers take home is often less than the minimum wage.

In an interview published Sept. 30 in the *Pitch*, a Kansas City weekly, Husein said that when he started driving for Uber in March riders paid \$1.85 per mile. When he quit in August, after the company deactivated his account in retaliation for organizing drivers, the charge had dropped to \$1 per mile.

"Of that \$1, Uber takes 20 cents off the top. In addition, Uber takes a \$1 'safe-ride' fee" on each fare, Husein said. So after car costs, "drivers are making, what, 10 cents or 15 cents profit per mile?"

"Uber is taking away full-time taxi and limousine driver jobs by hiring more part-time drivers," Husein told the *Militant* at the rally.

Husein supports a class action lawsuit against Uber demanding the company recognize drivers as employees. "But our thing is immediate action," he said. "These suits take them a long time in court with no results. I hope our actions can lead us to become an organization or association where Uber drivers can organize themselves."

— Gerardo Sanchez

### Silicon Valley shuttle bus drivers join Teamsters union

OAKLAND, Calif. — San Francisco Bay Area shuttle bus drivers are joining the Teamsters union and fighting for higher pay and improved benefits.

Hundreds of drivers transport thousands of employees from all over the Bay Area to their jobs at technology companies in Silicon Valley around the southern portion of the bay. Apple Computer alone shuttles 5,000 people daily.

Facebook shuttle drivers, who work for Loop Transportation, were the first to organize, voting for representation by Teamsters Local 853 in November 2014. Three months later the 87 drivers won

a contract that raised their average base pay from \$18 to \$27.50 an hour.

Drivers at Compass Transportation, which operates shuttles for Apple, eBay, Yahoo, Zynga, Genentech, Amtrak and others, voted for Teamsters representation in February. Local 853 officials announced Oct. 3 that contract negotiations with Compass had stalled and workers should prepare for a strike or job actions. The main sticking points are around paid vacations and health insurance.

The Facebook contract set a template for others. It included 11 paid holidays, a guaranteed minimum of six hours per day, a 10 percent shift differential and a differential for drivers working split shifts. It's common for bus drivers to work several hours in the morning, then wait five or six hours without pay to drive a return trip.

## 'Unless we fight, steel bosses do whatever they want'

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

COATESVILLE, Pa. — In response to ArcelorMittal's off-and-on curtailment of production, about 70 members of United Steelworkers Local 1165 and supporters held an informational picket line at the plant's gate 9 here all day Oct. 26. Many were melt-shop and furnace workers who enter the mill through the now-quiet gate.

National contracts covering 30,000 Steelworkers at ArcelorMittal and U.S. Steel expired Sept. 1. The old contracts are being extended day by day. Both companies refuse to back off from deep concession demands.

Some 2,200 USW members have been locked out by Allegheny Technologies Inc. since Aug. 15. Workers rallied Oct. 20 at the company's Pitts-



Militant/Jeff Powers

Abe Husein, with megaphone, a leader of the Uber Freedom movement, at Oct. 16 rally at Uber headquarters in San Francisco demanding company raise drivers' pay to cover car costs.

Apple, which employs more than 150 drivers from several contractors, announced in March it would raise drivers' wages by an average of 25 percent, pay differentials for split shift drivers and provide drivers access to break rooms.

Three days later Google announced similar steps for its more than 200 drivers who transport some 6,000 em-

ployees a day.

Then in late August 151 warehouse workers who process delivery orders for Google Express in Palo Alto voted to be represented by Local 853. The workers are employed by subcontractor Adecco Staffing on two-year contracts and paid \$13 to \$17 an hour.

— Raul Gonzalez

burgh headquarters, delivering thousands of petitions demanding substantive negotiations as the ATI board met. Some 35 Steelworkers from Local 1046 in Louisville, Ohio, began a solidarity caravan tour Oct. 11 to all of the locked-out mills in Pennsylvania.

Vonie Long, president of Local 1165 and an electrician at the plant here, explained that the gate action coincided with the first shift of layoffs scheduled for five weeks between now and the end of the year. A contingent of workers from Local 6996, locked out by Hofman Industries in Sinking Spring for more than four years, joined the rally.

"One of the spouses brought a big pot of chili, along with breakfast

sandwiches, coffee and hot chocolate," said Stacey Jones, Local 1165 recording secretary. "It's important to see the children here, because they'll learn we're fighting for their generation too." Jones and two other unionists carried signs for the local's Women of Steel committee.

Grandille Crothers, a mud gang member who has worked in the mill since 1966, said the protest helped "show the company we're not just taking anything. Unless we fight, they're going to do whatever they want."

"These rallies and pickets are an opportunity to talk with guys on other shifts and reach out to the community," melt-shop ladleman Don Kuhns said. "They show we are going to last one day longer than the company."

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 9, 1990

NEW YORK — Some 2,200 workers have responded to a lockout by the *New York Daily News* here by declaring themselves on strike. Nine unions at the newspaper set up picket lines October 25 in an attempt to stop the company's union-busting drive.

The 71-year-old daily, with a circulation of 1.2 million copies a day prior to the strike, was the third most widely read newspaper in the United States.

Over the past months, the *Daily News* has spent \$24 million in preparation for a strike. Strikebreakers have been trained and housed at the Ramada Inn in North Bergen [New Jersey] since April.

Several issues of the paper have been produced with the scab workforce, but many newsstands are so far refusing to carry the daily.



November 8, 1965

DELANO, Calif. — Grapes of wrath are being trod in the vineyards of California's Central Valley as once again a section of the agricultural workers struggle for union recognition and higher wages. Beatings, jailings, and gun fire have been the growers' response to a strike in the Delano area that is now entering its third month.

The main core of strikers are some 1,500 Filipino farm workers organized by the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO. Unlike most California harvest workers, these Filipinos are not migrants but live in the same area year round in labor camps owned by the big business growers.

Working about ten months harvesting and pruning vines, the Filipinos average \$2,000 a year. This is \$1,000 below the government's official poverty level.



November 9, 1940

Because they wrote a letter protesting the intolerable Jim Crow conditions in the U.S. Navy and sent it to the Negro press, 15 young colored messmen on the U.S.S. Philadelphia have been clapped into the brig, according to wires received this week by the *Pittsburgh Courier*.

They are being punished according to the *Courier*, "because they used the democratic process to appeal against their mistreatment."

In their letter of protest these boys had related the story of discrimination against them as Negroes on the ship, how their job opportunities were curtailed and their chances for advance in pay and rank far more limited than those of the white sailors.

They were treated as "sea-going bell hops, chambermaids and dishwashers," their work "limited to waiting on tables and making beds for the officers."

# Build Nov. 10 actions for \$15 an hour and a union

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The word is getting around and support is building for the Nov. 10 national day of action for \$15 an hour and union rights. Recent victories have bolstered the confidence of workers who make the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour or a little more.

Under the cumulative impact of several years of rallies and marches by workers at McDonald's and similar restaurant chains, the New York State Labor Commission raised the wages of all fast-food workers in the state — approximately 136,000 people — to \$15 an hour in increments to begin Dec. 31 of this year. In New York City fast-food wages will hit \$15 at the end of 2018 and in the rest of the state by mid-2021. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Sept. 10 that he would introduce legislation to raise the minimum wage for all workers statewide to \$15.

In northern California a coalition of fast-food and Walmart workers, unions and community groups has been meeting to organize and build the actions. Responding to protests and ballot initiatives, city governments in Oakland, San Francisco and Emeryville have raised the minimum wage.

Marches and rallies will take place in San Francisco, Fresno, San Jose and Sacramento throughout the day Nov. 10. Then people from throughout the region will gather for a rally at Oakland City Hall at 4:30 p.m. A special session of the Berkeley City Council will discuss raising the city minimum wage to \$15.

Fight for \$15 organizers are planning actions in Los Angeles and Long Beach. The Los Angeles demonstration will gather at a fast-food restaurant, march through the garment district, where it will be joined by clothing workers; march to a downtown police station where it will be joined by protesters against police brutality; and end up at City Hall for a rally.

Los Angeles is not the only place where young people are linking the fight to raise the minimum wage and the fight against racism and police brutality. An Oct. 19 forum at the City University of New York included Alicia Garza, co-founder of Black Lives

Matter, and Kendall Fells, an organizer of Fight for \$15. “There is a natural intersection between what’s happening with Black Lives Matter and the Fight for \$15,” Fells said, recalling how McDonald’s workers in Ferguson, Missouri, joined street protests against the killing of Michael Brown by a police officer there last year.

## Young protesters gain confidence

The Fight for \$15 is changing the outlook and confidence of a growing number of workers.

“When I started at McDonald’s in Manhattan more than a year ago, the low pay — \$8.75 an hour with no night differential — bothered me,” Edward Durham, 40, who is building the Nov. 10 actions in New York, told the *Militant* Oct. 27.

“People say the job is easy, but it’s not. You’ve got to be on point and you can’t be slow. If someone doesn’t come to work, I’ve got to pick up the slack,” he said. “We work holidays but get no holiday pay.”

Several of Durham’s co-workers were active in the Fight for \$15, so he joined them.

“I like being part of this struggle,” he said. “Before I started working steady, I was out in the street doing a lot of nonsense. Now I’m doing something positive. I’m part of a cause. I’ve met a lot of people, and you get a different perspective.”

“I didn’t realize a lot of people are going through the same thing as I am,” Durham said. “And when the police brutality protests were going on last year, they came to our marches and we marched together.”

## Protests win worker’s reinstatement

“I was fired in retaliation for organizing I did in the workplace,” Shonda Roberts, a worker active in the Fight for \$15 in the Bay Area, told the *Militant*. She was dismissed by Kentucky Fried Chicken/Pizza Hut Oct. 17. Community organizations, Roberts’ co-workers, the East Bay Organizing Committee and Fight for \$15 picketed outside the restaurant and made calls to management protesting the firing.



Militant/Emma Johnson

Rally at McDonald’s in New York April 2 demands \$15 and a union. After years of protests NY government conceded incremental increase of fast-food workers minimum wage to \$15.

## Marchers in NY protest police brutality Oct. 24



Militant/Sarah Katz

NEW YORK — Hundreds of people rallied and marched against police brutality here Oct. 24, organized by the Stop Mass Incarceration coalition and supported by Justice League NYC, the People’s Organization for Progress in Newark, New Jersey, and other groups.

The action was marked by the participation of a good number of family members of people killed by police. Among them were Kadiatou Diallo, whose son Amadou Diallo was killed by New York police in 1999; Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson, who was killed by cops here in 2000; Iris Baez, mother of Anthony Baez, killed in a police chokehold in 1994; Andree Penix-Smith, whose son Justin Smith Jr. was beaten to death by five Tulsa, Oklahoma, cops in 1998; and Sharon and “Papa” Irwin, grandparents of Tony Robinson, killed by Madison, Wisconsin, police March 6.

“This is not about Black and white,” Sharon Irwin told the *Militant*. “It’s about right and wrong.”

“I’m a human being with a conscience,” film director Quentin Tarantino, who flew from California to join the rally, told participants. “I’m here to say I’m on the side of the murdered.” New York Police Commissioner William Bratton denounced Tarantino and Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch called for a boycott of his movies.

There was a heavy police presence during the protest, which took place in the wake of the Oct. 20 killing of police officer Randolph Holder in East Harlem. Nonetheless, provocations and arrests were at a minimum.

— MAGGIE TROWE

“I was reinstated with back pay and returned to work Oct. 25. Demands around hours for others and working conditions were agreed to as well.”

In Florida, Fight for \$15 workers have announced afternoon actions Nov. 10 in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers, Sarasota and Naples.

United Healthcare Workers East 1199SEIU is building rallies in New York City, Albany and Baltimore. The action at the latter gathers at the Amazon Fulfillment Center.

Some 200 workers rallied at National Airport in Washington, D.C., Oct. 21 wearing T-shirts with the slogan, “Fighting for \$15 and union rights at the airport.” The gathering was part of the Oct. 19-21 first National Airport Worker Convention organized by Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union. Workers at 16 airports have joined the local over the last three years.

“As economic justice is interwoven into so many historic civil rights and now Black Lives Matter conversations, an exciting fledgling dialogue is emerging,” said an Oct. 23 *Ebony* magazine article. Imagine “what could happen if a campaign such as Fight for \$15 fully embraced a racial equity lens and embedded in its strong pro-union messaging a greater overall concern for progressive Black struggles.” The article noted that 87 percent of low-wage workers who are Black approve of labor unions.

An April report by the National Employment Law Project titled, “The Growing Movement for \$15,” said that 42 percent of U.S. workers make less than \$15 per hour, including more than half of those who are African-Ameri-

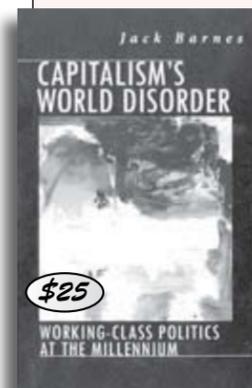
can and nearly 60 percent of Latinos.

Ninety-six percent of fast-food workers, almost 90 percent of home care and child care workers, nearly three-quarters of bank tellers and about half of production workers in auto manufacturing receive less than \$15 per hour, the report said. Over half of women workers make less than \$15 per hour.

Carole Lesnick, a Walmart worker in Oakland, California, and Bill Arth, a Walmart worker in Los Angeles, contributed to this article.

## Capitalism’s World Disorder

by Jack Barnes



“A new pattern is being woven in struggle today as working people emerge from a period of retreat. The emerging pattern is taking shape, defined by

the actions of a vanguard whose ranks increase with every single worker or farmer who reaches out to others with the hand of solidarity and offers to fight together.”

pathfinderpress.com

# Cuban revolutionaries to tour NY, DC, Bay Area Nov. 3-17

BY SETH GALINSKY

Kenia Serrano, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, and Leima Martínez, a representative of ICAP's North America Division, will be in the U.S. Nov. 3-17 to speak at public meetings in New York, Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco Bay Area (see ad below). The tour will let youth, working people and others hear directly from Cuban revolutionaries about the advances and challenges on the island.

"Their visit will help fight to end the U.S. blockade of Cuba and win the return of the U.S. Naval Base in Guantánamo," Alicia Jrapko, U.S. coordinator of the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity to the Peoples and co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, said by phone from the Bay Area Oct. 26.

"Many people thought it would be impossible to win freedom for the Cuban Five, but it happened," Jrapko said, referring to the five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by the FBI in 1998 and jailed

in the U.S. for reporting to the Cuban government threats against the revolution from paramilitary groups in Florida with a long history of attacks against Cuba. The last of the Five were freed in December. "The solidarity work many people around the world carried out played an important role. We can use that experience today."

Serrano visited Australia and New Zealand in June and spoke at the Seventh Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Solidarity with Cuba in Vietnam in September. She toured the U.S. in 1995 when she was a student leader.



Photos by Bill Hackwell

Tour by Kenia Serrano, left, and Leima Martínez of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples is opportunity to learn about Cuban Revolution and its example in the world today.

## UN condemns Washington's embargo of Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

UNITED NATIONS — Ten months after U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro announced that they had agreed to begin normalizing relations, "no tangible, substantial modification has been introduced in the implementation" of the U.S. blockade of Cuba, Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Bruno Rodríguez told the U.N. General Assembly Oct. 27.

Soon after his speech the General Assembly voted — for the 24th year in a row — to call on Washington to end "the economic, commercial and financial embargo" against Cuba. The 191 votes in favor of the resolution was the widest margin ever. Only the governments of the United States and Israel voted no. Last year Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands abstained; this year they voted to condemn the embargo.

"Historically, Washington has tried to establish its domination and hegemony over our homeland and, since 1959, change the political, economic

and social system that our people have freely chosen," the Cuban foreign minister said. Recognizing that the more than 55-year-long economic war to destroy the revolution has failed, some U.S. spokespeople say the new U.S. policy towards Cuba "is a change in methods, but not in its objectives," he noted.

Cuba "will never renounce its sovereignty or the path that it has freely chosen to build a more just, efficient, prosperous and sustainable socialism," Rodríguez said. "Neither will it give up in its quest for a more equitable and democratic international order."

Rodríguez noted that since the two governments agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations there have been only "very limited" changes by Washington, including the removal of Cuba from the "spurious list of State Sponsors of International Terrorism," talks on cooperating on air safety, fighting drug dealing, and ending human trafficking; and the relaxation of some restrictions on travel for U.S. citizens to Cuba as well as restrictions on communications.

Just the week before, he pointed out, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed a \$330 million fine on the French bank Crédit Agricole for transactions with

Cuba and Sudan. The day of the U.N. vote it announced a \$43,875 fine on Gil Tours Travel for "providing Cuba travel-related services."

The purchase of food from the U.S., one of the few exceptions to the embargo, Rodríguez said, "has significantly decreased over the last year because of onerous and discriminatory conditions: each purchase must be authorized by a license; the granting of credits is not allowed; Cuba is forced to pay in cash in advance through banks of third countries and is not allowed to use its own vessels to transport those products."

Even medicine and medical supplies are often blocked. U.S.-based Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals recently refused to sell Cuba a radioactive isotope needed for cancer treatment. And Small Bone Innovations refused to sell prostheses to the Frank País Orthopedic Complex in Cuba. The U.S. government continues to pressure other nations to follow its dictates toward Cuba and to block Cuba from conducting transactions in dollars.

Representatives of more than 20 governments spoke in the discussion in favor of the anti-embargo resolution.

Algerian Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum was one of several speakers who lauded "the bold action of Cuban doctors" in the fight against Ebola in West Africa, referring to the 256 volunteers who played a key role in overcoming the epidemic, and said their example should be emulated around the world.

The Nicaraguan and Argentinian delegates called for the return of the Guantánamo Naval Base to Cuba.

U.S. Deputy Ambassador Ronald Godard complained that the text of the anti-embargo resolution "falls short of reflecting the significant steps that have been taken and the spirit of engagement President Obama has championed." He said that Washington is "committed to the hard work of pursuing genuine bilateral cooperation."

At the same time, Godard said, Washington will keep "promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in Cuba," a euphemism for the U.S. government's counterintelligence and subversion programs aimed at creating and financing groups opposed to the revolution.

"The blockade against Cuba is a unilateral act that must be lifted unilaterally," Rodríguez told a press conference after the vote. "Only the government and the Congress of the United States can eliminate it."

### Cuba Speaks for Itself

Hear **Kenia Serrano**, president, and **Leima Martínez**, representative, **Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples**

#### NEW YORK CITY

Wed., Nov. 4, Reception 6:30, Program 7:30 p.m.  
Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Center  
3940 Broadway, near 165th St.  
For more information: 917-887-8710

#### WASHINGTON, DC

Sat., Nov. 7, 7 p.m.  
UDC-David A. Clarke School of Law  
4340 Connecticut Ave NW  
For more information: 202-986-5839

#### SAN FRANCISCO

Wed., Nov. 11, 7 p.m.  
2969 Mission St.  
For more information: 415-821-6545

#### RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

Fri., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
East Bay Center for the Performing Arts  
339 11th St.  
For more information: 510-219-0092

## Florida protest in police killing of Corey Jones

Continued from front page

Beach Gardens exit ramp. A friend drove out to help but they couldn't get the car started. After Jones called a tow truck, the friend left.

A short time later, Raja, who was in plainclothes and driving an unmarked van with tinted windows, shot Jones three times. It was not until 15 hours later that the police informed the family that Jones had been killed.

Police Chief Stephen Stepp told an Oct. 20 press conference that Raja spotted what he thought was an abandoned car. "As the officer exited his vehicle, he was suddenly confronted by an armed subject," Stepp said. He said that a handgun belonging to Jones, bought a few days before, was found near the car. Stepp reported that he had asked the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to investigate the death.

Police refused to offer any further information until the morning of the rally, when Palm Beach County State Attorney David Aronberg met with family members and their lawyers. Benjamin Crump, one of the lawyers, said that

Aronberg told them Raja, who was not wearing a badge, fired six shots at Jones, who was running away. Jones never fired his gun. Crump previously represented the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown.

Jones' family said Corey bought the gun for self-defense because he often transported expensive band equipment at late hours.

Many at the rally were angry that the cops portrayed Jones, well known as a musician and church activist in the area, as an aggressor. "Corey was nonviolent, he was not confrontational at all," Jones' cousin Kalandreia Davis told the *Militant*.

Jones' family doubts he knew that Raja, dressed in jeans, a T-shirt and baseball cap, was a cop. "[Corey] doesn't know if he's about to be mugged, if he's about to be killed," Crump told the press. "Imagine ... the sense of concern you would have 3 in the morning, waiting for the tow truck and an unmarked van rolls up on you."

"No disrespect about Black Lives Matter — all lives matter," Jones' broth-

er, C.J. Jones, told NBC News. "My brother had plenty of friends. White friends. Asian friends."

Rally participants were skeptical that Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office investigators will tell the truth. Since 2000, according to a report aired on WPTV in April, 114 people have been shot by deputies of the sheriff's office, the largest police force in the area. But the agency ruled that all but 12 of them were justified.

"It's an injustice," said Alyssa, a Publix supermarket worker, who is Caucasian. Asking that her last name not be used, she said she came to the rally "because not doing anything is the worst thing. The police always try to sweep everything under the rug."

Also at the rally were David Adams, whose brother Seth was shot and killed by an undercover Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputy in 2012, and family members of Aldo Alvarez, a mentally disabled man who was shot and wounded by an off-duty deputy. Both the sheriff's office and the state attorney's office exonerated the cops in the two cases.

# Building socialism requires ‘moral factor and consciousness’

In *Defense of Socialism: Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution* by Fidel Castro is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November*. The excerpt is from the Jan. 8, 1989, speech “The Young Generation Must Improve and Defend Socialism.” It was given at Ciudad Libertad, formerly Camp Columbia, the main army base under the Washington-backed dictatorship of Fulgenio Batista, turned into a school after the revolution. Castro talks about what motivated the hundreds of thousands of Cubans who volunteered in Angola and risked their lives to defend that newly independent country from invasion by South Africa, helping to deal the apartheid regime a crushing blow in 1988. Copyright © 1989 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Terry Coggan

Workers participate in minibrigade building new apartment buildings in Havana, Cuba, in 1988, based on volunteer labor with no material incentives. “What human beings do for moral principles and honor they won’t do for all the money in the world,” Fidel Castro said.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FIDEL CASTRO

When slavery was abolished — and the abolition of slavery last century was the product of the heroic struggle waged by our *mambí* independence fighters in the war of 1868 — in theory the slaves were freed but in actual practice they went on working for the landowners, the plantation owners, and the capitalists in exchange for a wage of next to nothing. Property did not go to the slaves, property did not

go to the people.

Even when the independence of Cuba was formally proclaimed at the beginning of the century and an allegedly Cuban government was installed, with the constitution that carried an amendment, the so-called Platt Amendment, entitling the United States to intervene in our country, this did not change anything. The ownership of the land and industry continued to be in the hands of those who owned them: the plantation owners, the capitalists, the landowners, and a growing number of foreign corporations. There was absolutely no change.

With the revolutionary triumph of January 1959, for the first time in the history of our nation, property was transferred from the hands of the exploiters into the hands of the people; for the first time a true social revolution took place; for the first time a profound change took place in our people’s political philosophy and consciousness. As could be expected, this unleashed the hatred and antagonism of the U.S. imperialists. They could not conceive of anything like it; they could not conceive of a socialist revolution in our country. They viewed our country as their property and our people as a herd of sheep. ...

During these thirty years the revolution defended itself against imperialist threats, imperialist aggressions, imperialist plans, imperialist subversion, imperialist crimes. It defended

itself against the counterrevolutionary bands, mercenary invasions, plans to sabotage our economy, attempts to assassinate revolutionary leaders, repeated threats of direct aggression, and an economic blockade that has already lasted thirty years. But imperialism has not disappeared, imperialism is right there. Capitalist ideology has not disappeared and neither has capitalism. Capitalism and capitalist ideology are right there. Imperialism’s threats have not disappeared, they are right there.

It would be an illusion to think that the whole difficult period for the revolution and for the nation is over. That would be an illusion that the current generation and the coming generations can never harbor. Imperialism has not renounced the idea of liquidating socialism in Cuba, of liquidating revolutionary ideology in Cuba; imperialism has not renounced the idea of liquidating our revolution. Imperialism might change its tactics, its weapons, but U.S. imperialism is too arrogant, too high-handed, too haughty to renounce the idea of overturning the Cuban revolution, to renounce the idea of liquidating socialism in Cuba. ...

Capitalist society is based on material incentives and it does not pay any attention to moral factors. Building socialism cannot follow the capitalist formula of giving the main weight to material incentives. I already gave many examples of accomplishments

where material incentives play no role. We cannot speak of building socialism if we don’t give all due weight to the moral factor and consciousness.

On January 4 I was really impressed when giving out diplomas to some workers at ExpoCuba who had made a tremendous effort. I remember one compañero who was always working; whenever I went day or night I would always find him there. He contributed 3,500 hours of voluntary work. I did some figuring and found it was the equivalent of almost two years of work, in voluntary hours after his eight-hour day. [Applause] What motivates that man, what amount of money? No money can buy that. ...

When we mobilize, train, and arm millions of citizens of this country to confront an invasion, we know millions are ready to die. What can we pay them with? How much will we give each of the men and women of our armed forces, the Territorial Troop Militia, and the Production and Defense Brigades, for defending the homeland? They are defending an idea, the sacred value of the homeland! [Applause] What amount of money will we give the combatants going on internationalist missions, the hundreds of thousands who went and risked their lives for an idea, for a principle, for solidarity, for internationalism, for honor?

What men do for honor and moral principles — when I say men, I mean men and women — what human beings do for moral principles and honor they won’t do for all the money in the world. And I think it is an insult to the revolutionary ideal, to revolutionary ideas, to claim that man is only motivated by material interests.

I want to make this clear so we won’t be misunderstood. We have our feet on the ground, very firmly on the ground! That is why we consider all these examples, and I’ve enumerated some unique examples, which are part of the education of our young people.

There cannot be socialism or a communist society without education, without having certain ideas become indispensable ethical principles for every citizen and every human being.

It is in this light that the younger generation, this generation, must work, must create, and must improve our system.

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# Washington, Moscow moves in Syria

Continued from front page

ampaign has been aimed against Islamic State in both Syria and Iraq. The bulk of the U.S.-led coalition's 7,300 bombings over the past year have occurred in Iraq.

More than 3,300 U.S. troops are stationed as "advisers" to the Iraqi military. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Oct. 23 that U.S. special operations forces will conduct more aggressive raids against Islamic State in Iraq.

The crisis in Syria and Iraq stems from imperialist domination of the region. After the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, London and Paris carved out new, artificial national boundaries and divided control between themselves. The imperialist rulers split up territory populated by the Kurdish people between Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria, denying the Kurds their own state.

After World War II, a new "world order" was put into place by Washington, the new dominant imperialist power. That "order" is now coming apart.

Paving the way for Moscow's intervention in Syria and the emergence of the Islamic State was the political exhaustion of the bourgeois nationalist forces that rose throughout the Mideast after World War II, combined with betrayals of worker and peasant struggles by Stalinist parties in the region. With radical-sounding rhetoric, the Arab Baath Socialist Party came to power in Syria in a coup. The Assad family took control in 1970, imposing a brutal capitalist regime backed by Moscow and often the Syrian Communist Party.

In 2011, hundreds of thousands of Syrians took part in mobilizations demanding political rights and an end to the regime. Assad crushed the protests, using bombs, chemical weapons and bloody repression.

Islamic State, a terrorist split from al-Qaeda backed by military commanders who previously served Saddam Hussein in Iraq, stepped into the political vacuum this created. They seized a sizable piece of Syria and then parts of western Iraq.

While targeting opposition fighters, the Russian government's so-called precision bombing has taken a heavy toll on civilians. At least 120,000 people living in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib provinces have been displaced this month, the United Nations reports, adding to the more than 11 million already driven from their homes by nearly five years of civil war.

A report released by Human Rights Watch said Russian airstrikes Oct. 15 killed at least 59 civilians in Ter Ma'aleh, a village in northern Homs. At least seven medical facilities have been hit since Russian airstrikes began, according to Physicians for Human Rights, including Sarmin hospital in Idlib province, killing at least 15.

Some of the heaviest fighting has been around

Aleppo, where armed opposition forces took control after Assad's assaults crushed the public protest movement. But intensive Russian airstrikes combined with ground attacks have pushed them back from a number of surrounding towns and villages. At the same time, Islamic State has been able to take advantage of the situation to deal blows against these forces as well as seize several areas around southern and eastern Aleppo from pro-Syrian regime forces.

## Washington, Moscow confer

On Oct. 23 Secretary of State John Kerry attended what he termed "constructive" talks in Moscow, along with government officials from Saudi Arabia and Turkey, to discuss how to end Syria's civil war. Another gathering is planned soon, perhaps including Tehran. The Barack Obama administration has dropped its previous call for the ouster of Assad, calling instead for a political settlement today that can transition away from Assad's rule over an unspecified period of time.

That same day Moscow reached agreement with the government of Jordan, which receives about \$1 billion in U.S. aid each year, to coordinate military actions in Syria. "We have no problem whatsoever with this," Kerry said, "and it may even help make certain that the targets are the targets that they ought to be."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the media Oct. 24 that Moscow is willing to cooperate with "patriotic" opposition groups like the Free Syrian Army. "Their words are not like their actions," Issam al-Rayyes, spokesman for the Southern Front of the FSA, told Reuters. "How can we talk to them while they are hitting us?"

Moscow began operating an intelligence center out of Baghdad at the end of September that the Iranian and Syrian governments also participate in. On Oct. 23 the Iraqi government authorized Russian airstrikes against Islamic State within its borders. The decision came days after Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Baghdad to seek assurances that only U.S.-led bombardments would be maintained.

## Turkish rulers attack Kurds

With elections in Turkey just days away, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is stepping up his government's attacks on Kurds in Turkey, Iraq and Syria, hoping to beat back gains made in elections last June by the Kurdish-based People's Democratic Party (HDP) and regain a parliamentary majority to strengthen the president's powers.

Turkish army units carried out attacks against Kurdish forces in Syria fighting IS and the Assad regime, shelling People's Protection Units (YPG) positions in Tal Abyad near the border Oct. 24.

# Trump, Sanders, turmoil mark 2016 elections

Continued from page 4

working people. Speaking to thousands in Jacksonville, Florida, Oct. 24, he declared, "We don't need nice, we need competent."

Asked about foreign policy on "Face the Nation" Oct. 11, Trump said, "I want to have a much stronger military. I want it to be so strong that nobody is going to mess with us." He argued against deeper U.S. military involvement in Syria, saying, "What, are we going to start World War III over Syria?"

And he pledged to take care of workers who have served in the military, who he notes "are treated terribly." Instead of calling for greater conflict with Moscow, as most other candidates do, Trump says when Putin attacks Islamic State in Syria, "I'm all for it."

Socialist Workers Party members have set up tables outside Trump events, including at his Oct. 21 rally in Burlington, Iowa, discussing politics and selling the *Militant* and Pathfinder Press books on revolutionary working-class politics. While some say they aren't interested, many welcome discussion on the party's proposals to defend working-class interests.

In the Democratic primary, Sanders presents himself as the most anti-war candidate and, like Trump, rails against the Trans-Pacific Partnership and previous trade pacts, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, from a nationalist framework. In an Oct. 24 speech he said it was not right "that American

workers should compete with people making a fraction of our wages."

Unlike almost all other bourgeois candidates, he backs President Barack Obama's Iran deal as a help to stability in the Mideast.

Sanders, who describes himself as a democratic socialist, is generating more enthusiasm than Hillary Clinton for some of the same reasons Trump gets a big hearing — he appeals to those who are looking for change.

In an Oct. 13 Democratic primary debate CNN anchor Anderson Cooper asked Sanders if he was a capitalist. "Do I consider myself part of the casino capitalist process by which ... Wall Street's greed and recklessness wrecked this economy?" Sanders replied. "No, I don't." He pointed to Denmark, Sweden and Norway — all capitalist countries that have often been run by social democrats — as models.

He presses Clinton to the left. She said she was for reining in "the excesses of capitalism so it doesn't run amok." In fact Sanders' main proposals amount to quite modest reforms of the capitalist system, including increasing banking regulations and raising taxes on "Wall Street speculation" to provide free tuition at public universities.

SWP supporters campaigning outside Sanders' meetings find interest and good sales of party literature. Stay tuned for the Socialist Workers Party's 2016 campaign.

# —SWP campaign statement— 'New wind is blowing'

Continued from front page

participant in the struggle for civil and black rights, I joined in the revulsion and dignified response among working people of all skin colors to the political assassination of nine African Americans in the AME church in Charleston, S.C. And I celebrated when the overwhelming response forced the state's rulers to pull down that symbol of terror, the Confederate battle flag, from the grounds of the South Carolina Capitol.

Young people in the Black Lives Matter movement, led by youth who are African American, staged a mini-rebellion in Baltimore that forced indictments and prosecution in the case of Freddie Gray, who died while in police custody. These young protesters persisted despite being called thugs by politicians and the media. In Philadelphia, I joined demonstrations demanding justice in the police killings of Brandon Tate-Brown and Frank McQueen, as well as the beating of Tyree Carroll. As a result of our actions, the rulers have begun to rein in the police and are pressed to bring more indictments.

Young fast-food workers, and those working for airport contractors, in home health care, for Wal-Mart, and in other low-paid jobs, are striking and marching. Immigrant workers are also standing up for their rights. We are acting in solidarity, demanding \$15 an hour, regular work schedules, and a union. We are having an impact, forcing bourgeois politicians in city and state governments across the country to raise the minimum wage.

These workers and youth are inspiring others to stand up and fight — serving as an example of the way forward for the working class as a whole.

On Oct. 1, for the first time in more than 30 years, autoworkers rejected a national contract (Fiat-Chrysler) that would have left standing a two-tier wage structure. I have joined the steelworkers' union that is battling a lockout at Allegheny Technologies in Western Pennsylvania.

John Staggs, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council at large, was in Quebec on Oct. 11 in support of rail workers who are being unjustly blamed for an oil-train disaster there. As in Philadelphia, which recently experienced the Amtrak crash in Port Richmond, these are life-and-death issues when you have oil trains coming through neighborhoods. We need to fight for workers' control of safety on the job and build unions strong enough to stop production until unsafe conditions are fixed.

As mayor, I will use my office to fight for these immediate safety measures: make it illegal for the railroads to operate without a minimum crew of four; restore the caboose at the end of every train; mandate a maximum train length of 50 cars; and immediately use double-hulled cars to haul oil and other hazardous materials.

My party also proposes a massive, government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages — building housing, safe public transportation, schools, child-care centers, recreational facilities, and rebuilding roads and infrastructure.

The Cuban Revolution is a living example of what workers and farmers can accomplish when they fight to take political power, transforming themselves in the process. So we demand that Washington end the blockade now and return Guantánamo to Cuba.

The Socialist Workers Party calls for breaking from the Democrats and Republicans — the bosses' parties — and constructing a labor party based on the trade unions. Through independent working-class political action we can chart a course to take power out of the hands of the capitalist exploiters and establish a government of workers and farmers that joins the worldwide struggle for the interests of the toiling majority.

For more information, email [philaSW2015@gmail.com](mailto:philaSW2015@gmail.com) or visit [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com).

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