

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Meeting celebrates life of
Priscilla Schenk — PAGES 8-9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 65/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 12, 2001

U.S. assaults workers' rights, intensifies imperialist war

First of 1,000 jailed in U.S. dies in prison

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

On October 26 President George Bush signed into law the "USA Patriot Act," a bipartisan measure that under the cover of fighting "terrorism" gives much wider latitude to the FBI and other political police agencies to conduct spying and disruption operations against individuals and voluntary associations, carry out arbitrary searches and seizures in private homes and businesses, and jail immigrants virtually indefinitely with no charges. The FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) have rounded up and imprisoned more than 1,000 individuals without charges since Septem-

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Afghan civilian toll grows, U.S. steps up invasion

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

The U.S. imperialists, backed by London, intensified their bombing of Afghanistan this week, leading to a rising civilian death toll in the country. As repeated bombardment of the frontline Afghan government forces failed to break their defenses, and the opposition Northern Alliance proved incapable of mounting an offensive, Washington and London are sending in larger numbers of troops to prepare a wider ground war.

Protests in Pakistan against the war continue to grow and encompass broader layers of working people, in spite of severe army and police repression. Around 8,000

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Meeting defends Cubans framed up by U.S. gov't

BY JACOB PERASSO

FAIRFAX, California—A public forum in defense of five Cubans recently convicted in Miami on frame-up charges of conspiracy to commit espionage for the government of Cuba was held here October 20.

The public event was the highlight of a weekend meeting of the National Network

on Cuba (NNOC), the second held this year. The Network has several dozen affiliates across the United States that carry out work in opposition to Washington's policy towards Cuba. During deliberations over the weekend the NNOC adopted a resolution condemning the U.S. government's war on

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Socialist in Miami wins support in fight against political firing



Militant/Eric Simpson

Socialist candidate for Miami mayor Michael Italie, left, with supporter.

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MIAMI—"This is an attack on the right of all working people to express their point of view, to think and discuss their ideas and opinions without fear of intimidation or of losing their jobs," said Michael Italie at an October 29 press conference held outside the Goodwill

Industries garment manufacturing plant here. Italie, a sewing machine operator and the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami, was fired a week earlier by the Goodwill bosses for his political views. At the well-attended media event Italie described the support he is

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Che Guevara Talks to Young People

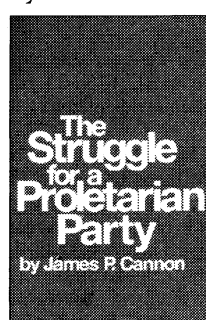
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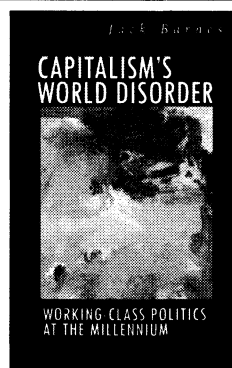
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Also by Jack Barnes

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See directory on page 12



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from Pathfinder

Strikers keep Amana shut down in Iowa

BY INEZ MARSH

AMANA, Iowa—More than 1,000 striking workers here voted October 21 to turn down, for the second time, concession demands by Amana, a manufacturer of refrigeration appliances.

Some 2,250 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1526 went on strike September 23 to oppose the bosses' demands for imposition of a two-tier wage structure, increased mandatory overtime, elimination of a planned wage hike, and increased health insurance costs.

At an October 25 strike support rally, union member Ken Penn said the vote rejecting the contract was 980 to 243. "The company offered a slight decrease in yearly mandatory overtime from 240 hours to 216," he said, "but it was not the decrease we were looking for. Wages are not even the main issue. But with the increase in insurance costs, the wage increase offered is insignificant."

Allen Lord, who has worked at the plant for 26 years, most recently in the sheet metal department, said the company "is not going to give us anything. We have to take it. That's what this strike is about. I have never crossed a picket line in my life and I'll hang in here. We are getting good support from the steel-

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At N.Y. cleanup site workers fight for pay, union rights — page 4

Bosses use attack on World Trade Center to justify more layoffs

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK—Despite an undisputed economic slowdown in the U.S. economy for nearly a year, the capitalist bosses and big-business media continue to use the so-called fallout of the September 11 attacks to justify massive layoffs across the country.

While there has been at least a temporary sharp decline in tourist travel, affecting workers in the airline, hotel, and entertainment industries, particularly in New York, the downturn in the capitalist business cycle has had a much more widespread and devastating impact on millions of working people. The Labor Department reported October 5 that close to 200,000 jobs were cut nationwide from mid-August to mid-September, not including the layoffs announced by the airline, hotel, and travel industries after September 11. The department said that factory employment dropped for the 14th consecutive month, for a total cut of 1.1 million jobs since July 2000.

Unemployment jumped to 5.8 percent

here in August, but government officials are claiming that 100,000 additional jobs were lost as a result of the attack on the World Trade Center. But as of September 26 only 10,800 people who filed for unemployment assistance stated their layoff was due to the attack's repercussions.

In California, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union (HERE) was recently involved in organizing several relief centers. Union officials say nearly one-third of HERE members in the southern part of the state are out of work or working only a few hours. Since most are immigrants who are excluded from coverage under government programs, thousands are suddenly without any means of support. According to press reports, workers began lining up outside the new relief centers before they opened.

The bipartisan assault on the social wage has also severely reduced the percentage of unemployed workers receiving benefits. The unemployment benefits system was created in 1935 as part of the Social Security Act during a period of massive struggles by industrial workers. But a growing number of restrictions and technicalities are being used by the government to deny people benefits.

Declining number receive benefits

Today only 39 percent of workers without a job and looking for one receive an unemployment check. This is down from 50 percent in 1975 and higher levels in previous decades. Government unemployment figures do not count workers who do not report to unemployment offices, meaning the official number out of work is well below actual figures, especially given the growing number of immigrants excluded from the government program altogether.

Government officials say that some 38,000 workers who are ineligible for unemployment insurance—because they were self-employed, being paid under the table, or because bosses were not reporting deductions—are expected to apply for a Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program. Hundreds who



Hotel and restaurant workers who lost their jobs near the World Trade Center attend meeting to get information about unemployment compensation and disaster relief benefits. Downturn in capitalist business cycle has had much deeper impact on workers.

have applied for the program have already been denied assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"Since the day of the tragedy I have only received psychological help and \$50," said Mariela Roncal to the New York daily *Hoy*. "What good is therapy going to do if I have other problems that depress me, I don't have a job and my debts are getting bigger." Roncal and 200 other workers and family members of victims of the attack protested the treatment received by undocumented workers at a meeting in Manhattan attended by representatives from FEMA and other relief organizations.

Many of the displaced workers have been denied assistance because they lack proof from their employers. "The bosses know very well who their employees were, who survived and who are missing, but they don't want to provide proof because they are afraid assistance will be denied them for hiring workers without papers," said Joel Magallán, of Asociación Tepeyac, a religious, community-based organization involved in the fight to defend the rights of immigrant workers.

Garment bosses here have laid off thousands of workers or set short working weeks as a result of a drastic drop in orders from retailers and designers. The effects of the weakening economy in the industry, the largest manufacturing sector in the city with a workforce of more than 78,000 people, were also already evident well before September 11.

Union officials say that in Chinatown, where there are 12,000 garment workers, factories are operating at below 50 percent capacity. Some garment workers at shops at the Bush Terminal complex in Brooklyn report they have not received a paycheck in several weeks, with the bosses blaming the economic situation caused by the World Trade Center attack for the delay.

Long lines of unemployed waiting to be interviewed are seen once again in the city. Some 10,000 people showed up October 25

at the second Twin Towers Job Expo at Madison Square Garden, hoping to get an interview for one of the 13,000 jobs reported to be available from 250 companies represented there. An earlier session October 17 was so mobbed that thousands of people left standing outside were turned away.

City authorities had reported that 4,368 "prospective hirings" were concluded October 17, an announcement that helped spur the turnout October 25. But company spokespeople quickly disputed the figure. "We said we had 10 openings. We did not say we were hiring 10 people to fill those openings," a representative of one of the firms callously told the press. A third event is planned due to continued overcrowding.

Northwest profits rise after federal subsidies

BY JACK WILLEY

Northwest Airlines has reported a tidy profit of \$19 million for the third quarter after pocketing \$158 million in federal subsidies in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

The government handed the airline bosses \$15 billion in all as a way to shore up the profits of airline companies that had already been experiencing a months-long slide in passenger travel and revenues.

The airline put 10,000 workers on the street in September, part of what Northwest chief executive officer Richard Anderson said was an aggressive cost-cutting plan begun earlier in the year. The profit comes even after the airline took \$39 million in charges for aircraft write-downs and employee severance packages.

Congress is now working on legislation to give the airline industry an additional \$250 million, *Bloomberg News* reported. The reason given is to pay for installing cockpit doors strong enough to withstand bullets and explosives.

THE MILITANT

Defend labor struggles

From the strikers at Amana in Iowa to workers walking the picket line at V&V Supremo Foods in Chicago (at right), labor struggles are the answer to the bosses' demands for wage cuts, mass layoffs, increased health costs, and other assaults. The 'Militant' brings you coverage of these battles every week.



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The Militant

Vol. 65/No. 43

Closing news date: October 31, 2001

Editor: MARTÍN KOPPEL

Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS

Editorial Staff: Róger Calero, Greg McCartan, Maggie Trowe, Jack Willey, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams.

Young Socialists column editor: ROMINA GREEN

Published weekly except for one week in June, August and December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

E-mail: TheMilitant@compuserve.com

The Militant website is: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to

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End of Dairy Compact will hit farmers hard

BY TED LEONARD

NORTH TROY, Vermont—"It will be devastating. Most farmers still have a debt. You will see a lot of farmers get disgusted and give up. Others will have no choice and will be forced out of business," explained Dexter Randall, a seventh-generation dairy farmer in Vermont.

Randall was referring to the effects of the September 30 expiration of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, a provision in the 1996 Federal Agricultural Improvement Reform Act.

The compact covered dairy farmers in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The measure aided farmers by setting a minimum price that milk processors—capitalist companies that put milk in bottles and cartons—must pay farmers for milk produced in the six states.

Over the past several decades thousands of dairy farmers in the region have been forced off the land. Randall said that when he bought his first farm in 1973 there were more than 4,000 dairy farmers in Vermont alone. Today there are less than 1,400.

In an editorial after the compact expired, the *Boston Herald* claimed the measure had been a "total failure" all along. The paper cited figures showing that the number of dairy farmers going out of business increased slightly since the legislation was enacted in 1997.

The editorial also pointed out that the average herd size per farm since 1992 in New England has increased by more than one-third and the average production per cow since 1993 has increased by 12 percent. "The smaller farmer was going to get squeezed no matter what—and the squeeze was tightened by the fact that the compact helped farmers in direct proportion to their production—that is, it helped the largest farms the most," the *Globe* wrote.

Working farmers back the compact

Although the Northeast Dairy Compact, which set prices above the rest of the country, most benefited the largest dairy farmers in New England and tended to widen the gap between them and small family farmers, working farmers across the region supported the legislation.

In 1999, responding to congressional moves to end the compact, many working farmers here organized to win an extension of the pact. "We all think that the compact is not the final answer for the dairy producers and consumers, but if we do lose the compact there will be a very rapid exit of small farmers from the business," Randall explained to the *Militant* at the time.

The fight to win the compact began in 1986, Randall said. Local farmers organized rallies and milk-dumping protests in North Troy that led the local congressional representative to initiate a bill for the compact.

In June 1997 the Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, which was formed to oversee the compact, set the minimum price for beverage milk at \$16.94 per hundred weight, where it stayed for the life of the program. Milk destined to be processed into cheese, butter, ice cream, etc. was not regulated. On average only about half of a farmer's milk production was eligible for the price support.

While the compact was in force the price of milk averaged about \$13.50 a hundred-weight, and farmers say the price of production for milk is around \$18 a hundred-weight. Randall said that last year his farm produced nearly 2 million gallons of milk and he collected \$22,000 from the compact. His farm's income last year after costs was \$24,000.

Randall works the farm with his wife and two of their children. "Do the figures," stated Randall and you will understand the role the compact has played in his family farm's survival.

From June 1997 through December 2000, the compact paid out \$140 million. To stop the large capitalist farmers from collecting the lion's share of the price support, Randall explains, "There should be a cap on payments. Those guys don't need subsidies."

From the beginning, owners of large supermarket chains lobbied in Congress and among shoppers against the compact. Shortly after the initial compact was passed, Stop & Shop, the biggest supermarket chain in New England with 274 stores, put a sign over its dairy cases saying, "Due to the increased cost of milk caused by the 'North-

east Compact' authorized by the U.S. Congress and signed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, we have had to increase our milk prices. We hope this poses no inconvenience to anyone."

Echoing this hypocritical concern, Barney Frank, a Massachusetts congressman who opposed the compact, said in the recent debate, "We're talking about something poor mothers buy for their poor children."

Where did price increase go?

According to a study released by the Food Marketing Center at the University of Connecticut in April of this year, consumer milk prices have risen 29 cents per gallon since

cessor and brand retailer in the United States. In 2000 Suiza controlled 70 percent of the processing in New England.

Nationally, Suiza Dairy Group operates more than 80 dairy processing plants that produce and distribute milk to 46 states. Its brands include Meadow Gold, Borden, Elsie, Foremost, Oak Farms, Country Fresh, Tuscan, Dairymens, Pet, Flav-o-Rich, Broughton, and Suiza Dairy. Earlier this year Suiza announced a \$1.5 billion merger with Dean Foods, the number two milk processor in the United States. Dean reported more than \$4 billion in gross sales in 2000, and earnings of \$229 million.

Randall pointed out the \$16.94 per hun-



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Alice and Dexter Randall at their dairy farm in Vermont

the compact's implementation.

The study points out 4.5 cents of this increase was due to the compact, while the remaining 24.5 cents was due to other factors, including an 11-cents-per-gallon increase in the profits of the region's milk processors and supermarket chains.

When the compact went into effect, Dallas-based Suiza was the leading dairy pro-

dredweight for milk set by the compact in 1997 was supposed to be close to the cost of production for farmers. But, he explained, "In the last couple years costs rose for farmers—fuel, fertilizer, insurance—and the compact price stayed the same."

In 1999, U.S. senator Paul Wellstone, a liberal Democrat from Minnesota, introduced legislation to repeal the compact. In

Economic crisis devastates toilers in Zimbabwe

BY T.J. FIGUEROA

A growing economic crisis is devastating the living conditions of working people in Zimbabwe, which until recently had been hailed by imperialist financial institutions as a model of their "structural adjustment" schemes. The downward spiral in the country is part of a wider crisis affecting the semicolonial countries in the region, which are buffeted by the long-term decline in the world capitalist system.

In October, the United Nations News Agency, published in Harare, reported that 2.5 million people in four southern provinces—about a fifth of the country's 12.5 million people—had registered with the government for food aid. Eighty percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and inflation in September hit 86 percent. Between 600 and 700 companies have closed shop and laid off workers in the past year, bringing official unemployment close to 60 percent.

On October 11 the Zimbabwean government imposed price controls on basic commodities such as bread, cooking oil, maize meal, sugar, milk, soap, and some generic drugs. The prices of these goods has put them beyond the reach of many working people over the last two years.

The international big-business press only picked up on the story after October 14, when Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe said at a public rally that businesses opposed to the price controls should pack up and go, and threatened to take over any that closed. "After all," Mugabe said, "the assets belong to the people of this country. At last that socialism we wanted can start again."

Mugabe, facing a presidential election in 2002 amidst growing disaffection with his government among urban workers especially, has increased his radical demagoguery over the past year. He has pushed a number of top-down measures, including seizures

of land from capitalist farmers by thuggish supporters of his regime under the banner of land reform, to bolster his increasingly shaky hold on power.

Imperialist demands

A decade ago the Mugabe government abruptly abandoned its socialist rhetoric and subscribed to an economic "structural adjustment" plan administered by the International Monetary Fund. The measure committed the government to instituting belt-tightening measures that had a wide impact on the population, in return for loans.

Modest social gains registered after independence were eroded as the imperialist powers, through the IMF, tied the economy ever more deeply into the prevailing trade imbalances and anarchy of the world capitalist market. In 1999, the IMF pulled out of Zimbabwe and has suspended loans to Harare. The government, meanwhile, has stopped paying the loans, and is now \$53 million in arrears.

Until 1980, a white-minority regime ruled what was then known as Rhodesia. A guerrilla struggle succeeded in defeating the white-minority regime and winning independence from Britain. The new government, headed by Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU, now ZANU-Patriotic Front), instituted some measures, such as free universal education, that benefited the working class and peasantry.

But the British government, which was a signer to the independence agreement, demanded that any new government be prohibited from touching for at least a decade the holdings of 4,000 white capitalist farmers who controlled nearly all the productive agricultural land in the country. The measure was written into the constitution of Zimbabwe. In the accord, London promised it would help the new government purchase farm land on which to settle peasants, a

a press release he said, "The Northeast Dairy Compact cuts a special deal for one region's dairy farmers while hurting dairy farmers in the Upper Midwest.... The situation as it stands is fundamentally unfair to Minnesota's dairy producers. Congress ought to pass this bill for the sake of fairness."

In an interview Randall responded, "What I have always said is Wisconsin farmers shouldn't attack Vermont farmers because we had the compact, but we should work together to extend the compact to all farmers across the country."

John McClaughry, president of the Ethan Allen Institute, a Vermont-based anti-farmer think tank, wrote in a syndicated column: "Because of their dependence on cartel profits, many Vermont farmers have shown little interest in strategies that could lower their cost of production or increase their net farm income. These techniques include agri-tourism, management-intensive grazing, on-farm energy production from animal and crop wastes, better cow management....

"The end of the compact premium will bring unhappy consequences for many high-cost farms and their hard-working farm families. It will also bring new opportunities for the best managed and most profitable farms, who will take over the assets of their weaker neighbors and make them more productive even without the compact over-order premium."

In a letter sent to the editor responding to the McClaughry column, Randall wrote, "Agri-tourism can work for some farms, but not all farms. It's true my wife does have some free time between 11:30 at night and 4:30 in the morning, but she does like to rest her head on a pillow every now and then. I don't see her waking up at 2:30 in the morning to get the milking done in time to make breakfast for tourists."

"It's clear McClaughry has never been caught between the rock and hard place where farmers find themselves in this economy," he stated. "Since when has farming become a contest of survival of the fittest? To me farming means producing healthy foods for my community, providing for my family, and taking care of the land for future generations. I'm not interested in 'taking over the assets' of my 'weaker' neighbor."

Ted Leonard is a packinghouse worker in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

pledge it has failed to keep.

In a country where 6 million of the 12.5 million inhabitants are landless peasants, this measure imposed by the wealthy farmers and their imperialist backers posed a serious problem. Today, 21 years after independence, no agrarian reform has been carried out to bring productive land into the hands of those who work it, making land reform a central political question in the country. As well, manufacturing remains largely in the hands of a few monopolies; mining in particular is dominated by foreign capital.

Local newspapers and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change interpreted the price-control move as a ploy by ZANU-PF to win support leading up to a presidential election next year.

"Mugabe has cunningly reintroduced price controls in a last-ditch effort to split and throw into disarray the opposition's urban stronghold ahead of next year's presidential ballot," wrote Abel Mutsakani in the October 18 *Financial Gazette*.

The capitalist landholders in Zimbabwe, mining bosses in South Africa, and the imperialist powers in London and Washington are concerned about the capacity of the government to keep working people in check as the crisis deepens, posing a problem for their continued exploitation of the country and provoking unanticipated consequences in the region.

One immediate effect of the price controls has been the sudden disappearance of goods from store shelves. Bakers say the new price of bread is below their production costs, and have already put staffs on reduced hours, said an October 18 dispatch from AFP. Bread, sugar, cooking oil, and other basic foodstuffs immediately became rarities at grocers, as consumers stocked up and suppliers warned they may not be able to replenish supplies at the stores.

At N.Y. cleanup site workers fight for pay and union rights

BY RÓGER CALERO

"We all need jobs, but we need protection," said Javier Torres as he waited with other workers in a morning shape-up area to be hired for work in the cleaning and removal of debris from buildings around the World Trade Center site. Looking across to the fence and police cordon around the work site, Torres said, "This is another way of exploiting workers."

Torres is a member of Asbestos/Lead Abatement Laborers Local 12A and an experienced asbestos worker. He was speaking about the fact that the companies contracted to clean up the area are refusing to hire many union members, and instead employ on a day-labor basis hundreds of workers who are not given even basic safety protection to wear.

From descriptions of Torres and other workers over several mornings here, the way at least this aspect of the cleanup work is being organized constitutes a further assault on the construction unions in the city.

The day laborers, in their majority undocumented immigrants, are told they will be paid \$7.50 an hour by subcontractors to work them in 8- to 12-hour shifts without a contract or overtime pay. Once the work crews are put together, they join a line of workers outside the heavily guarded gate. They must show identification to police and submit to searches before being escorted by the cops to the work site. Dozens of others are hired each day to clean offices and businesses in the areas that were shut down after the attack.

"The contractors say the workers are 'only' cleaning," said Torres, who pointed to the companies' disregard for safety when they send in workers without the necessary protection. "There is asbestos in the dust here that people cleaning up are breathing," he added. A cleaning worker added that many times the work crews had to ask the Red Cross staff for dust masks, since they were not provided with one by the recruiters. "If they are lucky, all they get is one of those 99-cents-a-box dust masks, that don't protect you from anything," said another experienced asbestos worker.

Torres said that many of the union members have not worked for several weeks, since the bosses prefer not to pay the \$18 to \$22 an hour asbestos workers make. "And if you go with them," he said of the recruiters, "there is no guarantee that you will get paid."

Another description of the conditions that exist at the World Trade Center site was provided by the New York *Daily News* in a report on documents obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The

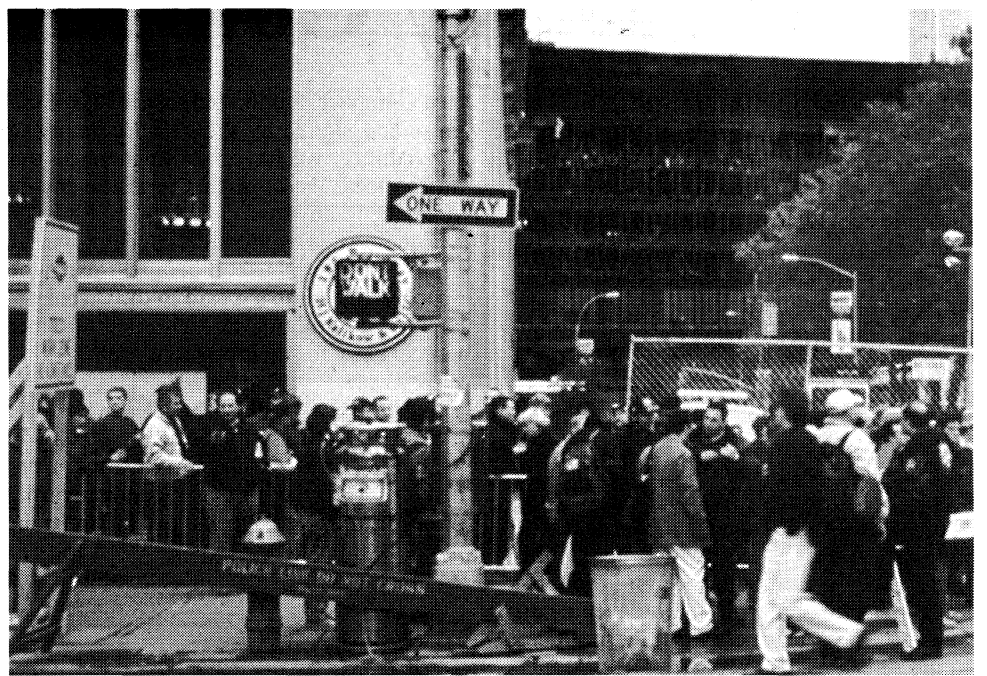
EPA report says that the amount of toxic chemicals and metals in the air and soil around the World Trade Center have reached levels considerably over federal standards, posing long-term risks for hundreds of workers at the site.

Among the chemicals listed that exceed these exposure limits is benzene, a colorless liquid that evaporates and can cause leukemia, bone marrow damage, and other diseases in long-term exposure. According to the *Daily News*, benzene level readings on October 2 from three spots around the World Trade Center were at 42, 31, and 16 times higher than the permissible exposure limits. Other readings have found the level of lead in the air at nearly three times the EPA standard.

"There is no excuse for what I saw," read a consultant's report for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences issued October 25 after a visit to the area. "It's the worst site I've ever seen, extremely hazardous. Very few of the workers were wearing even the most basic protective equipment," said the consultants.

Unpaid wages

Employees of the New York Committee for Occupational Safety visited the work site in mid-October to talk with workers about safety procedures. Instead, they reported they got an "earful" from the cleaning crews, some of whom had not been paid for up to two weeks. They said workers had kept de-



Militant/Róger Calero

Every morning hundreds of workers at "ground zero" line up outside the gate where cops check their ID's, search them, and then escorted them into the site.

tailed notes about who hired them, when they worked, and what pay levels were promised. When they asked the contractor when they would be paid they were told repeatedly, "Tomorrow, tomorrow."

As these facts began to be revealed in the media, the state attorney felt pressured to open an investigation. The federal and state agencies, however, claim that they are not responsible for the subcontractors hiring the crews at the site, many of whom are nowhere to be found according to the workers.

Gloria Pérez, who is laid off from her job with a cleaning company, and who comes here every day looking for a job, described how a whole crew was fired when one of the workers demanded payment of their wages and threatened to file a complaint.

"Things are bad," she said referring to how

sometimes they can go without work for days. "But if it wasn't for this tragedy there would be more unemployment, and we would be at home with nothing to do," she said.

The dangers faced by construction workers in New York City are not limited to those at the World Trade Center. On October 24 a 14-story-high scaffolding collapsed, resulting in the death of five workers and injuring 14 others. One of the injured workers said that he believed the scaffolding fell because of excess load. According to press reports several of the victims of the disaster were buried in a three-story pile of twisted metal and splintered wooden planks. City authorities said that the scaffold had been erected without a permit and that the district attorney has opened a criminal investigation.

Workers keep up picket at tank plant

BY EVA BRAIMAN

LIMA, Ohio—Striking workers at General Dynamics plants in three states cast ballots last week on a proposed contract settlement. In Ohio union members are keeping the picket line up until the outcome of the vote is known.

"There's got to be a point where you say enough is enough," said Robert Woodruff, 49, about the strike by the United Auto Workers (UAW) union against General Dynamics Land Systems. Woodruff, a mechanic with 20 years in the plant, says the walkout is "not about money." Referring to a lifetime cap the company is trying to impose on health benefits, he noted, "we have union brothers and sisters facing cancer and other health problems and the cap is really going to hurt them; I can't accept that."

The Lima plant, located in Northwest Ohio, is owned by the U.S. government and run by General Dynamics. The company produces the M1A2 Abrams, the army's

main battle tank, at the factory. The plant also refurbishes older-model M1A1 Abrams tanks, produces a mobile combat bridge-deploying vehicle known as the Wolverine, and has begun work on a new eight-wheeled assault vehicle. The strike affects this plant, a planning facility in Sterling Heights, Michigan, and a parts plant employing 130 in Eynon, Pennsylvania, which makes suspension components for the Abrams.

With a flurry of recent new military contracts "the company is making more money now than ever and should not try to take away our retirement benefits. We made concessions when they were hurting and now it's time for them to return it," said Joe Petaway, 51, a machinist who has worked in the plant since 1981.

Surrounded by a sprawling oil refinery owned by Clark and British Petroleum that is organized by the Paper, Allied, and Chemical Employees union (PACE), many workers and local residents honked their horns and

gave the thumbs-up as they drove by. "We've gotten a lot of support and only a few negative gestures," reported one striker. All 470 UAW members at the plant have honored the picket line, along with some retirees who have come down to help out.

During the strike the government has been constructing facilities at the plant to house Ohio National Guardsmen who are to be posted there. A spokesman for the army tank plant claimed the stationing of National Guard troops at the plant is not related to the strike.

Eva Braiman is a meat packer and is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Cleveland. Ilona Gersh contributed to this article.

BY ILONA GERSH

DETROIT—Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) who have been on strike against General Dynamics Land Systems for 14 days returned to work today after approving a new four-year contract.

The new contract was ratified by 76 percent of the hourly production and maintenance workers, 85 percent of the salaried technical and engineering members of the UAW, and 90 percent of the salaried office and clerical workers organized by the union. In addition to those actively employed by the company, the contract covers 3,100 retirees.

Current retirees, including all those who retired after July 1997 with no health care, will get Blue Cross/Blue Shield medical coverage. The company will contribute up to \$350 every month for retirees, and \$700 for a family plan. This is identical to full-time employee health benefits. Future retirees, however, will have to pay 15 percent of the monthly insurance premium. The copayments by UAW members have been cut in half, and the lifetime maximum payment has been doubled to \$500,000 for each individual.

In addition to a cost of living allowance, UAW members will receive a 3 percent wage increase over the next three years and a 3.5 percent increase in 2004.

Ilona Gersh is a member of UAW Local 174, and works at Textron Automotive in Westland, Michigan.

Volunteers needed for pathfinderpress.com

BY LAUREL KELLY

SAN FRANCISCO—Revolutionary-minded workers, farmers, and young people around the world will soon be able to order books and pamphlets from Pathfinder Press's new on-line bookstore: pathfinderpress.com. An international team of volunteers from the Pathfinder Reprint Project are now working to replace the "Under Construction" sign currently displayed on that web site to one that reads on Jan. 1, 2002, "Up and Running."

Great progress in this direction has already been made. Pat Smith in New York has prepared the new web site and book page designs, and some 15 Pathfinder Reprint Project volunteers are now entering all the information from the printed Pathfinder catalog and order form for each title. Once the catalog database has been completed and checked for accuracy, this information will be transferred to individual book pages for placement on the Pathfinder web site. Each Pathfinder title will then have its own page. Most pages will include an image of the cover of the book. These will be cross-referenced and linked by subject, author, and theme.

Ordering will be simple and direct and a

real boost for anyone wanting to purchase a Pathfinder title on-line. The on-line store will also save time for the Pathfinder staff that processes the orders in New York and the volunteers who ship the books to the publishing house's customers.

The biggest challenge in constructing the web site is producing high-quality scans of each book cover. Pathfinder's editors and designers put a lot of thought and effort into producing colorful, eye-catching covers for every publication. Displaying these covers will make the books and pamphlets more attractive to anyone visiting Pathfinder's web site.

The San Francisco based Reprint Project Steering Committee has made the completion of pathfinderpress.com a top priority and has put out a call for help to supporters. Especially needed are volunteers with the computer resources necessary to reproduce the covers: a scanner, knowledge of PhotoShop, and some graphics experience. Whether contributing two or 20 hours a week, the efforts of every volunteer will help make Pathfinder's arsenal accessible worldwide.

The Pathfinder Reprint Project is an organization of volunteers formed in 1998 to

keep Pathfinder's more than 350 titles in print. Before the project began, all of Pathfinder's reprints of books had to go through a time-consuming and expensive pre-press process to produce film and plates that would go on the presses. With the introduction of new computer-to-plate technology in Pathfinder's printshop in late 1998, the volunteers stepped up our efforts to produce digital files of the reprints of Pathfinder books on CD-ROM's. To date, volunteers in the South Pacific, North America, and Europe have scanned, proofread, formatted, indexed, and reproduced the covers on more than 170 digital, ready-to-print Pathfinder titles in English, Spanish, French, Swedish, and Icelandic. Over the past year, the reprint project volunteers have also taken on the responsibility for proofreading and formatting Pathfinder's new books and pamphlets.

To volunteer for scanning covers or entering data for the new Pathfinder catalog, or other work in the Pathfinder Reprint Project, you can contact Ruth Cheney at ruthchen@pacbell.net.

Laurel Kelly is a member of the Pathfinder Reprint Project Steering Committee.

'Militant' target week to step up sales drive

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Campaigners for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have met numbers of working people, students, and others over the past few weeks who are interested in reading the truth about imperialism and its war against the people of Afghanistan and the capitalist rulers' deepening assaults on democratic rights. Now is a good time to get back to them and step up efforts to reach out to others with the special target week planned for November 3 through November 11.

Participants in the international circulation drive to win new readers to the two publications are organizing a day-

wrote Francisco Picado in St. Paul, Minnesota. "Last week we sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions, two of them by going door-to-door in working-class districts in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Three people who came to their first Militant Labor Forum also bought *Militant* subscriptions."

Picado said two of his co-workers purchased subscriptions at the meatpacking plant where he works. "A couple of days after purchasing a subscription, one of them decided to buy *New Internationalist* no. 7, with the feature article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." The other one, from Eritrea, has experience in that country's struggle for independence. He explained how the U.S. government cannot be trusted in what it says. He also noted how the U.S. media is not covering the news truthfully."

In Houston, Jacquie Henderson wrote, "We have a lot of names of people who have expressed an interest in buying subscriptions and Pathfinder books. So we should be able to move ahead with the target week with our plans to get out to Paris, Texas, where members of the United Food and Commercial Workers are locked out by the Campbell Soup company."

"We are starting to gain momentum selling the *New Internationalist*. We sold *NI* no. 7 this past weekend on a literature table we set up in the workers district where the Pathfinder bookstore is located," Henderson said, noting that *NI* no. 7 is their top seller so far. They sold a copy at the film showing of *Lumumba*, as well as two copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*. "Three people we met at the movie came to the Militant Labor Forum and said they planned to come back next week to buy copies of the *NI* to study."

Use election campaign to win readers

In several areas where socialist workers are candidates for public office, partisans of the *Militant* are planning a final flurry of activities for the last days of the election campaign to win subscribers. "Last week was our best of sales in the subscription drive," wrote Argiris Malapanis. "This was partly a result of our election campaign activities, especially the fight against the political firing of Michael Itale, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami. We have sent you by express mail six more new *Militant* subscriptions and two to *PM*."

Naomi Craine from Charlotte, North Carolina, said she helped staff an all-day literature table at the University of South Carolina in Columbia "where we sold two *Militant* subscriptions, about a dozen copies of the paper, several copies of the *International Social Review* that was printed in a recent issue of the *Militant*, and some pamphlets by communist leaders V.I. Lenin and Frederick Engels."

"One of us dropped by a newsstand/bookstore that had taken a few Pathfinder titles last year," Craine wrote. "They're getting out of the book business due to competition from Barnes and Noble, but are expanding their magazines. The buyer ordered three copies of *New Internationalist* no. 11 that features the

article 'U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War.'"

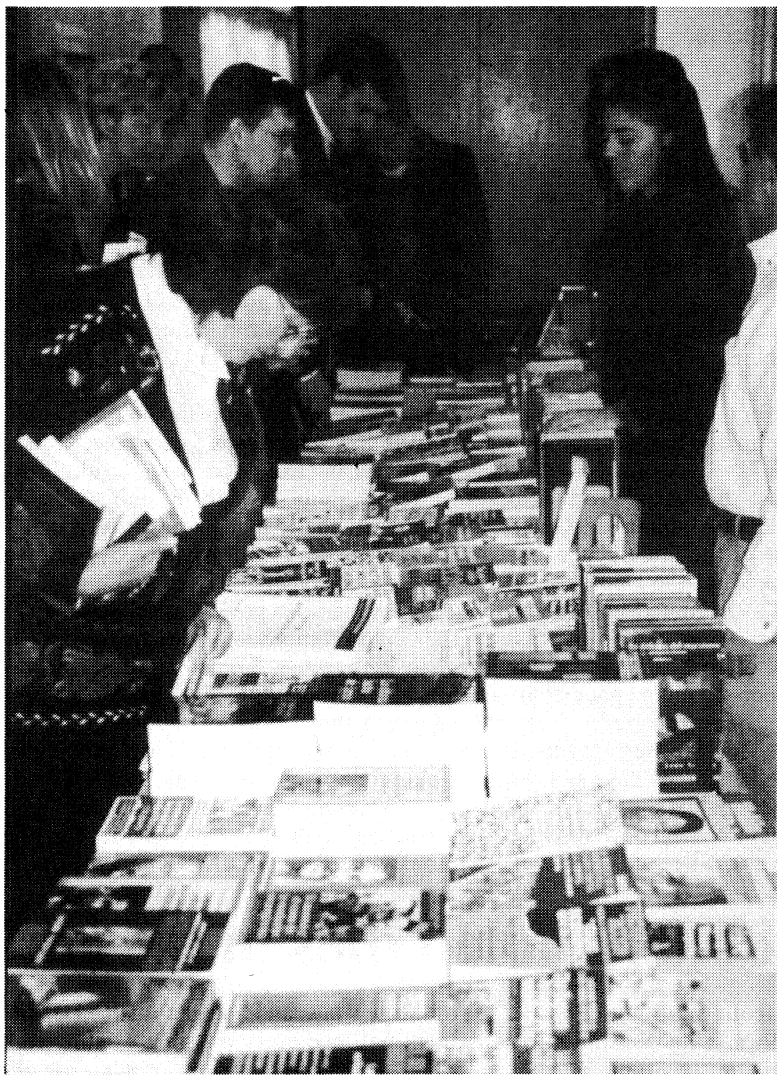
"A couple of us are on layoff this week, so we have some special teams planned, including returning to the paperworkers' strike in Brevard, North Carolina, and a union conference in Raleigh, North Carolina," she added.

Supporters of the *Militant* in northeastern Pennsylvania visited the picket line and strike headquarters of United Auto Workers Local 1193 where a strike was in progress against General Dynamics' Land Systems division plant in Eynon, Pennsylvania.

"At the picket line, the strikers were glad to see the front page article on their strike," they wrote. "This opened a serious discussion about the past fights they had been through and why they were striking now. One worker commented that the company was to blame for trying to cut retiree benefits while making millions, saying they had to strike now because the contract was up."

"Another striker saw the *Militant's* headline opposing the war in Afghanistan and immediately asked, 'Is there oil there?' Others talked about their experience in Vietnam and the Gulf War. They agreed that like those wars, there was more to this war than what the U.S. government was saying."

"After a half hour of discussion, four strikers wanted copies of the *Militant*. They dug into their pockets, and came up with \$8 for the four papers. We sold another paper at the strike headquarters and two strikers are considering getting subscriptions."



Militant/Patrick O'Neill

Participants at memorial meeting in New York celebrating life of Priscilla Schenk snap up Pathfinder books and pamphlets. More than \$600 worth of literature was sold at event at discount price reflecting thirst for political understanding of imperialist epoch.

by-day plan of special sales teams and other sales activities as part of a concentrated effort to meet all the goals of the campaign. The pace of the target week will need to be kept up through November 18—the end of the drive—in order to meet all of the international goals. The response to the *Militant* among workers and young people across the country show that success is attainable.

"Please increase our *Militant* bundle for the target week and send it overnight along with some subscription blanks,"

1948 massacre of Koreans is exposed

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

A massacre of at least 30,000 people some 50 years ago on the Korean island of Jeju by the U.S.-backed regime has begun to be brought to light due to efforts by residents and their supporters.

The island lies on the southern tip of the Korean peninsula, which was divided in two by Washington with the agreement of Moscow at the end of World War II. The U.S. imperialists, having defeated their Japanese rivals and with their eyes on China, the "great prize" of the war, maintained a military presence south of the demilitarized zone.

By 1948 a deepening revolution by workers and peasants was sweeping the north, and there was widespread social unrest in the south. Washington urged its puppet regime in Seoul to have an election in May 1948, which was to supposedly showcase the "democratic" nature of the government there.

People in two districts on Jeju boycotted the election, apparently to demonstrate their opposition to the heavy-handed administration of the island by the government. "American commanders in Korea were furious, and after a series of incidents their South Korean counterparts embarked on a campaign to cleanse the island of supposed Communist agitators," reported Howard French in the October 24 *New York Times*.

By October police and army units declared that any part of Jeju more than three miles from the coastline was enemy territory. They began burning scores of villages and carrying out summary executions and widespread torture. By February 1949 around 30,000 people, one-tenth of the island's population, had been killed, according to estimates.

"Until a decade ago," wrote French, "the Jeju massacres were ascribed both officially and in textbooks to North

Korean infiltrators." History textbooks, he noted, still give the massacre only " cursory mention."

Eighty-year-old Kim Hyoungh Choe, who survived the massacre, and who today shows visitors the killing sites, said, "I feel very frustrated and angry even now. Those who were killed were never even officially identified.... It makes me feel horrible to realize that people could have disappeared like this without leaving even a trace of themselves."

In September 2000 "the government began to investigate this incident for the first time," said Yang Jo Hoon, who heads the committee collecting testimony about the killings. The *Times* reported that Mr. Yang, who was born on Jeju, "believes with many others...that the Americans must have known of, and perhaps even ordered, the crackdown."

A team of south Korean researchers is currently in the United States, seeking information about the involvement of U.S. officers and forces stationed in Korea at the time.

"All along," said Yang, "the government has known that thousands of innocent people were killed, and that's why they made a lot of noise about a communist threat. People were threatened with jail for so much as mentioning the matter. Relatives of the dead were afraid of being labeled Communists too."

Two years after the massacre Washington and its allies poured hundreds of thousands of troops into the peninsula during the Korean war, a failed attempt to establish a pro-imperialist government across the whole country in which several million Koreans died. Today the U.S. government maintains 37,000 troops and 40 military installations in south Korea.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial subscription campaign—week 5 Sept. 22–Nov. 18

Country	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Sweden*	18	15	83%	4	3	12	9
Australia	16	10	63%	3	0	16	9
Canada							
Vancouver	15	11	73%	3	4	20	6
Montreal	12	7	58%	5	2	20	7
Toronto	17	8	47%	5	1	17	8
Canada total	44	26	59%	13	7	57	21
United Kingdom	35	17	49%	10	5	20	12
United States							
Tucson	7	6	86%	1	1	6	1
Twin Cities*	45	30	67%	20	21	30	13
Miami	20	13	65%	20	6	25	12
Houston	30	19	63%	15	3	45	11
Seattle	25	15	60%	10	4	25	16
Boston	27	15	56%	11	5	25	0
Des Moines	30	16	53%	20	8	15	7
Western Colorado	30	16	53%	8	4	15	4
Los Angeles	50	25	50%	30	11	25	20
Upper Manhattan	65	31	48%	50	19	40	14
Newark	45	21	47%	30	6	30	8
Detroit	35	16	46%	10	1	30	9
Chicago	45	20	44%	30	7	35	11
San Francisco	50	21	42%	25	14	40	15
Philadelphia	25	10	40%	10	3	20	2
Atlanta	36	14	39%	15	2	35	7
NY Garment Dist.	100	38	38%	50	18	55	29
Omaha	11	4	36%	15	3	10	9
Cleveland	25	9	36%	4	4	20	11
Brooklyn	60	19	32%	30	16	70	29
Charlotte	16	5	31%	6	1	25	6
Birmingham	20	6	30%	3	5	20	0
Washington	25	6	24%	20	2	10	3
Allentown	25	5	20%	5	3	10	3
Pittsburgh	40	8	20%	5	0	25	4
Tampa	12	2	17%	5	3	14	10
U.S. total	899	390	43%	448	170	700	254
New Zealand							
Auckland	10	3	30%	1	1	8	4
Christchurch	7	3	43%	1	0	3	1
N.Z. total	17	6	35%	2	1	11	5
Iceland	8	2	25%	2	0		
Int'l totals	1037	466	42%	482	186	737	310
Goal/Should be	1100	682	62%	500	310	800	496

IN THE UNIONS							
	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Australia							
AMIEU	3	2	67%			1	0
MUA*	2	0	0%			5	3
Total	5	2	40%				
United States							
UAW	5	3	60%			4	1
UFCW	55	24	44%	55	33	70	27
UNITE	35	3	9%	35	5		3
UMWA	20	1	5%	2	0	15	1
Total	110	31	28%	92	38	85	31
New Zealand							
NDU	2	1	50%			1	0
MWU	2	0	0%			2	0
Total	4	1	25%			3	0
Canada							
UFCW	5	1	20%	1	0	8	4
UNITE	5	0	0%	2	1	3	0
Total	10	1	10%	3	1	11	4
raised goal *							

Washington escalates war in Afghanistan

Continued from front page

people marched to the Afghan border October 27, planning to join the fight against the invaders. "I cannot tolerate the bombing and the cruelty of Americans. I must go," said 18-year-old volunteer Mamoor Shah.

A group of 4,000 armed men blocked the Karakora Highway from Pakistan to China, the former silk road trading route, and seized an abandoned air strip, demanding that President Pervaz Musharaff step down. The military ruler, who has provided bases to imperialist troops and warplanes being used in the daily assault, said October 26 that although his government is "part of the coalition," military action must be "brought to an end as soon as possible."

The Pentagon reported that 70 jets took part in the bombing on October 29, the 23rd day of the assault, aiming at front-line Taliban positions in the north for the ninth straight day. The following day, reported the *New York Times*, 80 percent of the bombing missions targeted military posts. The mounting toll of civilian casualties from the continual bombardment—1,000, according to Afghan government estimates—is helping to fuel protests in the region and nervousness among those governments which have backed the war.

"As long as the Americans are hitting civilians, things will become more and more complicated," said Yemen's minister of information. Some 30,000 people demonstrated in the Yemeni town of Amran against the war and the government's crackdown on dissent on October 20.

Some officials of the United Nations have sought to distance themselves from the assault as civilian casualties grow. "Airstrikes have to be focused, in a specific way, to bring down terrorist camps, and to bring down those supporting them in the Taliban leadership," Ruud Lubbers, the UN high commissioner for refugees, said October 30. "We need to get self restraint."

Use of cluster bombs

The cluster bombs Washington is using in the raids have proven particularly devastating. "Each cluster bomb contains 200 smaller bombs, full of metal shards able to pierce armor," reported correspondents in Pakistan and Afghanistan for *Granma*, the Cuban daily newspaper. Each bomblet explodes independently, spewing red-hot metal shards at the speed of a bullet. Those bombs "that do not explode...can mutilate and kill civilians years later," wrote the Cuban paper.

The *Associated Press* reported on October 24 that unexploded bomblets have trapped residents of the village of Shaker Qala in their homes. "The villagers have a lot to be afraid of because these bomblets, if they did not explode, are very dangerous," said Daniel Kelly, a UN mine removal expert in Afghanistan.

U.S. bombs hit a bus terminal in Kandahar on October 25, reported *Granma*. The city's electricity supply has already been knocked out. Twenty people died in the village of Ishaq Sulaiman, near the city of Herat, when it came under attack on the same day.

"In this, the first month of winter," read the newspaper, "the U.S. bombardment has forced the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Afghan people." UN figures show that "23 million Afghans face food shortages, 7.5 million of them need help desperately."

Forced out of her Kabul house by bombing raids on October 18, 20-year-old Mahtab joined many others who fled to Pakistan's border city of Peshawar. The *New York Times* reported, "When she is told that the United States is trying to minimize civilian casualties, she answers with a list of neighborhoods where innocents have been killed: Khujia Bughra, Maidan Hawai and others." U.S. attacks killed at least 13 civilians in



Red Cross warehouse facility in Kabul burns after being hit by U.S. bombs

the capital on October 28.

Spokespeople for the U.S. government refuse to divulge the civilian casualties of their bombing campaign. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld accused Taliban spokespeople of manipulating the news. "When there's a bomb that goes down, they grab some women and children and pretend the bomb hit women and children," he said.

One administration official indicated the lower value the warmakers feel they can place on Afghan lives when he commented on the publicity given victims of anthrax in the United States. "The lesson we're learning" from the controversy, he said, "is that you can bomb the wrong place in Afghanistan and not take much heat for it. But don't mess up at the post office."

One "wrong place" was the Red Cross building in Kabul, hit by U.S. bombs for a second time in 10 days on October 26. The U.S. central command blamed "a human error in the targeting process" for the attacks by Navy fighter-bombers and B-52s October 26, which demolished warehouses storing tons of food and blankets for civilians. Another U.S. bomb hit a village in Northern Alliance-held territory the next day, killing one person and wounding eight others.

Northern Alliance largely ineffective

The alliance's commanders have applauded the increased U.S. strikes on Taliban lines. In spite of the bombing support, however, "the alliance lost ground earlier this week around Mazar-i-Sharif, a city the alliance was thought to have had a good chance of taking," reported the October 29 *New York Times*, concluding that the alliance "appears increasingly to be a largely ineffective political and military force."

Washington is dropping weapons and supplies to alliance troops, and has sent in Special Operations forces. Rumsfeld said they are helping to establish supply routes, improve communications, and target Taliban positions for air strikes.

"U.S. eyes Afghan foothold," read a *New York Post* story reporting Pentagon plans to set up a "forward base inside Afghanistan as a staging area for helicopter attacks and commando raids." The paper speculated that the base might be located near Mazar-i-Sharif. Alliance forces have also reportedly began preparing a gravel airstrip near Kabul.

Sen. John McCain added his voice to the continuing chorus of politicians, academics, and media commentators calling for larger-scale commitment of U.S. troops. "The immediate problem needs to be addressed with all the might of the United States' military power," he said on October 27. He called for a "very, very significant" force, large enough to hold territory, and opposed any cessation

of attacks during Ramadan.

"Let's not go there yet," said President Bush's chief of staff, Andrew Card when asked about plans for a larger troop deployment. The U.S. command has not admitted to any more raids of the type carried out on October 19 against offices of prominent Taliban figure Mullah Muhammad Omar. "The limited value of the intelligence collected—as well as what the raid showed about the Taliban's continued ability and willingness to resist—may be part of what led Bush administration officials to make gloomier assessments about the pace of the war," the *New York Times* reported.

Omar told the Algerian newspaper *El Youm* that the Afghan forces have not yet begun the "real war against the Americans because of their technological power." Once the ground war begins, he said, "We will

First of 1,000 jailed dies in prison

Continued from front page

ber 11 in connection with Washington's ongoing war campaign.

Three days earlier, a 55-year-old restaurant worker in Queens, New York, became the first of those 1,000 detainees to die in police custody. Muhammad Rafiq Butt, a Pakistani immigrant, died in Hudson County jail in Kearny, New Jersey, after being imprisoned for three weeks. Officials attributed his death to a "heart condition."

"They didn't find anything against him except that his status expired," said Ahsanullah "Bobby" Khan of the Pakistani Community Center in Brooklyn, New York, reported *Newsday*. "The people of the United States should raise their voice that it is not fair what's going on."

U.S. officials have kept secret the names of most of the detained immigrants, whom they brand as "terrorism suspects." Most are being held for minor immigration infractions that previously would not have resulted in detention. Civil liberties groups say that many have been denied access to lawyers and that some are being kept in solitary confinement. The government has yet to file charges against anyone in relation to the September 11 attacks in Washington and New York.

One of those caught up in the "antiterrorist" raids was a 20-year-old New York student, about to begin his new semester at La Guardia College, who was dragged off a Greyhound bus by INS agents September 18 on his way back to New York from visiting relatives in Houston. The INS locked him up in Wiggins, Mississippi, where guards stood by as he was beaten bloody by three white inmates who called him "bin Laden." The cops refused to let him inform relatives by phone that he had been beaten, according to the October 3-9 New York *Village Voice*.

Law will accelerate attacks

Since 1996, when then-President William Clinton signed a series of "antiterrorist" and immigration laws, the number of people jailed by the INS has skyrocketed, making immigrants the fastest-growing segment of the exploding U.S. prison population. The new law will be used to accelerate the attacks on foreign-born workers, as well as other working people.

In an October 25 speech, U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft bragged about the large-scale detentions, the sweeping nature

never welcome them with flowers. They will receive a tougher lesson than that of their Russian predecessors."

The bombing has accomplished no "significant achievement that the Pentagon wished to achieve, except the genocide of Afghanistan people," said the Afghan ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef.

CIA assassinations

Rumsfeld asserted the right of the U.S. government to target individuals for execution, declaring "'You bet your life' when asked if American might assassinate terrorist bad guys," according to the *New York Post*.

On October 26 the British government announced that it will base 200 commandos, many of whom have received special training in arctic and mountain warfare, on warships off the coast of Pakistan, and place another 400 on standby in the United Kingdom. Special forces already operating inside Afghanistan will have their numbers strengthened.

The Australian government is among the few who have committed forces to the coming ground war. *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman commented on Washington's lack of a broader coalition. "My fellow Americans," he wrote, "I hate to say this, but except for the good old Brits, we're all alone.... With the money Japan paid, we actually made a profit on the gulf war.... This time we'll have to pay our own way, and for others."

The imperialist powers are negotiating in the United Nations and with the former Afghan king, other Afghan figures, and regional governments to give shape to the protectorate they want to impose in Kabul. United Nations diplomats have announced a plan for an "interim administration made up of 12 Afghan ministers who would hold a rotating, figurehead presidency for one month each," reported the *Financial Times*.

of the new law, and how the Justice Department will use every possible existing law, even for minor infractions or applying obscure statutes, to lock up immigrants and others it deems "suspected terrorists" or "associates of terrorism."

He declared that his model was Democrat Robert F. Kennedy, who as President John F. Kennedy's attorney general in the early 1960s said he would arrest alleged mobsters for "spitting on the sidewalk." It "will be the policy of this Department of Justice to use the same aggressive arrest and detention tactics in the war on terror," Ashcroft stated.

Announcing that "we will defend civilization" against "barbarians," the top cop said, "Let the terrorists among us be warned: If you overstay your visa—even by one day—we will arrest you. If you violate a local law, you will be put in jail and kept in custody as long as possible."

In addition to the new anti-working-class legislation, government officials are continuing their moves to militarize the country. Taking advantage of a warning by federal officials about impending terrorist attacks, state governments have beefed up the deployment of National Guard troops. More than 1,500 troops and almost 500 state troopers are now deployed in and around New York City, at train stations, airports, bridges, and tunnels. New York governor George Pataki ordered an extension of the Guardsmen's active duty to 90 days and provided some with heavier weapons.

Vice president Richard Cheney warned October 25 that many of these measures were not temporary but "will become permanent in American life." A *New York Times* headline declared, "Security Heightens, and Giuliani Advises: Get Used to It," referring to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

One example of the emboldened police and military presence that working people in New York are supposed to "get used to" was the brutalization of Gustavo Peñañela and Deyanira Herrera, a Queens couple who were arrested by cops at their home, handcuffed in front of their neighbors, and jailed for nine days on false cocaine possession charges.

A judge finally released them after determining that a package cops claimed was cocaine was actually therapeutic plaster sent by relatives in Colombia for medical treatment. "They were jailed for nine days for no reason—only because they are Colom-

Continued on Page 14

From Pathfinder:

Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism

V.I. LENIN "I trust that this pamphlet will help the reader to understand the fundamental economic question, that of the economic essence of imperialism," Lenin wrote in 1917. "For unless this is studied, it will be impossible to understand and appraise modern war and modern politics." **\$3.95**

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.

New Internationals:

No. 11

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War by Jack Barnes. Also *The Communist Strategy of Party Building Today* by Mary-Alice Waters. Two programmatic documents of the Socialist Workers Party. **\$14.00**

No. 10

Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War by Jack Barnes. Also *What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold*. •Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution by Mary-Alice Waters. •The Curve of Capitalist Development by Leon Trotsky. **\$14.00**

Meeting defends framed-up Cubans

Continued from front page
Afghanistan.

Nearly 100 people attended the speakout for the Miami 5, as the Cubans are now known. They have been in jail since their arrest over a year ago, mostly in solitary confinement. Several panelists at the meeting spoke out not only in defense of these imprisoned Cubans but also in opposition to Washington's war on the people of Afghanistan as well as the cynical "anti-terrorism" campaign the government is using to whip up pro-imperialist patriotism and support for the war.

The forum panel included Maggie Becker, the companion of Antonio Guerrero, one of the Miami 5; Walter Turner, president of the Board of Directors of Global Exchange, and a leader of the Black Radical Congress as well as the Jericho Movement; Gloria La Riva, representing the National Free the Miami 5 Committee; Art Heitzer of the National Lawyers Guild Cuba Subcommittee; Argiris Malapanis representing the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba; and Fernando García, First Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington.

Becker pointed to some of the important facts around the conviction of the five Cubans in Miami, and their courage and integrity in confronting the frame-up despite the enormous U.S. government pressure that was brought to bear in an attempt to break each of the defendants. She and Roberto Maestas of the La Raza Cultural Center in Seattle read several poems written by Antonio Guerrero.

On June 8, a federal court in Miami convicted three Cuban citizens—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero—of "conspiracy to commit espionage," and "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." They could face life in prison. Two others, Fernando González and René González, were convicted of "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent."

Hernández was also convicted on unprecedented charges of "conspiracy to commit murder," in which the prosecution claimed he was responsible for the deaths of four pilots who were members of the rightist Cuban-American group, Brothers to the Rescue. The pilots were shot down by the Cuban air force in 1996, after repeated and provocative violations of Cuban air space, despite warnings. The prosecution justified the charges by claiming Hernández had provided the Cuban government with flight information about the Brothers to the Rescue operation. The sentencing of the five, originally set for early fall, is now scheduled for mid-December.

As a June 20 statement by the Cuban government pointed out, the five were in Mi-

ami to "discover and report on terrorist plans hatched against our people" in Florida by counterrevolutionary opponents of the Cuban Revolution. Cuban leaders have organized a campaign to win the release of the five, including widespread coverage in the Cuban press.

Targeting workers' rights

In addition to targeting revolutionary Cuba, the U.S. government investigation, multiple arrests, and eventual trial of the five were riddled with violations of workers' rights in the United States. The prosecution did not present any evidence that the defendants stole or transmitted to Cuba any U.S. military secrets. The FBI violated the Fourth Amendment right of the defendants to protection from illegal search and seizure by repeatedly breaking into their houses over a three-year period prior to their arrests. The evidence presented by the prosecution was based on electronic files FBI agents claimed they copied from computers of the defendants during these break-ins.

The judge refused a defense motion to move the trial out of Miami, even after several potential jurors—Cuban Americans and Latinos in particular—disqualified themselves for fear of recriminations if they voted "not guilty."

Gloria La Riva spoke of the support work organized by the National Free the Miami 5 Committee, which is sponsored by dozens of organizations across the United States, many of them affiliates of the NNOC. She urged participants to organize meetings to defend the five and send information about these activities to the defendants for whom knowledge of the campaign being waged on behalf of their freedom is so essential. She also denounced the ongoing investigation by the FBI and arrests of other Cubans on similar charges, including that of Ana Belen Montes, a senior analyst for the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, for allegedly providing classified information to the Cuban government. FBI break-ins into Montes's apartment and electronic eavesdropping are also featured in government actions against her.

Walter Turner spoke primarily about an



Rally in Havana October 6 commemorating 25th anniversary of hijacking and bombing of Cuban airliner off coast of Barbados that resulted in deaths of all 73 people on board. Terrorist assault was organized by counterrevolutionary groups operating in the United States with support from Washington.

international conference that has been called by the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America for March 2002. He urged participants to build the international conference, noting that the Miami 5 case as well as defense of Puerto Rican independence activists incarcerated by the United States and other U.S. political prisoners like Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal will be part of its agenda.

"The frame-up of the Miami 5 is not only an attempt to smear the Cuban Revolution but an attack on the rights of working people here in the United States," said Argiris Malapanis. The gross violations of the Fourth Amendment rights of the Miami 5, he pointed out, are of a piece with the detentions of nearly 800 people—many of them immigrant workers—by the federal government in connection with the September 11 bombings of the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Many of them are being held indefinitely, in blatant violation of constitutional protections, and there is a virtual blackout in the big-business media about what is happening to them. "These round-ups are part of the increased cop harassment and arbitrary searches of working people at ports, bus terminals, and train stations," Malapanis noted.

Malapanis announced plans by the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba to organize a public forum in Miami to coincide with the sentencing date in December. It will build on a successful conference that took place in that city September 22 and seek to broaden support for the Miami 5. Working people resisting assaults by the employers and their government—like the Charleston Five dockworkers fighting a cop frame-up for defending their picket lines, and others fighting police brutality—are among the most important potential allies of the Miami 5, Malapanis said. He urged all participants to organize similar meetings across the United States in the coming months.

Attacks on Cuban Revolution

Fernando García, First Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section, was the final speaker. He thanked the meeting participants for their work to get out the truth about the Miami 5 as well as other efforts opposing U.S. government policies directed against the people of Cuba. He pointed to the 40-year-long record of terrorist attacks against the Cuban Revolution, including the 1976 hijacking and bombing of a Cubana Airlines

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'We condemn the war waged against Afghanistan'

The following resolution was adopted by the National Network on Cuba at its October 20–21 meeting.

The National Network on Cuba is part of a U.S.-based movement that is opposed to war and political, military and economic intervention abroad.

The NNOC condemns the war being

waged today by the U.S. government against the people of Afghanistan under the pretext of a war on terrorism. We condemn the Sept. 11 attack on the WTC [World Trade Center] and the Pentagon which caused the deaths of thousands of innocent men, women, and children and share the grief of their families. But the shock and insecurity felt by the U.S. people in the wake of those actions has been cynically orchestrated by the U.S. government in a calculated campaign to broaden support for U.S. war aims which have nothing to do with combating terrorism.

The Bush administration has stated it will not limit its attacks to Afghanistan, but will expand it to other nations, including in the Western Hemisphere. We condemn this expansion.

Nor is this war limited to peoples abroad. People living in the United States are also its victims. Racial profiling and attacks on immigrants have been intensified. The government has persuaded Congress to permit serious restrictions of our basic Constitutional rights and civil liberties. We reject the idea that the United States has the right to decide what is a terrorist nation.

The fact that the U.S. State Department has long included Cuba on its self-described list of "terrorist nations" is a clear example of the illegitimacy of this policy and practice.

The Cuban Revolution has never engaged in nor backed terrorist actions. On the contrary, for four decades its people have been the victims of U.S.-sponsored terrorism. By its own admission, and as reported by U.S. Congressional committees, the United States has supported or condoned hundreds of violent acts, including plane hijackings, biological warfare, sabotage, murders, and attempted assassinations since the Cuban Revolution came to power in 1959. Most

recently, it has also included terrorist attacks against tourist facilities in Cuba. It continues to provide immunity and safe-haven to the perpetrators of violent, terrorist acts against Cuba, most notoriously in the case of Orlando Bosch, a man so known for his propensity for terrorist actions that the U.S. Attorney General urged that he be deported lest the United States' credibility and security be compromised.

Orlando Bosch is the perpetrator of a 1976 bombing of a Cubana airplane carrying seventy-three civilians. This was the world's first terrorist action involving the bombing of a civilian airliner. Orlando Bosch was recruited, trained, and supported by the CIA. He was then pardoned by the previous Bush administration, and to this day walks freely through the streets of Miami.

We condemn the terrorist acts against Cuba which have occurred over the last forty-two years. We oppose all U.S. policies that have sponsored U.S.-based terrorism against Cuba. We also condemn the U.S. government history of targeting opponents of these policies.

The National Network on Cuba demands that the U.S. government stop supporting and acquiescing in acts of terrorism against Cuba organized, financed and often carried out from U.S. soil. We demand that the United States government investigate and prosecute U.S.-based anti-Cuban terrorists.

We appeal to all Americans to join us in opposing the prosecution and incarceration of the five Cubans imprisoned in Miami, whose only crime has been to monitor and attempt to prevent this U.S.-based terrorism against the Cuban people. At a time when the American people have been made particularly sensitive to the human toll of such terrorist acts, those who have fought against such acts should be viewed as heroes, not as criminals.

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Meeting celebrates life of Priscilla

Three decades of political activity as a cadre of the SWP and participant in van

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—"Priscilla Schenk began absorbing communist politics as soon as she joined the Young Socialist Alliance. She applied this understanding of working-class politics very effectively over her three decades of political activity as a cadre of the Socialist Workers Party and as a participant in the vanguard struggles of workers and farmers," said Socialist Workers Party leader Norton Sandler.

Sandler was speaking at a public meeting of 140 people, held here October 28 at Columbia University to celebrate the life and political work of Priscilla Schenk, who died October 16 after a long battle with a debilitating illness.

Schenk was part of the communist movement's turn to the industrial working class beginning in the late 1970s, first as a garment worker in the New York area and later as a worker in a United Auto Workers-organized factory in Des Moines, Iowa. She ran as the SWP's candidate for public office three times—in Denver in 1976; in Newark, New Jersey, in 1984; and in Des Moines in 1991. Over the course of a number of years she took on various national responsibilities: as a member of the *Militant* staff, in the party's national office, and in Pathfinder's printshop.

Attractive displays set up around the meeting room highlighted some of the major political developments, from the 1960s to the present, that Schenk was influenced by and actively participated in together with other cadres of the Socialist Workers Party. These included the mass movement against the war in Vietnam; the struggle for Chicano rights; fights against government frame-ups and attacks on workers' rights by the political police; the campaign against Washington's war on Iraq; farmers' struggles against foreclosures; and the pattern of working-class resistance today.

Those attending the October 28 meeting, which was hosted by the SWP branches in New York and New Jersey and the New York Young Socialists, came from throughout the New York and New Jersey area. They also arrived from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Allentown, Pennsylvania; Boston; Washington, D.C.; Cleveland; Detroit; Miami; Atlanta; Chicago; Montreal; and other cities. The event was chaired by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary.

Kathleen Fitzgerald, a garment worker in Pittsburgh who collaborated with Schenk when they were both members of the Newark branch of the SWP in the 1990s and who worked closely with her in the last few months of her life, described some of the events taking place in the world when Priscilla was a young woman that led her



Militant/above: Frank Lord, inset: Ruth Nebbia
Rally in Denver in September 1974 in support of Chicano rights. Inset: Farmers protest at state capitol in Des Moines, Iowa, April 1995.

to become a political person and live her life as a disciplined revolutionary in the working-class movement.

Schenk, born in 1949, grew up on a family farm near Evansville in southern Indiana. One of 13 children, she went to Catholic grade school and then attended an all-girls boarding school run by Benedictine nuns in nearby Ferdinand. Like many others of her generation, she was affected by the big social and political changes in the world, which were creating an upheaval within the Catholic Church. At that time it was not uncommon for the older daughters in Catholic families to be encouraged to become nuns, but Priscilla rejected that idea. She left the boarding school and returned to finish high school in her home town.

Graduating from high school in 1968, Schenk was profoundly affected by big events in the United States and the world, from the rebellions in Black communities around the nation after the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King to the movement for women's liberation and the growing movement against Washington's war on Vietnam. Schenk enrolled at St. Joseph's College and then the University of Indiana in Bloomington. She joined the Young Socialist Alliance and became actively involved in building the Student Mobilization Committee against the War in Vietnam (SMC) at the Bloomington campus.

The YSA had been involved in an important struggle at Bloomington. Several years earlier, in May 1963, three students who were YSA members at the University of Indiana had been indicted under the state's Communism Act, a 1951 "anti-subversive" law. The young socialists were accused of meeting "for the purpose of advocating or teaching that the government of the United States, or of the State of Indiana, should be overthrown by force, violence, or any unlawful means."

It took a nearly four-year defense campaign that won broad support to finally force the state prosecutor to drop the charges against the Bloomington 3, as the case became known, in December 1966.

Grounded in Marxist politics

As part of their revolutionary political work, Schenk and her fellow YSA members at Bloomington recruited a group of five students who were members of a radical collective. The group, active in the fight against the Vietnam war, had previously looked to the Stalinist leadership of China under Mao Tse-tung for political guidance. One of the events that exposed Mao's class-collaborationist course was his welcome of U.S. president Richard Nixon to China as Washington was savagely bombing Vietnam.

In his remarks, Barnes pointed out that what enabled the YSA members to recruit these students was not that they were the best builders of the Student Mobilization Committee and the antiwar movement. Rather, it was the ability of YSA members to effectively discuss and argue a communist explanation of world and U.S. politics. They explained the counterrevolutionary role of Stalinism on a world scale, from Moscow to Beijing, and pointed to the proletarian leadership that was needed, drawing on the lessons of the communist movement over several decades, from the October 1917 Bolshevik-led Russian Revolution to the Cuban Revolution today.

Schenk and other YSAers were well-grounded in Marxism from systematically reading, studying, and applying communist politics together with SWP members. One of the five who were recruited to the YSA at that time sent a message to the meeting commenting that "Priscilla knew her stuff."

"There are three steps involved in becoming a communist," Barnes stated. The first is knowing what you're rebelling against, but that is not sufficient. The second is figuring out what you're for. While this is more important than simply what you're against, it's as far as many who call themselves socialists get, he noted. The third is realizing the need to advance along the line of march of the working class, which involves figuring out how to link up

with those who came before and will come afterward. That effort cannot be accomplished as an individual—you need to be part of a communist organization.

Communism "is not just a good idea," Barnes stated. "What happens to the human race depends upon whether such a movement can be consciously organized."

In 1973 Schenk and a friend moved to Lebanon, Fitzgerald recounted. In Beirut she volunteered at an office set up to defend Palestinian rights, and witnessed firsthand the determined fight by Palestinians living in Lebanon to win the right to return to their homeland. That year the Israeli regime launched a war against Egypt, Syria, and other nations in the region. She also traveled through France and Greece, at a time when huge demonstrations by working people toppled the Greek military dictatorship.

After returning to the United States the following year, Schenk rejoined the YSA and transferred to Denver, where she joined the Socialist Workers Party. "It was here that she became a disciplined soldier of the party," Sandler stated in his presentation.

"Denver was one of the centers of the Chicano struggle," Sandler noted. "There were struggles for bilingual education, against the deportation of Mexican activists, and the emergence of a Chicano political party, the Raza Unida Party. Labor struggles led by the United Farm Workers union were also at their peak."

In March 1973, more than 200 Denver cops mounted an attack on the Escuela Tlatelolco, a school run by the Crusade for Justice, a Chicano rights group. In the course of this attack, a school dormitory was blown up and a Crusade activist killed. More than 100 other Chicano activists were arrested on various frame-up charges. The following year, in May 1974, bombs placed in cars by right-wingers took the lives of six activists in Boulder, Colorado.

Sandler explained that "the SWP branch was involved in the protests against police harassment of the Chicano movement," including a march of 3,000 people in March 1974. "Party members threw themselves into these events. Like the rest of the party nationally, comrades in Denver were also involved in defending Black youth in Boston under attack by rightists trying to prevent the implementation of desegregation of the schools, as well as defending a woman's right to abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment," he noted.

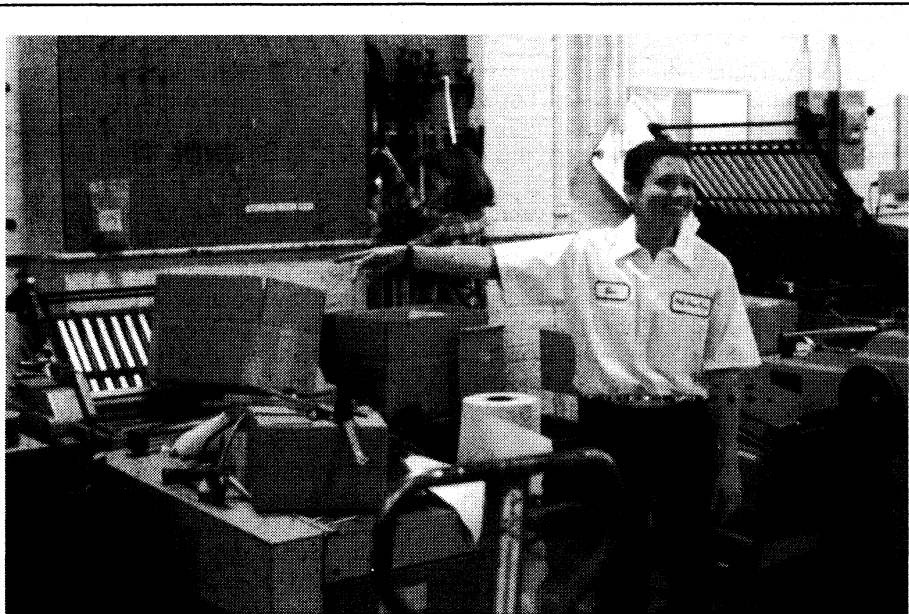
Fight against FBI spying, disruption

In 1976 Schenk ran as the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the Denver area. On July 7 of that year, the SWP offices were burglarized and party files, membership lists, and financial records were removed. In response to this and other instances of harassment, SWP candidate Schenk issued a statement underlining the fact that the "FBI had admitted to similar cloak and dagger-type break-ins. Did they engineer this black-bag job as well?"

At first the FBI claimed it had no knowledge of the break-in, but within weeks the spy agency was forced to admit that the burglary was carried out by Timothy Redfean, an FBI informer who had joined the YSA. The cops picked up Redfean on a charge of stealing furniture from the house of a neighbor, at which time they found the material he had stolen from the SWP.

John Studer, a leader of the SWP in Philadelphia who worked with Schenk over the years, told the meeting that in 1973 the SWP and YSA filed a lawsuit against the FBI, CIA, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and other federal police agencies for decades of spying and disruption against the two socialist organizations. To win broad support and raise funds for the case the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) was organized.

"This case was unique," said Studer, who served as executive director of PRDF during this fight. Instead of the government



Militant/Greg McCartan

Over the October 27-28 weekend nearly 20 volunteers pitched in at the Pathfinder building in New York to help reorganize a section of Pathfinder's printshop. In the area that used to be a bindery, volunteers cleared out machines that are being sold, opening up space for a bigger shipping area and paper storage. Crews set up a larger and well-equipped lunch room, and organized a section of the pick-and-pack operation for the books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder. Another similar project is scheduled for Saturday, November 3.

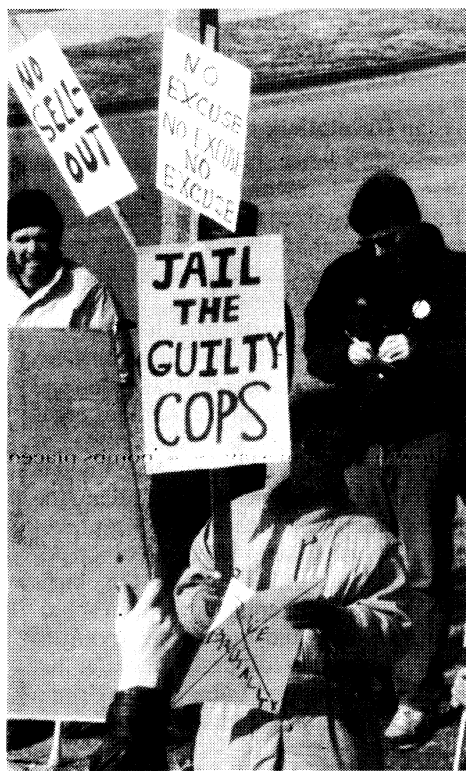
la Schenk

guard struggles of working people

putting socialists on trial, "We were the plaintiffs. We put them on trial." Through this case, tens of thousands of previously secret FBI documents detailing the government finks' spying, burglaries, black-bag jobs, and other attempts to disrupt the SWP and YSA were made public. In 1986 federal judge Thomas Griesa ruled in favor of the SWP and YSA and awarded them \$264,000 in damages. Two years later the government finally withdrew its appeal of the ruling, bringing the 15-year fight to a successful conclusion.

"At the trial in 1981," Studer noted, "Priscilla testified about the SWP's experience in Denver with government harassment" and detailed the role of FBI snoop Redfean.

At that time the Socialist Workers Party was also involved in struggles to defend immigrant workers, winning some to its ranks in the course of these battles. One was Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born youth who had fled to the United States in 1974 because of frame-up charges by Mexican authorities for his political activities.



Militant/Shirley Peña
Protest in Des Moines, Iowa, in February 1992 against cop beating of Larry Milton, a 35-year-old Black man. Demonstrators chanted, "No excuse."

Marroquín got a job at a Coca-Cola plant in Houston, where he participated in a union-organizing drive. He soon met and joined the SWP.

The INS sought to deport Marroquín back to Mexico where his life was in jeopardy. The Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee waged an 11-year fight in his defense, and eventually he won the right to legal residence. Schenk was a leading participant and spokesperson for this committee, "which took this fight to workers from one end of the country to another," Studer stated.

Struggles by meat packers in Iowa

In 1988 Schenk moved to Des Moines to join her party's political work there as an industrial worker and unionist. In the mid- and late- 1980s, a wave of struggles by meat packers had erupted in the Midwest, and the Socialist Workers Party joined these fights, establishing branches in Des Moines and other cities in the region.

On March 1, 1988, INS cops raided the Swift packinghouse in Des Moines, arresting 17 immigrant workers. Other workers organized protests in their defense. Among them was Mark Curtis, a meatpacker at Swift and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and also of the SWP. On March 4, Curtis was arrested and framed up on charges of raping a 15-year-old Black girl. As the cops beat Curtis in the station, they called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds."

As part of her work in the labor movement, Schenk took on important responsibilities in the Mark Curtis Defense Committee that was established. The defense campaign, carried out among working people and other supporters of democratic rights throughout the country, was also international. In 1991 Schenk took part in a weeklong trip to Mexico, winning the endorsement of the electrical workers and garment workers unions as well as auto, airline, and other workers. After an eight-year fight Curtis won parole and was released from prison in 1996.

Schenk got a job making brake liners at an Emco plant, organized by the United Auto Workers. As an active unionist, she helped organize a speaking tour of farming areas in the state for New Zealand farm activist Denis Hiestand. She also took part in the fight of Iowa farmer Harold Dunkelberger against the government's seizure of his land, and wrote about this fight for the *Militant*.

When cops beat Larry Milton, a 35-year-old Black man in Des Moines, she joined many protests for justice organized around the slogan "No excuse."

'Effective in winning farmers, workers'

Barnes and other speakers noted that 29 messages were sent to the meeting by individuals who had worked with Schenk over the years, including messages from both Marroquín and Curtis. Messages were also received from the leaderships of Communist Leagues in several countries.

From Carlisle, Iowa, Hazel Zimmerman, the former secretary of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, wrote, "Because of her farm background, her varied experiences as an industrial worker, and her ability to communicate in both English and Spanish, Priscilla was very effective in winning farmers, co-workers, and a broad spectrum of other people who shared her goals of social and economic justice. She had a profound effect on the development of my personal development as an activist and supporter of the SWP."

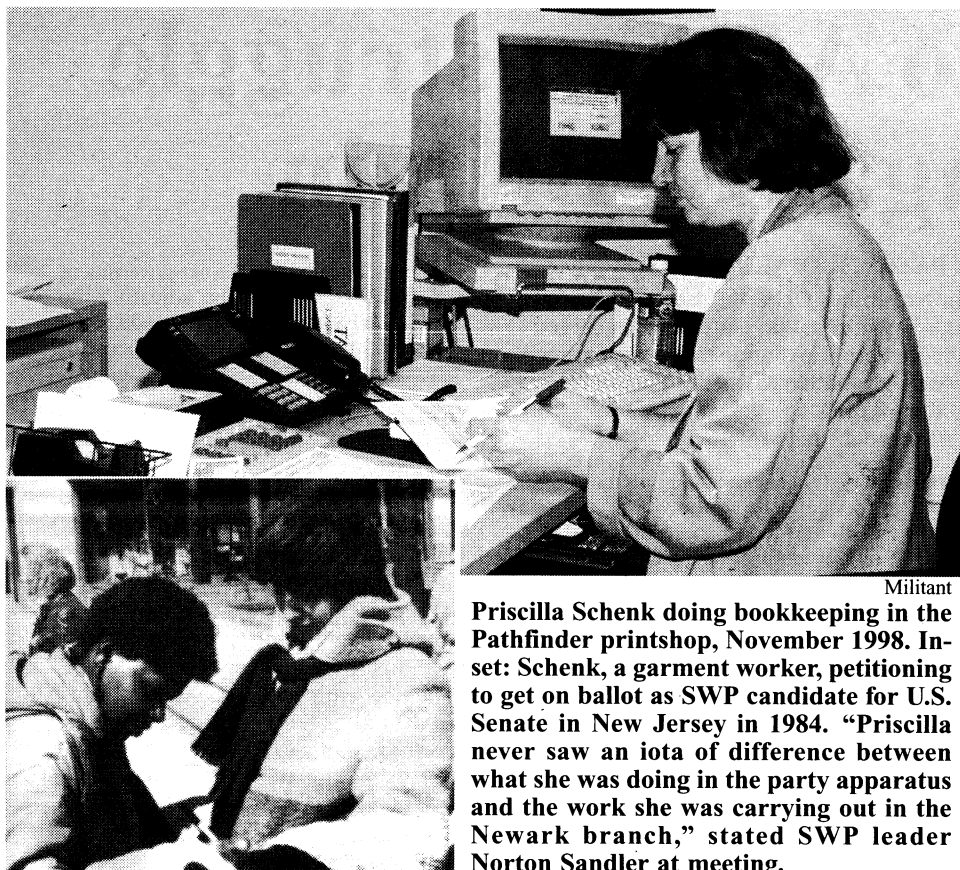
Julia Terrell, the committee's treasurer, said that Schenk's life was "so well spent, a life of so much value." She added, "As I interacted with Priscilla I became aware of her love of justice and her dedicated advocacy for the working class—my people."

In January 1991, shortly after Washington began its bombing of Iraq, the personnel manager at Emco informed Schenk, the Socialist Workers candidate for school board at the time, that two "gentlemen" were waiting to talk to her in the front office. "They turned out to be not gentlemen but agents from the U.S. Secret Service and the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation," Studer said. They claimed to have received an anonymous phone call saying that Schenk and another worker in the plant had been overheard threatening to kill then-president George Bush and the governor of Iowa.

An experienced working-class militant, Schenk said this claim was nonsense and refused to talk to them. She asked if she was under arrest. When the agents replied no, Schenk said she had nothing to say to the two political police. She demanded an attorney, which the cops refused. She then insisted that her union steward be present. The agents finally gave in to this demand, and when the steward defended Schenk's right to refuse to answer questions, they had to let her go.

They then proceeded to call in Schenk's co-worker, Harold Searcy, for interrogation. A few days later, speaking at a Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines, Searcy said, "Over the past few weeks I read a lot in the papers about how people in this country had to beware of terrorists from the Middle East. It turned out the only people I have been harassed by showed up at Emco, and they were from the government." He joined the YSA that evening. Schenk wrote a Union Talk column in the *Militant* entitled "Unions should oppose cop interrogation at work."

As a member of the Newark branch in



Militant
Priscilla Schenk doing bookkeeping in the Pathfinder printshop, November 1998. Inset: Schenk, a garment worker, petitioning to get on ballot as SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey in 1984. "Priscilla never saw an iota of difference between what she was doing in the party apparatus and the work she was carrying out in the Newark branch," stated SWP leader Norton Sandler at meeting.

the early 1980s, Schenk joined the recently launched effort to build the party's trade union fraction in the garment industry. She took on the task of learning to sew and, being fluent in Spanish, was all the more effective in reaching out to Spanish-speaking workers. As a garment worker, she ran for U.S. Senate from New Jersey on the Socialist Workers ticket in 1984.

Absorbed the importance of 'we'

As the party became rooted in the industrial working class and its unions, it began to study more systematically the writings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. Barnes noted that he had discussions with Schenk about the *Theses on Feuerbach* written by the young Marx in 1845, which she had studied carefully. In this article Marx said the essence of humans "is no abstraction inherent in each single individual. In its reality it is the ensemble of the social relations."

Schenk absorbed the importance of "we," Barnes noted. "We can do more than a collection of I's, and only by doing that can working people defeat the power, wealth, and domination of the capitalist ruling class."

Barnes explained that as a disciplined communist worker, Schenk focused on carrying through any challenging task to the end. Then "she easily relaxed when the task was over. She had the kind of fun you have after accomplishing something big. And Priscilla was great fun."

Amy Husk, the organizer of the Newark branch of the SWP today, described Schenk's recent political contributions in helping to strengthen the party unit there and help root it in a workers district in the city. Schenk was elected and served as the branch organizer from January to April of this year. "During some of this time she

would be ill, and even hospitalized for a day or two, but being ill was never her frame-work; it was a fact of life she had to deal with in order to keep doing the political work that was so important to her," Husk said.

Jacob Perasso, the organizer of the Young Socialists National Executive Committee, spoke about the example that a worker-bolshevik like Schenk set for young people coming toward the communist movement. Building the Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers Party is all the more important today as Washington intensifies its war against Afghanistan and steps up its assault on working people at home, including the current INS detention without charges of some 1,000 immigrants in the United States branded as "terrorist suspects," Perasso said.

Barnes quoted from a message sent by Bobbi Negrón that highlighted the role Schenk played in helping to recruit her to the Young Socialists in 1998. "Priscilla was always the one who would call about forums and to discuss articles in the *Militant*," Negrón wrote. "She and Maurice would invite me over to dinner and talk," she added, referring to Maurice Williams, Schenk's companion. "I felt very welcome, not only to her home, but to the movement. I was just astonished by all these books."

Barnes described the prolonged battle Schenk waged against her illness, a blood-clotting disorder. "She fought to maximize the possibility of doing what she loved so much to do, and this gained the admiration of a group of doctors," Barnes said. She was eventually admitted to the University of Pittsburgh's Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute and put under the care of one of the leading physicians in the field. She decided to have an operation that had never yet been accomplished successfully, and that in the end did not succeed. The doctor came

Continued on page 12

Participants give \$3,700 boost to Pathfinder Fund

BY RÓGER CALERO

Participants in the meeting celebrating the life and work of Priscilla Schenk responded to the fund appeal at the event by contributing \$2,400 on the spot to the Pathfinder Fund. A total of \$3,755 in pledges was made, including by a number of people who increased their pledges by a total of \$1,595.

Socialist Workers Party leader Norton Sandler explained the fund will make it possible for Pathfinder to publish a number of new titles over the coming months, expanding the wide range of revolutionary books and pamphlets already distributed by the publishing house. The \$125,000 fund runs through December 15.

Supporters of Pathfinder around the

world are organizing to win new pledges and contributions to the fund, including holding local fund meetings over the coming weeks. So far, pledges add up to \$44,000.

In Seattle and Los Angeles, for example, Pathfinder supporters have scheduled fund-raising meetings with Ma'mud Shirvani, Pathfinder's Farsi-language editor. The events will feature a talk by Shirvani on "Afghanistan and the Silk Road: 200 Years of the Struggle Against Imperialism." The meetings will be an opportunity to discuss the revolutionary struggles in that region over the past century against imperialist domination, the example set by the Russian Revolution in 1917, and Washington's war against Afghanistan today.

Lenin offered help to Afghan struggle against Britain

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

In November 1919 V.I. Lenin, the head of the Soviet republic that had been forged in the Russian Revolution two years earlier, wrote to Amanullah Khan, the emir, or ruler, of Afghanistan.

"At present," he wrote,

flourishing Afghanistan is the only independent Muslim state in the world, and fate sends the Afghan people the great historic task of uniting about itself all enslaved Mohammedan peoples and leading them on the road to freedom and independence.

The Workers' and Peasants' Government of Russia instructs its embassy in Afghanistan to engage in discussions with the government of the Afghan people with a view to the conclusion of trade and other friendly agreements, the purpose of which is not only the buttressing of good neighborly relations in the best interests of both nations, but together with Afghanistan the joint struggle against the most rapacious imperialist government on earth—Great Britain, the intrigues of which, as you correctly point out in your letter, have hitherto disturbed the peaceful and unhindered development of the Afghan people and separated it from its closest neighbors.

In a conference with your extraordinary ambassador, the worthy Mohammed Wali Khan, I learned that you are prepared to enter into negotiations in Kabul on the question of a treaty of friendship and also that the Afghan people wishes to receive military aid against England from the Russian people. The Workers' and Peasants' Government is inclined to grant such assistance on the widest scale to the Afghan nation, and, what is more, to repair the

injustice done by the former government of the Russian tsars...by adjusting the Soviet-Afghan frontier so as to add to the territory of Afghanistan at the expense of Russia.

Amanullah had written to Lenin in April, offering an alliance between the two governments and stating, "I am neither a communist, nor a socialist, but my political program entails the expulsion of the British from Asia. I am an implacable foe of the capitalization of Asia by Europe, the principal representatives of which are the British. In this I approximate to the communists, and in this respect we are natural allies."

The new emir had come to power in Afghanistan after the February 1919 assassination of his father. He had broken with his father by siding with the Young Afghan movement, which called for independence from Britain.

The Russian Revolution gave a mighty impulse to the struggle of oppressed peoples, particularly those who had been under the boot of the czarist government. One month after the triumph of the October insurrection, the Bolshevik government published many secret documents from the czar's ministry of foreign affairs, including agreements with London and Paris allocating areas of influence in the Middle East and Asia.

1919 war against Britain

The emir proclaimed the country's full independence. According to government member Shah Wali Khan, the Afghans prepared for war in the knowledge that the



Cartoon from satirical British magazine *Punch* in 1878 depicts "Great Game"—the competition over Afghanistan—between czarist bear and lion of British colonialism.

power that had "taken the Afghan independence would not surrender [its] rights easily without war." Working people, tribespeople, and layers of the middle classes enthusiastically greeted the government's call for a struggle against Great Britain, "the traditional foe of Afghan independence."

In April Amanullah requested assistance from Lenin, and the following month Afghan troops engaged British forces based in India, at the time a British colony, which included present-day Pakistan. The Third Afghan war, as the conflict is known, lasted a month, and included aerial bombing by the Royal Air Force of Kabul and Jalalabad. Although the military outcome of the fighting was not decisive, the combination of ongoing Afghan resistance with anticolonial struggles in the British-dominated territories of Ireland, Egypt, Iraq, and India had stretched British forces thin, persuading London to withdraw from the conflict and formally recognize the country's independence.

The victory was the fruit not just of the widespread rebellions and unrest against British colonial rule, but also of decades of struggle and resistance inside Afghanistan.

Struggles of the 19th century

Afghanistan had long been disputed strategic territory in the competition between the British rulers and the Russian czars for domination of Central Asia known as the "Great Game." In 1838 the British East India Company's Army of the Indus pushed into Afghanistan, eventually setting up camp in Kabul the following year.

Their victory proved short-lived. In 1841 Afghan forces united, counterattacked, and forced, according to one British account, "the most terrible retreat in the history of British arms." The retreating column which left Kabul in January 1842 numbered 17,000 in all, including 700 European infantry and cavalry forces, some 3,800 Indian sepoy soldiers, and 12,000 others, including camp followers and European and Indian family members. Targeted by constant attack, and falling victim to frostbite and exposure, the majority of the company was wiped out. One survivor reached British-garrisoned Jalalabad, the march's destination, on a horse provided by a wounded Indian. Some 122 soldiers, officers, and civilians were taken prisoner and survived, and around 2,000 people, many crippled from frostbite, made it back to Kabul, where they were reduced to begging in the streets.

Stung by the humiliating defeat, the British government mounted a punitive expedition in August of the same year. Two armies drove toward Kabul, relieving the garrisons at Kandahar and Jalalabad, and venting their fury on Afghan villages. "The Europeans and Indians extracted a heavy vengeance in blood and property from the people in the area," reports one history book. "Many atrocities were committed by the vengeful British soldiers," states another. On reaching Kabul, General Pollock, one of the two commanding generals, ordered the destruction of the city's great central bazaar. It took two days for his engineers to finish the job with explosives. Meanwhile, the British troops embarked on an orgy of looting.

Having accomplished their mission, the

British withdrew from Kabul. Conflicts were confined to border skirmishes until 1877, when Afghanistan's Emir Sher Ali broke with previous policy, rebuffed British representatives, and welcomed a Russian mission into Kabul, inflaming the rivalry between the tsarist regime and the British government. The next year London organized an invasion and fighting lasted until 1881. This second Afghan war ended with the forcible imposition of a pro-British policy.

Russian Revolution: impact and example

As Lenin's letter shows, the communist leadership of the revolutionary government in Russia recognized the significance of the events in Afghanistan. They reached out to the peoples oppressed by czarism who had been inspired by the events of 1917 to step up their anti-imperialist struggles.

In September 1920 the Communist International, formed under the leadership and example of the Russian Revolution, organized the First Congress of the Peoples of the East, in Baku, Azerbaijan. Meeting one year after Lenin's letter to Amanullah, the congress adopted a Manifesto to Peoples of the East, which asked, "What is Britain doing to Afghanistan? By bribing the emir's government it has kept the people in subjugation, poverty, and ignorance, trying to reduce this country to a desert, in order that this desert may guard India, which Britain oppresses, from any contact with the outside world."

The document declared that "the peoples of the East have long stagnated in the darkness of ignorance under the despotic yoke of their own tyrant rulers and of foreign capitalist conquerors. But they have been awakened by the roar of the World War and the thunder of the Russian workers' revolution, which has released the people of Russia, an Eastern people, from the century-old chains of capitalist slavery."

The Congress called on the peoples of the East to wage a "holy war" against "the common enemy, imperialist Britain."

"This is a holy war for the liberation of the peoples of the East, for the ending of the division of humanity into oppressor peoples and oppressed peoples, for complete equality of all peoples and races, whatever language they may speak, whatever the color of their skin, and whatever the religion they profess," the document stated.

V&V Supremo strikers stay strong

BY MARCELINA PEDRAZA

CHICAGO—"It is important that we win," says Marcelino De La Rosa, a member of Teamsters Local 703 on strike against V&V Supremo Foods, Inc. "It would be an example for many Latinos who tolerate mistreatment and low pay. They will see that

Workers walk out at military contractor

BY JOE FEENEY

TAMPA, Florida—The constant honking of horns in support of workers on strike at Group Technologies here provides the backdrop to a picket line set up October 19 at the military contractor.

Workers at the plant assemble electronic circuit boards used in missiles, and military communication and encryption devices. Union members prepared for the strike by holding a "practice picket" outside the plant three weeks before the walkout. The picket lines are mostly made up of women.

Jim Cocke, president and chief executive officer of Group Technologies, responded to the walkout by stating the company "will not allow anything to get in the way of keeping our commitments." He threatened to hire workers recently laid off from other local electronics firms. "We have products that are very important and we know they are being used" in the U.S. war against Afghanistan, he said.

According to members of Teamsters Local 79, the issues are insurance premium deductions, wages, and vacation time. The company wants to double paycheck deductions for health insurance within two years, costing workers up to \$145 per month. Their wage offer, 43 cents an hour increase over two years, comes after a five-year wage freeze. Group Technologies also wants to take back one holiday, and one week of vacation from the workers with the highest seniority, who now get four weeks off.

About 200 union members work in the military manufacturing section of the plant. Another 200 work in the civilian products section at the same location. They are also members of Local 79 and their contract expires next year.

they too can organize themselves into a union." The workers are on the picket lines demanding their first union contract and believe the outcome of their struggle will encourage other immigrant workers in their predominantly Mexican neighborhood to also fight.

Around 100 workers have been on strike for five months. Since the walkout began the company has used office workers and hired strikebreakers to keep producing the high-priced Mexican-style cheese and chorizo.

A negotiating session was held October 22, but company representatives walked out after receiving a ruling from the National Labor Relations Board. This ruling upheld the union's right to represent production workers at the factory, along with warehouse workers and truck drivers. This is an important victory for the workers since the bosses, in an attempt to divide the workforce, maintained that the union could represent only the warehouse workers and truck drivers.

The following day union representatives met with officials of the Jewel supermarket chain, asking them not to carry Supremo products. According to workers at the picket line, Jewel officials told them they would give an answer in two weeks.

The union decided to continue picketing at the Supremo warehouse but not the factory after an attack last July on the workers' picket line. In that assault, strikebreakers demolished the strikers' water station and literature table, vandalized several cars, and threatened pickets themselves with violence. The company and the police are also harassing the strikers. The police arrested one worker on trumped-up charges of threatening to bomb a strikebreaker's car and prohibited him from participating in the picket line and other strike activities.

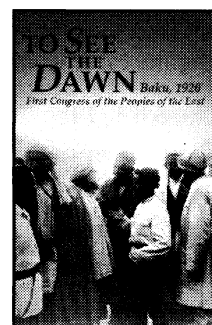
"We are forced to work up to 16 hours a day, six days a week, and so we went on strike," production worker Marcos Nava told the *Militant*. "The company does not want to negotiate with the union, but they have to, there is no alternative. We will not step back, come snow or whatever. We must win."

Marcelina Pedraza is a member of the Young Socialists and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134 in Chicago.

To See the Dawn

Baku, 1920 –
First congress of the Peoples of the East

How can peasants and workers in the colonial world achieve freedom from imperialist exploitation? By what means can working people overcome divisions incited by their national ruling classes and act together for their common class interests? These questions were addressed by 2,000 delegates to the 1920 Congress of the Peoples of the East. \$19.95



Available from Pathfinder.

From bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Socialist fights political firing in Miami

Continued from front Page

winning from co-workers, defenders of democratic rights, and others in the fight to reverse the firing.

Goodwill bosses openly say they dismissed Italie for speaking out against the U.S. government's war on the people of Afghanistan and its simultaneous attacks on workers' rights at home during his mayoral campaign. As an article in the October 29 *Miami Herald* put it, "Of the 10 mayoral candidates, Italie stands alone in supporting the 1959 Cuban revolution and in opposing the war against the Taliban government in Afghanistan."

"We cannot have anyone who is attempting to subvert the United States of America," Goodwill's chief executive officer Dennis Pastrana told the *Miami Herald* in an interview published October 30. "His political beliefs are those of a communist who would like to destroy private ownership of American enterprises and install a communist regime in the United States."

In a televised interview aired October 30, Pastrana further stated that Goodwill's attorneys had advised him that advocacy of political views is not a protected right for those who work for a private employer.

Goodwill is a major contractor of the U.S. government, producing military uniforms and flags used in burial of U.S. servicemen. The company is viciously antiunion and often pays well below the minimum wage, numerous workers at the plant report. Italie talked about the need to organize a union with his co-workers in order to improve conditions in the plant, win wage increases, and establish a level of dignity for workers on the job.

"Goodwill Industries and other employers don't want workers to be able to discuss, organize, and fight to improve our conditions," Italie said in an interview with the *Militant*. "This political firing is aimed at my co-workers, and tens of thousands like them in the Miami area who are fighting to defend their unions, or win them for the first time, as they resist the offensive by the employers against our working conditions, wages, and safety on the job."

'Treasonous views'

The socialist candidate blasted statements by Mayor Joseph Carollo to the *Miami Herald*. Carollo backed Goodwill's decision to fire Italie, and said that he considered the socialist candidate's views to be "treasonous." Carollo added he thought Italie "would have made Benedict Arnold seem like a patriot." Benedict Arnold was a general in the American revolutionary war who turned traitor and became a spy for the British.

"The week before my firing," Italie said, "Carollo, myself, and other candidates were speaking at a debate. Carollo twice demanded the moderator prevent me from stating my views about the U.S. government's assault on workers' rights and their brutal imperialist assault on the people of Afghanistan. The moderator refused the mayor's attempt to squash freedom of speech, allowing me to continue to present my views."

"Carollo's actions and statement to the *Herald* help shed light on the fact that the U.S. ruling class and their political spokespeople do consider opposition to their wars, to employer assaults, to racism, and other outrages of capitalism to be treasonous," Italie noted. "With his statement the mayor takes my firing a big step beyond the action taken by the bosses at Goodwill. Carollo too is threatening workers' rights."

"Workers and farmers have fought since the American Revolution for the right to speak our views and even advocate a revolutionary change in government as a right under the U.S. constitution," Italie said. "This is how the Bill of Rights—including the freedom of speech and expression—became enshrined in the constitution. Workers and farmers have fought and shed their blood defending these liberties and attempts by the capitalists and their government to roll them back."

Italie pointed out that the SWP took the government to court in 1973 in what became a 15-year battle against FBI and secret police harassment, spying, and disruption targeting the party. In the end, a federal judge ruled the SWP's advocacy of the need to replace the capitalist government with one of workers and farmers to be constitutionally protected activity.

The garment worker urged other candidates for mayor, whether or not they op-



Militant/Eric Simpson

Michael Italie, socialist candidate for mayor of Miami, spoke with the press in front of the empty parking lot of the garment factory he was fired from. The company sent workers home early to "protect them from the dangerous communist."

posed the firing or agreed with Italie's views, to condemn the mayor's attack and urge Carollo to withdraw his statement.

Attempt to keep co-workers away

Italie and his supporters scheduled the news conference to coincide with the end of the workday in order to talk with as many co-workers as possible. In one news spot covering the press conference, TV Channel 4 showed a CBS reporter approaching the gate of the Goodwill plant only to find it shut down. A security guard told CBS that the company was not allowing any media into the plant.

It turned out that the company halted production at the plant and sent all 400 workers home two hours early, with full pay, to try to prevent them from meeting and talking with Italie or the press. According to several workers interviewed by the *Militant*, bosses told workers to punch out at 3:00 p.m. rather than the 4:30 p.m. regular ending time because "Mike the communist would be out there talking to the media." They were also told by the company that no one was to stay outside to wait for the press conference.

"This is an attempt to silence Mike and cut him off from his co-workers," Sydney Royal, a retired health service worker who is African American and a supporter of

Italie's campaign, told the press at the October 29 news conference. "This can backfire. Many will identify this firing as an attempt at thought control."

Outside the plant gate the next day, nearly 70 workers took campaign literature from Italie, including a fact sheet on his firing, and some purchased copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. A number of co-workers smiled at seeing Italie there and wished him success in his fight against the firing. Only one employee told others to stay away from the socialists, without much success.

In discussions with the socialist candidate, a number of workers agreed with Italie that the company's decision to fire him is part of the intensified assault by the ruling class on workers' rights. Italie pledged to continue the fight to protest his firing, regardless of whether he can mount a legal challenge, "just like public workers in Minnesota went on strike despite being told by the governor there they were unpatriotic, and despite the governor using the National Guard to undermine their fight."

Italie is campaigning for a shorter workweek without a cut in pay and for a massive government-funded public works program to build housing, schools, hospitals, and other much needed infrastructure in order to create jobs. He calls for a substantial increase in the minimum wage and other af-

firmative action measures. The socialist candidate demands full cost-of-living protection in wages and retirement benefits to protect working people from inflation, and government-guaranteed lifetime health, pension, and disability benefits for all.

The socialist candidate is discussing with fellow workers the need to demand a halt to farm foreclosures, and having the government guarantee cheap credit and a living income for small farmers. His campaign also calls for cancellation of the foreign debt of the semicolonial countries and for lifting all tariffs and other obstacles to trade and travel erected by the U.S. rulers, including those in Miami. Italie's main campaign brochure states that these demands are aimed at building solidarity and to unite workers and farmers internationally.

"These demands cannot be won in Miami alone," Italie said. "They are part of building a revolutionary movement to take power out of the hands of the capitalists, to establish a workers and farmers government, and to join the worldwide struggle for socialism."

As part of the fight to reverse the firing and defend workers' rights, Italie has filed a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union charging that Goodwill violated his right to freedom of speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment. ACLU local president Lida Rodriguez-Taseff told the press the civil liberties organization is looking into the matter. "If it is determined that Goodwill gets government funding, he might have a case," she stated.

Italie's October 29 press conference, attended by reporters from local CBS and Univision affiliates along with the *Miami Herald*, received wide media coverage here. The next day, a reporter from the local NBC TV channel interviewed Italie at his campaign headquarters, which shares space with the Pathfinder bookstore in Miami's Little Haiti. Other television stations picked up stories on the news conference. The local affiliate of National Public Radio and other radio stations have also covered the story.

Italie wins support

"Veye Yo, a longtime grassroots organization, denounces the unjust firing of Socialist Worker Michael Italie for his democratic views on the war against Afghanistan," said Tony Jeanthenor, a leader of the Haitian rights organization, in a statement distributed to the press October 29. "This terror against workers' rights must be

Continued on Page 12

'This is an attack on all workers,' socialist candidate for mayor of Miami tells press

The following article was published in the *Miami Herald* of Oct. 30, 2001, under the title, "Socialist candidate fired from Goodwill job."

BY OSCAR CORRAL

The head of Goodwill Industries of South Florida has fired Miami mayoral candidate Michael Italie, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, because he is a "subversive" presence in the company.

Dennis Pastrana, chief executive officer of the nonprofit organization, had Italie fired Oct. 22 after reading campaign pamphlets that supported Cuba's communist revolution and criticized the United States for its presence in Afghanistan.

"We cannot have anyone who is attempting to subvert the United States of America," Pastrana said. "His political beliefs are those of a communist who would like to destroy private ownership of American enterprises and install a communist regime in the United States."

Italie, an obscure candidate for mayor who moved to Miami 18 months ago from Atlanta, says Pastrana is discriminating against him.

Italie had a minimum-wage job sewing jackets for the military. He worked at Goodwill's Allapattah factory for seven months.

"This is an attack on all workers who should not have to fear the loss of their jobs for having an opinion," Italie said.

The Miami branch of the American Civil Liberties Union was contacted by Italie and is investigating whether his civil rights may

have been violated, chapter president Lida Rodriguez-Taseff said.

"If it is determined that Goodwill gets government funding, he might have a case," she said.

William Amlong, a prominent Fort Lauderdale labor attorney, said he doesn't believe Italie has much of a legal case.

"I think it's an outrageous, but probably a legal move," said Amlong, who added that by firing Italie, Pastrana may have given him a popularity boost. "This guy has gone from being a very minor mayoral candidate to a martyr. Anybody who would have given a socialist a snowball's chance in hell in the Miami election would need to have his head examined."

Pastrana said he researched the matter and fired Italie after receiving legal advice from lawyers he knows. He said he realizes he can't fire someone based on gender, race, religion or sexual orientation, but that firing someone for political views is legal.

Italie is one of nine candidates running for mayor of Miami against incumbent Joe Carollo.

He seldom attends forums and debates, but when he does, he stirs controversy because of his political stance.

He is an outspoken supporter of the Cuban revolution and critic of the U.S. war on terrorism.

At one debate at Miami-Dade Community College's Wolfson campus the week before he was fired, Italie butted heads with Carollo over the U.S. campaign against Afghanistan.

Carollo had few sympathetic words for Italie when he heard that he had been fired.

"I think the man has treasonous points of view," Carollo said. "I think he would have made Benedict Arnold seem like a patriot."

Italie said he is aware of Miami's powerful anticommunist stance, which is strengthened by large numbers of Cuban exiles—including Pastrana—who fled Fidel Castro's regime. But Italie believes he is representing the rights of all workers.

"I was not asked for my political point of view when I was hired," Italie said.

He said Goodwill officials began asking him about his beliefs the day after the televised MDCC debate. Three days later, they told him that "because of your views on the U.S. government, you are a disruptive force and cannot work here any longer. Get your things and go," Italie said.

Pastrana said Italie's views are not compatible with Goodwill's mission.

Goodwill of South Florida has a multimillion-dollar contract with the United States government to produce clothes for the military and flags that will be used to adorn the coffins of soldiers killed in action, Pastrana said.

"Goodwill will not allow anyone to bring dishonor to such an important symbol," Pastrana said.

Amlong said that while it may not be illegal to fire an employee based on political views, it sets a dangerous precedent of stifling political discourse in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I find it kind of ironic that a company making American flags is firing somebody for having diverse points of view," Amlong said.

Socialist wins support

Continued from Page 11

stopped or someone must come out and tell the world that there is martial law in the U.S. and the democratic rights of everyone are suspended."

Danny Couch, deacon in the Church of the Body of Jesus Christ and the only African American among the 10 candidates in Miami's mayoral race, also sent a statement. "I support your effort to freely speak your beliefs and to exercise your rights as an American," Couch wrote to Itale. "As an African American I know all too well what you are going through and I must, as you must, continue to fight for your self-respect."

Two youth who took part in an October 18 mayoral debate at Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC) and have become supporters of Itale's campaign also attended the news conference and brought handmade signs reading: "Defend workers' rights! Protest the firing of Mike Itale." It was after that event, which received media coverage, that supervisors began inquiring about Itale's campaign and what seemed to have sparked his firing.

"The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives us the right to think and feel what we will," said Heather Page, 19, one of these youth who spoke at the October 29 news conference.

"It's unjust to fire someone for their political beliefs," said Aldo Nahem, 24, who is a student at MDCC and was assigned to cover the October 18 mayoral debate for the campus student newspaper *Metropolis*. He also took part in the press conference outside the Goodwill plant. "Fighting this firing is part of the struggle to change society."

Since the firing, Itale has received numerous invitations for campaign speaking engagements.

He spoke at a philosophy class at Florida International University (FIU) South campus October 30. Other engagements include a candidate's forum at the Martin Luther

King Center and a presentation to a class at MDCC's North campus October 31, and another candidate's debate sponsored by a number of organizations in the Black community November 1.

The Militant Labor Forum will host a speakout against Itale's firing November 3. The panel of speakers include Tony Jeanthor of Veye Yo, Ramón Gómez representing the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, Heather Page, and Michelle Beer, a philosophy professor at FIU South.

Argiris Malapanis is a meat packer in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Meeting celebrates life of Priscilla Schenk

Continued from Page 9

to admire Schenk, Barnes noted. "I've never known a famous surgeon to spend the entire night in the recovery room. What they did they did together: the world-class doctor and Priscilla the dedicated revolutionist," said Barnes.

Responsibilities in party center

Over the years Schenk took on a number of national responsibilities in the party's center in New York. She was a copy editor for the *Militant* from 1978 to 1981. She served on the party's control commission in the mid-1990s.

In the mid-1980s Schenk worked as a secretary in the SWP national office and on national party finances. Sandler noted that

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

NEW JERSEY

Newark

End Imperialism's War on Afghanistan. Stop Assault on Workers' Rights. Speaker: Kari Sachs, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of New Jersey. Sat., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 506 Springfield Ave., 3rd Floor. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. Tel: (973) 643-3341.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Afghanistan and the Silk Road: 150 Years of Struggle against Colonialism and Imperialism. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, Farsi language editor of Pathfinder Press. Sat., Nov.

10, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. 3437 14th St. NW. Tel: (202) 387-1590.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Battle of Algiers: Film and Discussion. Sun., Nov. 11, 4:00 p.m.
Capitalism's March to War and Depression: What the November 10 Elections Reveal. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Socialist Workers candidate for House of Representatives district of Watson. Sun., Nov. 18, 4:00 p.m. Both events at level 1, 3/281-287 Beamish St, Campsie. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9718 9698.

Framed-up Cubans

Continued from Page 7

flight off the coast of Barbados, organized by counterrevolutionary groups operating in the United States with support from Washington. The perpetrators and masterminds of that terrorist attack, which resulted in the deaths of all 73 people on board, worked for the CIA. One of them, Orlando Bosch who is widely credited with planning the attack, walks free in the streets of Miami to this day.

Closing the evening's program was Boston poet Richard Cambridge, who performed a much appreciated reading of a number of his poems based on observations of life in Cuba and the effects of the U.S. government policies towards the people of that country.

The NNOC meeting, in which some 75 activists around the country participated, many of them representing local coalitions and other organizations working to end U.S. government attempts to overturn the Cuban Revolution, discussed the numerous campaigns its affiliates are involved in. The meeting also discussed and adopted a resolution in response to the U.S. government's war against the people of Afghanistan and accelerating "anti-terrorism" campaign following the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The resolution adopted by the NNOC included an "appeal to all Americans to join us in opposing the prosecution and incarceration of the five Cubans imprisoned in Miami, whose only crime has been to monitor and attempt to prevent this U.S.-based terrorism against the Cuban people. At a time when the American people have been made particularly sensitive to the human toll of such terrorist acts, those who have fought against such acts should be viewed as heroes, not as criminals." [See full text of resolution on page 7.]

Jacob Perasso is a member of the Young Socialists.



New York City

Free The Miami Five!

Cuban Political Prisoners Unjustly Jailed in U.S. Prisons for Defending Cuba from U.S.-Based Right-Wing Terrorists

Teach-in on Saturday, November 10, 6:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 521 W. 126th Street
(Amsterdam & 126th, St. Mary's Place, Take A or D train to 125th)

Suggested donation: \$5 (no one turned away for lack of funds)

Sponsored by New York City Free The Five Committee

for more information call: (212) 633-6646 or (212) 926-5757
e-mail: freethefivenyc@yahoo.com

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NEW JERSEY: Newark: 506 Springfield Ave. 3rd floor. Zip: 07103. Mailing address: Riverfront Plaza, P.O. Box 200117. Zip: 07102-0302. Tel: (973) 643-3341. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEW YORK: Brooklyn: 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Mailing address: PMB 106.4814 4th Ave. Zip: 11220. Tel: (718) 567-8014. E-mail: swpbrooklyn@earthlink.net
Garment District, 545 8th Ave. Mailing address: P.O. Box 30. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 695-7358. E-mail: swpnycd@attglobal.net;
Upper Manhattan: 540 W. 165 St. Mailing address: 4049 Broadway #275. Zip: 10032. Tel: (212) 740-4611. E-mail: swpuptown@usa.net;

OHIO: Cleveland: 11018 Lorain Ave. Zip: 44111. Tel: (216) 688-1190. E-mail: 103253.1111@compuserve.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 5237 N. 5th St. Zip: 19120. Tel: (215) 324-7020. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@yahoo.com
Pittsburgh: 5907 Penn Ave. Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: 103122.720@compuserve.com

TEXAS: Houston: 619 West 8th St. Zip: 77007. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@cs.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3437 14th St. NW Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 387-1590. E-mail: dc-swp@starpower.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Avenue South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@qwest.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O.

Sandler continued. "She would have laughed at any suggestion to the contrary."

Schenk took great pride in the progress being made in the party's printshop with the introduction of time-saving and cost-efficient computer-to-plate equipment that allowed the shop to eliminate its entire prepress department in the late 1990s and the project undertaken by supporters of Pathfinder Press around the world to convert to digital form the publisher's more than 350 books and pamphlets, Sandler pointed out. She would often ask supporters questions about the books they were working on at the time.

A collection for the Pathfinder Fund at the October 28 meeting brought in \$2,500. Before and at the end of the meeting, a Pathfinder book table offering "supersaver" discounts was swamped with customers. Many participants left with large stacks of books and pamphlets sold at bargain basement prices of \$1 or \$2. Some 650 revolutionary titles were sold.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Garment District

Socialist class series. Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 4: "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold," from *New International* no. 10. 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

Upper Manhattan

Socialist class series on *New International* no. 7. Sundays at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 4: "Washington's Third Militarization Drive" by Mary-Alice Waters. 540 W. 165 St. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 1240. Tel: (02) 9718 9698.

E-mail: cl_australia@bigpond.com

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 020-7928-7993. E-mail: 101515.2702@compuserve.com

CANADA

Montreal: 4613 St. Laurent. Postal code: H2T 1R2. Tel: (514) 284-7369. E-mail: Librpath@sympatico.ca

Toronto: 2761 Dundas St., Postal code: M6P 1Y4. Tel: (416) 767-3705. E-mail: milpathtoronto@sympatico.ca

Vancouver: #202D-4806 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3R8. Tel: (604) 872-8343. E-mail: clvancouver@cs.com

FRANCE

Paris: Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 47-26-58-21. E-mail: 73504.442@compuserve.com

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. E-mail: milph@mmedia.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885.

E-mail: milpath.auckland@actrix.gen.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

E-mail: pathfinder.militant@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Domargränd 16 (T-bana Västertorp) Postal code: S-129 04. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: 100416.2362@compuserve.com

Smug as a bug—In Portland, Oregon, 1,700 people applied for 150 flipper jobs at a newly opening area hamburger chain. Wages, \$6.50 to

tives will leave the automaker in the third shuffle since July, as Chief Executive Jacques Nasser tries to turn around declining sales and profit.”—News item.

apology for letting the president get momentarily out of focus. Apparently the camera person got jostled.

The well society—More than 1 million children in California will suffer emotional or behavioral disorders this year, a state panel reported. More than 600,000 of them will not receive adequate treatment. Many will be jailed or warehoused in mental hospitals.

Things are tough all over—Freddy DeMann, former manager of Madonna, has finally unloaded his home in Bel Air, a somewhat spiffy Los Angeles bedroom community. The house features a 2,000-square-foot master suite, plus a pro-

jection room, a wine cellar, hair salon, gym, sauna, pool, spa and guest house. It was on the market for nearly two years, with an asking price of \$23 million. Finally an heir to Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, bought the place, beating the price down to \$20 million.

Not to spook you, but—“One in five samples of ground meat purchased in supermarkets was contaminated with salmonella bacteria a new study has found, and most of the bacteria isolated were resistant to at least one antibiotic. More than half the bacteria were resistant to at least three antibiotics, making them particularly dangerous if they cause an infection in humans.

The bacteria can be killed by thorough cooking, but many people do not cook foods long enough to prevent infection. An estimated 1.4 million cases of food poisoning caused by salmonella occur in the United States every year.”—News item.

Can it really be that disgusting?—Avon Products has kicked off its drive to sell cosmetics, perfumes to teen adults and by teen adults. Believe it or not, the sales workers will be known as Little Avon Ladies.

Get mad and better than even—We know we’ve said it before, but it’s such a wonderful book: From Pathfinder, *Cosmetics, Fashions and the Exploitation of Women.*



Harry Ring

\$9 an hour. Declared the general manager, “We’re pretty much in the driver’s seat now.”

Entry level flipper career?—“Five top Ford Motor Co. execu-

Indiana glass strikers fight attack on seniority rights

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

DUNKIRK, Indiana—Facing threats of plant closure and concession demands by the bosses, 400 workers went on strike here October 8, shutting down the Indiana Glass Company.

Members of the two locals of the American Flint Glass Workers Union (AFGWU) at the plant rejected a contract offer 263-63 after the company proposed a five-year pact which would freeze wages for two years, followed by increases totaling only 4.5 percent over the subsequent three years.

“Despite management’s threat to mothball the plant in the event of a strike,” union officials said in a statement, “our members recognized that the contract was concessionary in all major areas, and that working under it would have been intolerable.”

On the picket line workers said two of the main issues are the company’s attack on seniority rights and its demand that bosses be allowed to schedule mandatory overtime for up to eight hours a day. One female striker who had worked in the plant for more than 20 years said many of the workers in the plant were single parents and at least half of the workforce is women. For most workers, she said, the overtime demands would make it very difficult to arrange child care at the whim of the company and with no notice.

Sonny Poor, president of AFGWU Local 501, is a 27-year veteran worker at Indiana Glass. “They’re calling for up to eight hours mandatory overtime,” he told the Muncie Star Press. “On any given day you could work 16 hours. Low man in a department could wind up working over every day if the need arises. And if you work in the hot end—the temperature is ungodly during the peak of summer—it could be a major safety issue. Hot, tired, fatigue factors, you could get hurt. We want a place to work, but we want to be treated like human beings too.”

‘Unlimited interchangeability’

In its assault on seniority rights the company is seeking “unlimited interchangeability within departments,” according to the rejected contract. Wage rates, job descriptions, and job evaluations could be changed by the company at any time. In a letter to the glass workers the Indiana Glass Company explained that “in order to better compete” it needed greater “flexibility in assigning people efficiently within the plant,” and the ability to fill needed jobs and positions due to unplanned absences and last minute needs of customers.

In place of seniority, the company wanted



Members of American Flint Glass Workers Union picket Indiana Glass Co. “We want a place to work, but we want to be treated like human beings too,” said one worker.

to create a “bonus system rewarding teamwork and group success.” A picket explained this was the company’s attempt “to manipulate people and move them around, double your work, and cut your pay.”

AFGWU Locals 501 and 151 had been on strike for about a month in 1974 and 1992 against Indiana Glass Company. The company has cut the workforce from 1,000 in 1974 to 400 today. “Where before there were four workers doing a job, there are now one or two,” a worker on the picket line explained. “If you are doing the job of two or three people by the time you leave the plant you are dragging.”

The company has received several tax abatements from the city of Dunkirk, but strikers say there has been little investment in new machinery in the plant, which is over 100 years old. On October 10 the Star Press wrote that “there was speculation that Indiana Glass’s parent company, Lancaster Colony, might shut down the Dunkirk plant within 18 months.” Three weeks before the end of the contract, the company moved machinery to the sister plant in Oklahoma.

Despite possible plant closure, workers steadfastly refuse to accept the mandatory overtime and attacks on seniority, safety, and working conditions. “We have everything to lose with this strike,” one striker said, “but it’s better to fight than die on your knees.

They are trying to bust the union.” No one has crossed the picket line, effectively shutting down production. The company is shipping material produced before the strike.

Indiana Glass quickly won a court order

limiting to four the number of pickets at the plant’s main gate, and to two the pickets at Indiana Glass outlet stores in Muncie and Dunkirk, and stating that the unionists must refrain from “harassing and intimidating” the bosses and traffic coming in and out of the plant.

Commenting on President George Bush’s instruction to law enforcement authorities nationwide to be on “high alert” in anticipation of more terrorist attacks, Jay County’s chief deputy sheriff said that his officers had been on high alert since the strike started at Indiana Glass. “With this strike, we are about as high as you can get for being on alert,” he said. The letter issued by the company also referred to the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon: “We have a plant that is running well below any possibility of profit, and has been since February of 2001. The slowdown of the economy, begun before terrorism attacks made Americans even more cautious about discretionary spending, put us in a very difficult position, as well.”

Noting how the company has used the attacks to further push its antiunion drive, a striker said, “they try to blame it on bin Laden. But he doesn’t have anything to do with this place.”

Arrin Hawkins is a meat packer in Chicago and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



November 12, 1976

LOS ANGELES—More than 150 Los Angeles-area steelworkers gathered here October 17 to hear Ed Sadlowski and Ignacio “Nash” Rodríguez, insurgent candidates for president and secretary of the United Steelworkers of America.

Many local officials were there in an initial demonstration of support to the Steelworkers Fight Back slate.

More than half of those at the Sadlowski meeting were Chicanos, a reflection of the largely Chicano composition of District 38 steelworkers.

It was Sadlowski’s first public rally in this area. After a brief presentation outlining his basic platform for union democracy, he answered questions for almost two hours.

Sادلowski also stressed the need to create a new consciousness within the union so that there could never again be a no-strike deal in any steel contract.

One questioner asked about the consent decree, an agreement between the government, the basic steel companies, and the union for a weak affirmative-action program for women and minorities. Sadlowski said the consent decree doesn’t go nearly far enough to eliminate discrimination and job tracking.

A young steelworker asked if Sadlowski supported the strict constitutional requirements to run for local union office, including attendance at at least one-half of the union meetings held during the three years period to candidacy.

Sادلowski said he favors eliminating this restriction, which is aimed at younger unionists.



November 12, 1951

NEW YORK, Nov. 8—After listening politely to speeches by the top [government Korean war] mobilization officials, the Thirteenth Constitutional Convention of the CIO bitterly assailed the mobilization set-up and resolved that “we shall never submit to discriminatory wage freezes or unfair policies of any other kind which threaten the standard of living and the hard-won collective bargaining advances of free American labor....”

The outspoken attacks of all the CIO leaders on the policies of the Wage Stabilization Board were the opening barrage in the campaign of the CIO Steelworkers union for “substantial wage increases” in the coming negotiations with the steel magnates.

Every protest by CIO leaders against the mobilization set-up was prefaced by breast-beating declarations of support to the government’s program for war. The speeches of the many government officials addressing the convention started from the same premise and drew the logical conclusion, namely, if you support the war program you must sacrifice wage demands, you must use “self-restraint and self-control.” The tone of the whole convention was as flag-waving as an American Legion conclave.

A strong Civil Rights Resolution was passed. It called for a Federal FEPC, an anti-lynch law, an end of poll taxes and federal and state Civil Rights Laws.

A separate resolution was passed condemning racial discrimination in the Panama Canal Zone which is based on the federal government’s pay differentials for white and colored workers doing the same jobs.

French unions strike against layoffs; bosses squeal about ‘lack of patriotism’

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS—More than 40,000 workers, according to police estimates, demonstrated in Paris and other French cities October 16 against layoffs and attacks on the social wage. The national day of action was called by four of the principal French union confederations: the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), Workers Force (FO), the General Confederation of Administrative and Technical Employees (CGC), and the French Confederation of Christian Workers (CFTC). Railroad workers struck for 24 hours throughout the country, as did bus, subway, and tramway workers in many cities. Mass transit was completely tied up in

Marseille, Lyon, Lille, and several other major cities.

Only one union confederation, the French Democratic Labor Federation (CFDT), did not join the action, saying that it was inappropriate considering the “current international crisis.” Calling the action “indecent,” the Movement of French Enterprises, the employers federation, attacked the unions for their lack of “social patriotism” and demanded a new law to limit public service workers’ right to strike.

Bernard Thibault, leader of the CGT, said that there “would not be any moratorium on strikes since there was no moratorium on layoffs.”

Fight political firing in Miami

The fight by socialist candidate and garment worker Michael Italie against the political firing by bosses at Goodwill Industries in Miami is one all working people and the unions should support. Goodwill is taking aim at the right of working people to express their views and organize in their own class interests. The company is targeting the unions and the broader labor movement, as well as the First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and expression.

The company firing of Italie is part and parcel of the government and employer assault on the rights of working people in the United States. It goes hand in hand with the cop roundups, longer imprisonment at the whim of the government, expansion of the ability of the police to wiretap and conduct electronic eavesdropping, and other attacks. It is part of their attempt to whip up patriotic attitudes in order to get workers to accept concession contracts, erosion of safety on the job, and rising unemployment.

The superwealthy ruling class knows it cannot take on and defeat the unions head on, nor simply roll back hard-won conquests of the civil rights movement, labor battles, and struggles to extend and defend democratic rights. Instead, they start with a section of the working class or individuals they deem easier targets, and see how far they can extend their assaults. They hope to slowly divide and politically atomize the workers movement, undercutting the solidarity that is an essential ingredient of working

people defending themselves against the employers and their government.

Goodwill Industries is nonunion and the bosses want to keep it that way. They don't like workers like Italie who let other garment workers know why organizing a union would help them fight for better wages, improved working conditions, and dignity on the job. They don't like workers like Italie who challenge the prerogatives of the bosses and their government to do as they like—whether it is paying sub-minimum wages or going to war against workers and peasants in Afghanistan.

Like all bosses under capitalism today, Goodwill is getting the backing of the city's mayor, who upped the ante for the labor movement and all defenders of democratic rights when he called Italie's opposition to Washington's brutal war "treasonous." Italie is not letting this attack go unanswered, as the idea that a person's political views should be treated as a high crime against the state strikes at the heart of the Bill of Rights.

The Miami Socialist Workers campaign has done an effective job in winning initial backing for Italie's reinstatement. As the socialist candidate pointed out, answering the attack with the widest possible protest is the most important response in defending the workers at the plant and making Goodwill and the city administration pay the highest possible price for their anti-working-class assault.

Vote Socialist Workers

Socialist Workers candidates in the 2001 elections have set an exemplary record of presenting a fighting, working-class alternative to the bosses and their two parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

The socialist campaigns have joined working-class struggles, protests against police brutality, and actions to defend immigrant rights. They explained that the only road out of the growing disaster of the economic crisis of capitalism, unemployment, racism, attacks on workers' rights, and imperialist war is for workers and farmers to join in a revolutionary struggle to overturn the capitalist government and replace it with one of their own.

Most recently they have uncompromisingly answered Washington's cynical use of the September 11 attacks to accelerate erosion of workers' rights and to launch a brutal war against the people of Afghanistan under the guise of fighting "terrorism."

We urge workers, farmers, and youth fighting the assaults by the wealthy ruling class to cast their ballots for the SWP candidates listed below.

The Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters have spoken out against the accelerated bipartisan assault on working people at home and abroad during this campaign period. This includes the deepening attacks on Social Security and unemployment compensation to moves to extend their "right" to indefinitely jail people, hold secret trials, threaten and use torture on detainees, break into people's homes, and other such moves. The jailings of more the 1,000 people, mainly immigrants from the Middle East and Asia, are in the forefront of this assault.

Socialist candidates around the country report a serious response by working people to their proposals and

political stands. In candidate debates, news programs, on street corners, and on the job, they have used their campaigns to set an example of independent working-class political action and the possibilities of building a revolutionary proletarian party in the United States. They have found genuine interest in Pathfinder books, *New International*, and the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, demonstrating the thirst of many working people for a working-class world outlook and course of action.

Several campaigns covered by the *Militant* in recent months have already been completed, including in Boston, Des Moines, Detroit, and Seattle. Candidates running in elections in November are:

Cleveland, Ohio: Eva Braiman, meat packer, for mayor, Anthony Prince,* garment worker and member of UNITE, for city council, Ward 18.

Houston, Texas: Anthony Dutrow,* meat packer, for mayor.

Miami, Florida: Michael Italie,* garment worker, for mayor.

New York City: Martin Koppel, editor of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, for mayor; Douglas Nelson, for city council; William Estrada, meat packer and member of the UFCW, for city council; Olympia Newton, for city council.

Newark, New Jersey: Kari Sachs,* meat packer and member of the UFCW, for governor of New Jersey.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: John Staggs, a meat packer and member of the UFCW, for district attorney of Philadelphia.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Frank Forrestal,* coal miner and member of the UMW, for mayor.

*Denotes on the ballot

Open Australia's doors to refugees

The *Militant* is giving some of our editorial space this week to the following statement by Ron Poulsen, Communist League candidate for parliament in Australia. The statement was issued October 25.

Refugees and other immigrants are fellow working people who need the solidarity of the labour movement. Opening Australia's doors to all who seek refuge here is a central plank of my platform, along with working-class opposition to the imperialist war on Afghanistan now being brutally waged by Washington, London, and Canberra.

The catastrophe last Friday [October 19] with the sinking of an overcrowded, rotting vessel and subsequent deaths of more than 350 refugees, asylum-seekers and immigrants to Australia off the coast of Indonesia, is far from the only fatal sinking in past years and months. The deaths of these working people are directly attributable to the restrictive and discriminatory immigration policies of Australia's capitalist rulers, and especially to the brutal new measures Canberra has adopted as part of its war drive. The Howard government, with almost total bipartisan support from Labor, has, since the August 29 storming of the *Tampa* by the SAS [Special Air Services], used naval warships to try to slam the doors in the faces of working people trying to get to this country by the only means they can now find: by sea, in deathtrap boats.

By its callous refusal to accept the people rescued by the *Tampa* from a similar sinking boat some eight weeks ago, the Australian government declared—in effect—that it would be better for them to have drowned. That is the fate that would have met the *Tampa* refugees if they hadn't been saved by the Norwegian freighter's captain and crew. Already, several boats like the one that sank have been

forced back at gunpoint by the Australian navy. This is a murderous policy that will lead only to more deaths.

But the massive wave of migration around the world today will not stop. Millions are on the move from the Middle East and Central Asia especially, driven from their countries by the devastating economic and political crises of capitalism, sharpened by imperialist intervention and war. Desperately seeking a better life, they are drawn to the handful of wealthy countries whose rulers have plundered the resources and exploited the toil of working people worldwide. Now this refugee crisis is being fueled by the U.S.-led relentless bombardment and ground attacks against Afghanistan, with massive destabilising consequences for the whole region and the world.

While Canberra brutally turns away desperate working people from the shores of one of the richest countries in the world, it is sending troops, warplanes and warships to join in the assault on the peoples of Afghanistan, who live in one of the poorest countries in the world. This criminal course of attacking working people around the world is also aimed at working people at home, as the capitalist rulers try to squeeze more profits from the labor of workers and working farmers, and to push back our political rights won in decades of struggle. That is why the one-day strike by New South Wales nurses, the snap bus drivers strike, and the ongoing battle by Ansett and other airline workers are so important.

That is why I call on the labour movement to vigorously protest Canberra's war on working people from the *Tampa* assault and denial of refugee rights, to the imperialist war on Afghanistan, from the expansion of political police powers, to wider attacks on workers' rights in this country.

First of 1,000 detainees dies

Continued from Page 6

bian," said the couple's attorney, Robert Spergel. The two have filed a civil rights suit against the police.

'USA Patriot Act'

The USA Patriot Act was adopted by a bipartisan vote of 357-66 in the House of Representatives and 98-1 in the Senate. The law builds on the 1996 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, the 1996 Economic Espionage Act, and other measures adopted by the Clinton administration. It also concentrates greater powers in the hands of the attorney general and secretary of state.

The law includes the following provisions:

- Police can sneak into someone's home or office and search the premises without telling the owner—a violation of the Fourth Amendment guarantee against arbitrary search and seizure.

- Cops are granted expanded authority to wiretap phones, personal e-mail, and the Internet, supervised by special courts granting secret authorization. Agents can use roving wiretaps to monitor any phone used by an individual instead of requiring separate authorizations for each phone. Rules barring use of evidence obtained from illegal phone taps do not apply to wrongfully obtained e-mail "evidence."

- The much-touted four-year "expiration date" in the legislation applies to only a tiny part of the 1,016-clause law, mainly the section on phone tapping.

- The measure drops a prohibition on domestic CIA spying and allows prosecutions based on evidence obtained overseas by means that would be illegal under the U.S. Constitution.

- Immigrants detained as "terrorist suspects" can be held indefinitely without charges for an unspecified series of "periods of up to six months" with the attorney general's approval. The attorney general or INS commissioner has the authority to determine who is a "suspect"—under the most tenuous claim of association with "terrorist" organizations—and order their deportation without presenting evidence.

- The definition of a terrorist act is so broad that even throwing a rock through a window could fall into the category, according to Jeanne Butterfield, executive director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. It also includes causing damage to mass transit, as well as computer hacking under the rubric of "cyberterrorism."

- Strong penalties are set for "harboring terrorists" or raising funds for organizations deemed "terrorist" by U.S. authorities. The government could use these to target immigrant rights organizations or opponents of U.S. military intervention abroad.

- The number of Border Patrol agents along the Canadian border will be tripled.

Democrats, not to be outdone by the Republican administration, are also pushing a bill, the "Bioterrorism Protection Act." In the name of fighting "bioterrorist attacks," it would among other things give the FBI access to Amtrak reservations and other private databases, add thousands of new border patrol agents, and beef up "military domestic crisis response teams."

Liberal civil liberties activists have responded to this offensive against workers' rights by calling for "vigilant oversight" of the implementation of these measures, but have largely accepted the U.S. government's prerogative to carry them out. The American Civil Liberties Union has stated it will "work with" the Bush administration to supposedly make sure civil liberties are not "compromised" by the new law.

Targeting 'domestic extremists'

Meanwhile, the U.S. rulers have used their current anthrax scare to gain acceptance for their war against Afghanistan and assault on working people at home. In a front-page article in the October 27 *Washington Post*, FBI and CIA officials attributed the alleged anthrax attacks to "domestic extremists" rather than their previous implication of Osama bin Laden. The paper cited government officials who suggested "a wide range of domestic possibilities, including associates of right-wing hate groups and U.S. residents sympathetic to the causes of Islamic extremists."

A May 10 statement by then-FBI chief Louis Freeh to several congressional committees on the "Threat of Terrorism to the United States" gives an idea of who could be targeted by the political police under this pretext. Freeh pointed to the FBI's July 2000 arrest of 23 people in North Carolina who were accused of "providing material support" to the Lebanese organization Hezbollah. Under the category of "domestic terrorism threat," he said, "Anarchists and extreme socialist groups—many of which, such as Workers' World Party, Reclaim the Streets, and Carnival Against Capitalism—have an international presence and, at times, also represent a potential threat in the United States."

In response to the mass arrests of immigrants, a coalition of immigrant advocacy activists called a picket line in New York November 1 in front of the Varick Street INS detention center in Manhattan. The leaflet for the action said it would "protest denial of rights for those being detained as part of 9-11 federal investigations."

Pathfinder titles explain imperialism and its wars

BY BARBARA BOWMAN

Pathfinder books today are in greater demand because of the explanations they offer about the character of imperialism and its drive toward war. Six titles have been recently reprinted; four were needed to fill remaining classroom orders for the fall semester.

The six are: *Workers' Rights vs. the Secret Police* by Larry Seigle; *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom* by Nelson Blackstock; *My Life: An Attempt at an Autobiography* by Leon Trotsky; *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58* by Ernesto Che Guevara; *Sandinistas Speak: Speeches, Writings, and Interviews with*

attacks against the working class by capitalist governments, from the use of the czar's secret police, the Okhrana, against the Bolsheviks and Russian workers organizations, to the trial and imprisonment of 18 leaders of the Minneapolis Teamsters union and Socialist Workers Party under the Smith "Gag" Act at the opening of World War II.

Rulers' drive to war and secret police

The organization of the modern secret police was part of the rulers' preparation for World War II, writes Seigle. "As the U.S. capitalists got ready for war against their rivals abroad, they also prepared their offensive against the working class and against Blacks and Chicanos at home. Their aims were to silence all opponents of the war drive, to channel all motion toward a labor party back into the two capitalist parties, and to make working people accept the necessity of sacrifice."

Seigle details the lawsuit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the FBI, CIA, and other secret police agencies in 1973. As a result of the impact of the Black and anti-Vietnam War movements in the 1960s and early 1970s, a small communist organization—rooted in a long tradition of defending workers' rights—could take such a bold initiative.

One of the most important points the socialists made during the suit was to connect attacks on the rights of workers at home with imperialist attacks abroad. "You can't have a government that carries out a foreign policy that tramples on human rights and human values, commits unspeakable acts of violence and even genocide, overturns elected governments, subverts democracy—you can't have a government that does all that abroad and doesn't do essentially the same thing at home," Seigle says.

Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom prints some of the files the FBI was forced to make public during the SWP lawsuit. These revelations helped expose the Counterintelligence Program, or "Cointelpro," a decades-long campaign of spying, harassment, and disruption of work-



Council of State Office of Historical Affairs, Cuba
Fidel Castro speaks with peasants in the Sierra Maestra, 1958. Photo appears in Che Guevara's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, a Pathfinder book of the month.

ers, Black, antiwar, and socialist groups.

My Life is the autobiography of Leon Trotsky, a central leader along with V.I. Lenin of the October 1917 Russian revolution and the head of the Soviet Red Army. In reviewing his life, Trotsky recounts the impact of World War I, the first world imperialist slaughter, on the workers movement.

Trotsky was living in exile in Vienna, Austria, on the eve of the war and was able to observe the patriotic fever whipped up by the bourgeois governments with help from the majority of leaders of the major socialist parties across Europe. But he also saw the uncontrollable forces the imperialist warmakers were setting into motion.

"War at first strengthens the state power which, in the chaos engendered by war, appears to be the only firm support—and then undermines it," said Trotsky. "The mobilization and declaration of war have veritably swept off the face of the earth all the national and social contradictions in the country. But this is only a political delay, a sort of political moratorium. The notes have

been extended to a new date, but they will have to be paid." Events bore out Trotsky's analysis. Before World War I ended, the workers and peasants of Russia made a revolution against the czar and then in October 1917, under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party led by V.I. Lenin, against the capitalists and landlords. For the first time in history the toilers seized state political power. Their first act was to take Russia out of the war. In the months to come, revolutionary crises swept across Germany and much of Central Europe, as well.

In *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-1958* Ernesto Che Guevara tells the story of how the war against the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship transformed the men and women of the Rebel Army and the July 26 Movement into a force capable of leading the workers and peasants in a revolutionary struggle for power and mobilizing them to depose not only the hated dictator, but to overthrow capitalist property relations as a whole, and take on the task of building a socialist society.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Leaders of Nicaragua's Revolution; and *Art and Revolution: Writings on Literature, Politics, and Culture* by Leon Trotsky.

The first four have been chosen as Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November and will be available to members of the Pathfinder Readers Club at a 25 percent discount. All six will be available to Pathfinder bookstores at a 60 percent discount.

Workers' Rights vs. the Secret Police will be of special interest to all those opposed to the government's attacks on workers' rights—an offensive that is escalating today under the name of "fighting terrorism."

Seigle traces such attacks on workers' rights to some of the initial forms of working-class resistance more than 150 years ago. "The use of secret police, informers, agents provocateurs, frame-ups, disruption efforts...are not incidental to capitalist rule," Seigle writes. "They are permanent, basic, and essential...and flow from the need of the employing class to defend their rule from the vast majority, the working class."

Seigle reviews many well-known cases of the use of secret police agencies and other

LETTERS

Airline security searches

I have appreciated your recent articles on the airline industry. Delta Air Lines, where I work as a customer service agent, has been requiring gate, ramp, and arrival agents to

do pat down, wand, "dump" searches of passenger baggage, plane searches, and other law-enforcement procedures.

We have no union to protect us from this abuse, and the company has now mandated

everyone to do this work, which has been added on to our regular duties. Most workers don't like doing these procedures, but they are reluctant to challenge them with the company holding layoffs over our heads.

Forcing airline workers who did not sign up for such jobs—which are usually carried out by security firms—to do these functions is part of the employers' drive to speedup, job combinations, and to get us used to enduring and even carrying out "security" police procedures.

We should oppose this as part of the overall war drive.

Linda Joyce
Atlanta, Georgia

Good map!

Bravo on the two-page map spread and history lesson in the center of the October *International Socialist Review*. It reminded me of Leon Trotsky's suggestions for the Soviet press: "The understanding of international newspaper information is impossible without at least the most basic geographical knowledge.... The question of maps in our situation—i.e., in a situation of imperialist encirclement and the growth of the world revolution—is a very important question of general education." (This is from "The Newspaper and Its Readers" in *Problems of Everyday Life*).

Trotsky advocated such maps for all cultural centers and avenues of public discourse, for the preparation of both the masses and the party workers.

The intellectual sycophants to capitalism are regurgitating the ruling-class line on the history of that oppressed region, but I lacked the necessary detail ammunition to counter the pompous claims of non-Marxist "experts"—other than with working general theory. The spread provides an essential accurate ideological base from which to address the various historical strains of the area.

B.N.
Union City, New Jersey

Practical nurses in Iceland

A recent article in the *Militant* about a

strike in Iceland by practical nurses dropped the word "practical" in describing the nurses. In Iceland we have both licensed practical nurses and nurses working at hospitals. The practical nurses are more like nurses assistants, taking care of the patients, feeding them, cleaning their rooms, and so on.

Over the years many people in Iceland didn't know that there is a difference between these two professions, but as the practical nurses have become more visible in the class struggle over the last few years, the difference has become quite clear.

Hildur Magnúsdóttir
Reykjavik, Iceland

No journalist integrity

As a reader of your newsletter for quite some time now, I must say that there is no journalistic integrity in your articles, editorials, and headlines. Your paper is full of hypocritical accusations. While you justly accuse the United States of human rights violations, and constantly use these criticisms in your paper, you ignore and sometimes praise "socialist" countries like China, which has an absolutely horrid record of human rights.

You oppose recent actions taken by the U.S. against the Taliban, yet you ignore the Taliban's complete oppression of women, and the fundamentalist form of government which it forced upon its people, without any kind of election.

All of these go directly against socialist dogma. I hope you will publish this letter, but I doubt you will, as you have become the news media propaganda that you claim to oppose.

Ben Atwood,
Frostburg, Maryland

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.

November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

★ ★ ★ ★ Pathfinder Readers Club SPECIALS

Workers' Rights vs. the Secret Police

LARRY SEIGLE

How, since the inception of the modern revolutionary workers movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups. \$3.00, PRC price: \$2.25

Cointelpro

The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

NELSON BLACKSTOCK

The FBI's spying and disruption against socialists and activists in the Black and antiwar movements. Includes FBI documents. \$15.95, PRC price \$12.00

Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58

ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

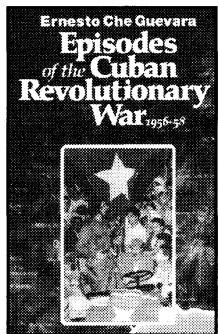
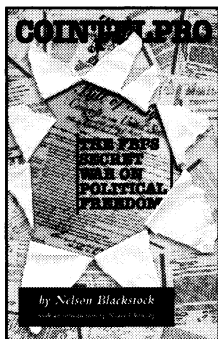
A firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. With clarity and humor, Guevara describes his own political education. He explains how the struggle transformed the men and women of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement led by Fidel Castro. And how these combatants forged a political leadership capable of guiding millions of workers and peasants to open the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$23.95, PRC price \$18.00

My Life

An Attempt at an Autobiography

LEON TROTSKY

Autobiographical account by a leader of the October 1917 Russian revolution, the Soviet Red Army, and the battle initiated by Lenin against the Stalinist bureaucracy. \$26.95, PRC price \$20.00



Available from
bookstores,
including those
listed on page 12

25%
DISCOUNT

'Dismantle UK war machine in Ireland'

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD
AND ANTONIS PARTASSIS

LONDON—Young Irish nationalists took to the streets October 28 to protest the failure of the London government to dismantle its military machine in Northern Ireland. As they targeted the army watchtower at the Classdrumman base near Crossmaglen, the young people led by Sinn Féin's youth organization were attacked by Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) cops in riot gear.

"If the British take their war machine off the top of mountains in south Armagh people would not have to march up and stage these protests," a Sinn Féin spokesperson said.

The weekend protests were held in the light of the response by London to the announcement last week by the Irish Republican Army that it would destroy its weapons. A statement by the IRA said the organization called a complete cessation of military operations in 1994 "in order to create the dynamic for a peace process. 'Decommissioning' was no part of that.... Unfortunately there are those within the British establishment and the leadership of unionism who are fundamentally opposed to change. At every opportunity they have used the issue of arms as an excuse to undermine and frustrate the process." The IRA called their decision an "unprecedented move to save the peace process and to persuade others of our genuine intentions."

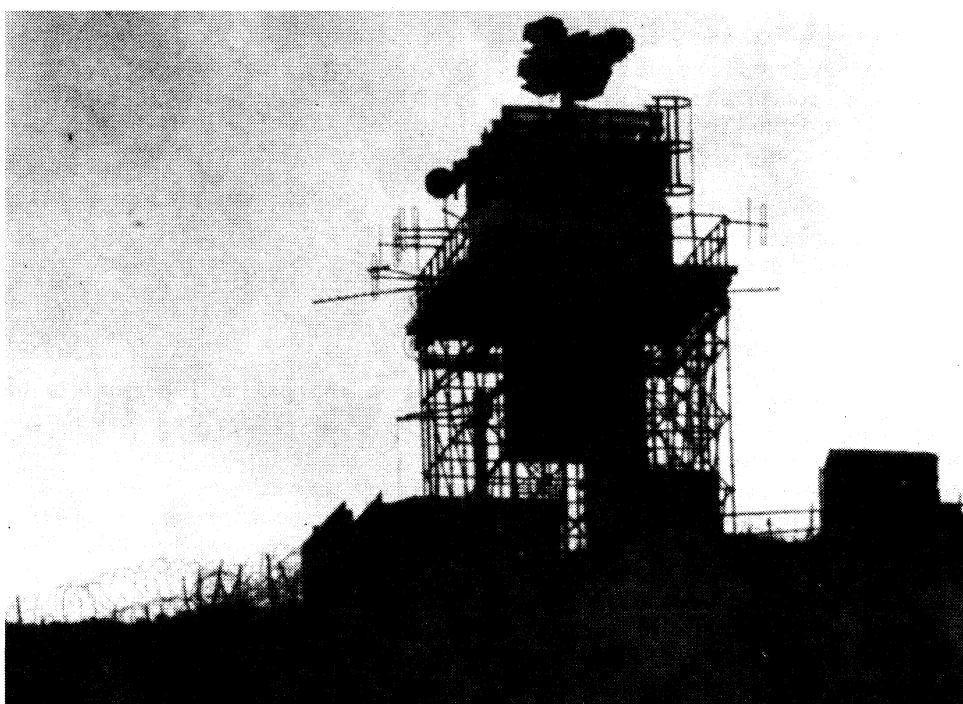
Immediately following the IRA's statement on decommissioning their weapons, John Reid, London's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, said, "I believe you will not find the response from this government, from the Irish Government, the American administration and the whole international community to be grudging or ungenerous."

But Declan Fearon, chairman of the South Armagh Farmers and Residents committee, retorted, "As far as we're concerned, the generous response from Dr. Reid didn't materialize.... They are taking away just two lookout posts of 12 in South Armagh; they are taking away just one sangar [small watch tower] of which there are over 30 in South Armagh, and there are five large army bases down here, none of which are being touched at all."

The watchtowers were built in the mid-1980s. They sit on hilltops 1,500 feet high. With high-tech surveillance equipment, soldiers monitor the local population. To this day, London retains 13,500 army troops in the Six Counties in addition to the thousands of armed RUC cops.

'Rights are not conditional'

Commenting on the IRA decommissioning in an October 22 address at the Conway Mill in Belfast, Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams said that "the British connection is



British Army watchtower on Camlough Mountain in South Armagh. The posts in Northern Ireland are used by British soldiers to spy on and harass the local population.

the source of all our political ills. The British government has inflicted and continues to sustain historic wrongs upon the people of this island" Adams said that Sinn Féin's strategy "is determined by objective realities. It is guided among other things by the fact that the democratic rights and entitlements of nationalists and republicans cannot be conditional. These rights are universal rights. They affect all citizens."

Adams traveled to London October 23 to address a meeting on the 20th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes by republican

prisoners. The Sinn Féin leader told the 500-strong audience that there are "those who still think they have an empire and we're it." He paid tribute to the resistance by the nationalist community. "I'm against iconising people," he said of the hunger strikers. "I want to stress the ordinariness of them. Bobby Sands was an ordinary person who did extraordinary things in extraordinary circumstances."

Adams also pointed to the widespread attacks on Catholics this year in northern Ireland by loyalist paramilitary forces, at

least 300 in all. Loyalists support the division of the country, union with Britain, and a continuation of the second-class status of the Catholic population. The violent assaults, often with guns and bombs, did not stop with the IRA announcement. For example, on October 28, loyalist gangs, led by the Ulster Defence Association, mounted an attack on nationalists in North Belfast. They also threw six blast bombs at police and army lines.

Having welcomed IRA decommissioning as a breakthrough, Anthony Blair's government has responded to these events by placing extra troops on standby.

The street clashes between rightist loyalist gangs and the security forces are an expression of the deepening crisis of Unionism. Ulster Unionist Party leader, David Trimble withdrew his resignation from the Northern Ireland executive following the IRA decommissioning announcement but faces Unionist opposition in his bid to regain his position of first minister.

In a demonstration of the growth of nationalist sentiment in the south of Ireland, thousands lined the streets of Dublin October 14 for the state burial of 10 IRA volunteers executed by the British government during the Irish war for independence 80 years ago. The city was virtually shut down for the state event attended by top government officials.

The Irish prime minister gave the funeral oration and the event was covered live by RTE, the state television network. It was the culmination of years of struggle by the relatives of the volunteers to have their relatives remains removed from Mountjoy jail, where they were put to death by the British colonial regime and buried.

Marchers in Ireland protest hospital cutbacks

BY SEAN O'NEILL

OMAGH, Northern Ireland—On October 22 a crowd of 20,000 people gathered in Omagh, in County Tyrone, to protest government plans to cut back hospital services. Omagh has a population of just over 20,000. Tyrone is the biggest county in the British-occupied North of Ireland. Its population is divided among three Westminster constituencies, all of which returned a Sinn Féin Member of Parliament (MP) at the Westminster elections in June.

Tyrone has a Nationalist majority who feel they are continually being treated as second-class citizens. Tyrone is the largest county in the North of Ireland with an area of 1,220 square miles, but it has less than 20 miles of highway. The county railways were closed down in the 1960s by the North-

ern Ireland parliament, which was controlled by forces supporting continued British rule—thus cutting off one of the main links to Donegal, which lies across the border in the Republic of Ireland.

In recent years the hospital has lost many services, including pediatrics, maternity, and orthopedics units. A further 18 beds were eliminated on July 2. The government recently set up a committee headed by Dr. Maurice Hayes to make recommendations on hospital provisions in the North of Ireland. His report proposes the abolition of the casualty; intensive care; ear, nose, and throat; and renal dialysis units. The withdrawal of these services is equivalent to the withdrawal of the hospital, say local people.

All six local assembly members have declared their support for the campaign to re-

tain hospital services. They signed a declaration saying, "We feel we are being treated as second-class citizens in the matter of health-care provision."

The Hospital Campaign for the Rural West, which is leading the fight to save the services, states that the Hayes report implies, among other things, that people in Tyrone cannot have accidents or emergencies on weekends or after 5:30 p.m. on weekdays. Nor can they have heart attacks outside of office hours. The organization says that Hayes's prescription amounts to, "If symptoms persist, move to another county."

The 20,000-strong crowd included children from all local primary and secondary schools, both Protestant and Catholic, as well as local workers and farmers. The crowd gave a large cheer when Sinn Féin MP Pat O'Doherty was introduced. Many of those present carried placards saying, "Who will stitch us up?" and "One pill we won't swallow."

Speakers at the rally included Doreen Preston, Paddy Montague, and Michael Moore, all of whom are from the community. Preston, who was badly injured in the Aug. 15, 1998, bombing in Omagh, said she believes she would have died if the local hospital did not have an accident and emergency unit. "I want to save the accident and emergency services. I want these available all day, everyday," she said.

Montague, a local worker injured more than a year ago in a fall from scaffolding, said he lost his hearing in the accident but was very grateful for the treatment he had received from the ear, nose, and throat unit—also marked for closure under current plans.

Twenty-four-year-old Moore came from his hospital bed to attend the rally. He has been in the hospital for renal dialysis three days a week for the past six years. Under the Hayes plan he will have to travel 70 miles to Belfast for the treatment. "I need this unit to survive," he said. The director of the renal unit agreed and said that under the Hayes plan "care of acute renal patients will be lost. These are the facts."

Canada oil workers end strike, take concessions

BY ANNETTE KOURI
AND TONY DI FELICE

TORONTO—Members of the Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Union (CEP) Local 593 at Petro-Canada voted to end their six-month strike September 25, and to accept a contract that includes major concessions sought by the company. In early August workers had refused a similar contract offer because it contained rollbacks such as longer working hours, a wage freeze, mandatory overtime, layoffs, and no improvements in the pension plan, the CEP said at the time.

Union members in Toronto faced an uphill battle after the company, whose largest single owner is the Canadian government, successfully carried out a divide-and-conquer strategy. Workers here went on strike demanding a better pension plan and in solidarity with other refinery workers on strike at Petro-Canada plants across the country.

Until this latest round of negotiations all Petro-Canada refinery union members worked under the same contract. But this

year the CEP local in Montreal accepted a "status quo" offer by the company to continue under the provisions of the old contract. Locals in Edmonton, Alberta, and Port Moody, British Columbia, dropped their demand for improved pensions and signed along the lines of the Montreal local a few weeks into the strike. The company then went after workers in the Toronto area, demanding major concessions.

Unionists at Petro-Canada reached out to other workers for solidarity, organized a "Boycott Petro-Canada" campaign complete with flying pickets at gas stations, and won backing from other strikes in the area, such as those at Christie Bakery, Coca-Cola, and Jacuzzi.

Back on the job, workers told the *Militant* that the company is seeking to undermine seniority rights and health and safety conditions by asserting it has the right to move workers at will to different jobs. To weaken plant-floor solidarity the bosses in some facilities make workers eat lunch at different times. Union bulletin boards have

been taken down and the company has banned all clothing bearing the CEP insignia. Concessions have been imposed department-by-department, maximizing divisions in the workforce. The company froze wages in some departments, but gave increases to workers in others. One worker said the workweek in his department went up to at least 42 hours from 37.5 before the strike.

Union member Dave Watson said through his experience he would warn workers going into a strike to "be prepared financially. But not just financially, but in your heart. They always have more in their pockets than we do."

After voting on the new contract September 25, Don Gilmore, a maintenance worker, said looking back on the strike: "We did what we thought was right. That's all you can do."

Annette Kouri and Tony Di Felice are meat packers and members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Toronto.