

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

‘Cuban Revolution is source of inspiration’ —Mandela, 1991
—PAGE 8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 74/NO. 28 JULY 26, 2010

‘Stimulus’ has little impact for workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The “stimulus” programs implemented by the Barack Obama administration have had little impact on declining work and living conditions millions of working people face.

Congress approved the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February 2009, authorizing \$787 billion for grants and loans to businesses, small tax breaks, funds to state governments, and extending unemployment benefits to workers who exhausted the 26 weeks of state payments.

While local governments may have slowed the pace of some cutbacks, hundreds of thousands of state and city workers have been forced to take pay cuts, shortened workweeks, and layoffs.

“California is tightening faster than Greece,” reported the *Telegraph* a major British newspaper. “State workers have seen a 14 percent fall in earnings

Continued on page 9

U.S. gov’t tries to blunt protests of Arizona law

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. Justice Department went to court July 6 to overturn Arizona’s widely criticized new anti-immigrant law. “Arizonans are understandably frustrated with illegal immigration,” asserted Attorney General Eric Holder. “Diverting federal resources away from dangerous aliens such as terrorism suspects and aliens with criminal records will impact the entire country’s safety.”

Thousands of workers and young people in Arizona demonstrated against the law even before it was passed. The law gives a green light to police to question the immigration status of anyone they stop for any reason, if cops suspect they don’t have proper documents.

Outrage over passage of the bill fueled large participation in this year’s May 1 immigrant rights demonstrations across the United States. Many carried signs saying, “Driving while

Continued on page 9

Socialist campaign in N.Y. defends workers’ interests

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK—“The economic crisis is deepening, as is the war in Afghanistan, with no end in sight,” said Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York governor. “We see how the capitalist class is taking their crisis out on the backs of working people.”

“When we put forward demands to

protect working people in the face of high unemployment, speedup on the job, and cuts in social services, when we raise the need to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class, which is responsible for the devastation facing workers and farmers, we get a good response,” he noted.

Fein was speaking to participants

Continued on page 6



Militant/Dan Fein

Campaigning for Socialist Workers Party candidates in New York City, July 11. Volunteers are collecting signatures to put Róger Calero, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, on ballot.

General: Expect more Afghan war casualties

June saw highest civilian deaths of year



ISAF/Staff Sgt. Bradley Lail

Gen. David Petraeus, second from right, at checkpoint in Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 9, days after replacing Gen. Stanley McChrystal as commander of U.S.-led forces in country.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Since taking charge of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan July 4, Gen. David Petraeus has worked to restore confidence in the imperialist war there, while pursuing the same course that Gen. Stanley McChrystal had followed. McChrystal was forced to resign after publication of a *Rolling Stone* interview in which he ridiculed figures in the administration of Barack Obama.

June saw the highest number of NATO fatalities since the war began

in 2001—103 dead, 60 of them U.S. soldiers. The combined total of U.S. troop deaths in May and June came to 8 percent of all U.S. fatalities since 2001.

The number of Afghan civilians dying in the war in June—212—is the highest of the year, according to a report recently released by the Afghanistan Rights Monitor (ARM). “2010 has been the worst year since the demise of the Taliban regime in late 2001” in terms of violence

Continued on page 9

Miami meeting hears protests over killing of Black man by cop

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

MIAMI—The day after Decarlos Moore was shot and killed by the police, more than 175 people gathered July 6 at St. John Baptist Church in the Overtown section here—three blocks from where the killing occurred—for a community meeting.

Moore, a 36-year-old African American, was shot in the head and killed by Miami cop Joseph Marin. Moore was unarmed and had come out of his car after being pulled over by the police. The cops claim a computer check of the car Moore was driving came up as a “possible stolen car.” They didn’t complete a full check before stopping him. It turned out the car was not stolen. Officer Marin is on administrative leave, receiving full pay.

At the meeting several family members and residents of Overtown expressed their outrage and demanded

answers from the police and city authorities. One person noted that while the police were telling everyone not to rush to judgment against the cops, they were vilifying Moore by releasing

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

NOW meeting discusses elections, abortion rights	2
Israel boycott provides cover for anti-Semitism	3
Letter from Cuban Five prisoner on World Cup	4
Nickel miners in Canada end strike, ratify contract	5

NOW meeting discusses elections, abortion rights

BY JANET POST

BOSTON—Some 300 women’s rights supporters attended plenaries and workshops at the 2010 National Organization for Women (NOW) conference held here July 2–4.

Many of the activities at the gathering focused on electing women to political office through support of the Democratic Party, with feminist politicians being featured at several plenary sessions. The theme of the conference was “Loving Our Bodies, Changing the World.” Several workshops focused on themes of how women and women’s bodies are portrayed in advertising.

There were several programs, however, that touched on fights for abortion rights and addressed the impact on women of the severe economic and social crisis in the United States. One

plenary, entitled “Expand Abortion Access: Envisioning Reproductive Justice for All,” was a highlight of the conference.

Conference attendees gave a standing ovation to Dr. LeRoy Carhart, a featured speaker and medical director at the Abortion & Contraception Clinic of Nebraska. Carhart had worked with Dr. George Tiller in Kansas before Tiller was killed by an antiabortion rightist in 2009 and is now one of the very few doctors in the country who perform late-term abortions.

Carhart spoke of the struggle to defend abortion rights: “We have put up a fantastic effort but it is a defensive effort that can only end in a tie. It’s time for us to change our response.” He called for a campaign to repeal the Hyde Amendment.

Terry O’Neill, president of NOW, and Stephanie Poggi, executive director of the National Network of Abortion Funds, addressed how the Hyde Amendment—a 1976 federal law that denies Medicaid funding for women seeking an abortion—has been expanded. They explained how the Affordable Health Care for America Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in March, extends the restriction on using government



Ken Bean

Dr. LeRoy Carhart, one of few doctors who still perform late-term abortions, addresses NOW conference July 3. He pointed out abortion rights forces are on the defensive.

funds for abortions, excluding millions more women.

“Congress and Obama joined forces to further cement this terrible measure,” said Poggi. Under so-called health-care reform, women who will be eligible for government health-care subsidies will not be able to use their insurance to cover an abortion procedure.

At another plenary, entitled “Lifting Every Voice: Women of Color and Empowerment,” Irasema Garza, president of Legal Momentum, called on NOW to advocate immigration rights, pointing to the daily discrimination faced by women who are immigrants, and the harassment they face as “local police team up with the Department of Homeland Security.” Garza said, “The immigration issue may seem controversial to some, but so was the abortion question.”

How to defend women’s rights

Several panelists at a workshop called “Politics 2010: Tea Parties, Racism and Anti-Abortion Rights ‘Feminists,’” focused on the prospects of various Democratic Party politicians in the 2010 elections. In the discussion, David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Iowa, talked about a working-class approach to defending women’s rights.

“Abortion rights and other gains for women were won in struggle,” Rosenfeld said. “They can only be effectively defended in struggle.”

“If the strategy for defending these gains is mired in supporting this or that Democrat, we will continue to lose ground,” he continued. “The ruling rich and their political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, are stepping up their attacks on the living standards and political rights of the working class. That is why building a working-class movement independent of the Democrats and Republicans is so essential.”

Panelists at a workshop entitled, “Not Just a Pretty Face: The Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry,” criticized the billion-dollar cosmetics industry for using carcinogenic and other harmful substances. In the discussion, Jenny Broz, from the Socialist Workers Party, encouraged participants to pick up a copy of *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* published by Pathfinder Press. One of the panelists said that she had already purchased the book and looked forward to reading it.

In the final plenary, which considers and votes on resolutions, a back-and-forth discussion broke out over the wording of a resolution condemning the use of Tasers by the police. Some delegates wanted to condemn all Taser use while others proposed condemning “inappropriate Taser use, especially of women who are pregnant, children and the disabled.”

A few delegates expressed concern that NOW might be seen as “anti-cop” if it passed the stronger wording. The discussion came after a plenary addressed by Andrea Cabral, the sheriff of Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

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THE MILITANT

Fight against police brutality

The trial of ex-transit cop Johannes Mehserle, who shot and killed Oscar Grant, is a reminder of the anti-working-class character of the police. Keep up with the fight against police brutality in the United States and around the world in the pages of the ‘Militant.’



Militant/Naomi Craine

Cephus Johnson speaks to press at trial of cop who killed his nephew Oscar Grant.

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The Militant

Vol. 74/No. 28

Closing news date: July 14, 2010

Editor: Paul Mailhot

Managing Editor: Martín Koppel

Business Manager: Angel Lariscy

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Cindy Jaquith, Angel Lariscy, Omari Musa, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams

Published weekly except for one week in January and one week in July.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Israel boycott provides cover for anti-Semitism

BY PAMELA HOLMES

EDINBURGH, Scotland—A number of groups in the United Kingdom supporting the rights of Palestinians are increasingly targeting everything Israeli here. One recent example is the classical music concert by the world renowned Jerusalem String Quartet held March 29 at Wigmore Hall in London. Disruption of the event caused the BBC to halt its live radio broadcast.

Members of the Brighton & Hove Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) and of Jews for Boycotting Israeli Goods continually shouted protests inside the concert hall. One disrupter sang her protest: “Jerusalem is occupied; settlers destroy her peace; we’ll sing out until apartheid and ethnic cleansing cease.” The song was sung to the tune of “The Holy City,” described in their material as “a well-known Christian anthem.” No arrests were made but each demonstrator was escorted out of the hall.

The quartet members are all Jewish Israeli citizens. Two of them are regular members of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra composed of musicians who are Arab, Jewish, and of other nationalities from throughout the Middle East. The protesters made a point that all members of the quartet carried out their compulsory service in the Israeli military.

Members of the Scottish PSC disrupted a performance of the Quartet during the Edinburgh International festival in 2008 shouting, “These men are Israeli army musicians!”

The campaign against companies, institutions, and individuals with any (often remote) connections to Israel also gets the backing of the government, capitalist politicians, and trade union officials.

In December 2009 the UK government issued guidelines urging stores to print labels differentiating between “Israeli settlement produce” and “Pal-



Inset: Keith Saunders

Rally in London calls for boycott of Marks & Spencer, historically known as a Jewish-owned company. Inset, Jerusalem String Quartet, whose concerts have been targeted in boycott Israel campaigns.



estinian produce.”

According to the *Jewish Chronicle*, the Israeli government has accused Britain of encouraging a boycott of goods from West Bank settlements. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said

that it opposed a boycott of Israel, but added that consumers should be able to “choose for themselves what they buy. We have been very clear both in public and in private that settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace.”

Other support for partial sanctions against Israel comes from the Trade Union Congress (TUC) in the UK, which voted last year for “targeted action—aimed at goods from the illegal settlements and at companies involved in the occupation and the wall.” The TUC’s call for sanctions asks workers to back the campaign of the British government to consolidate the division of Palestine, along the lines of a “two-state solution.”

As many as 2,000 people turned out for a June 5 protest called by the Scottish PSC following the Israeli government’s military assault on the aid convoy to Gaza that killed nine people. As the demonstrators reached the Marks & Spencer department store the lead contingent turned to the store to concentrate their fire against the company. Marks and Spencer is historically known as a Jewish owned and run company. It stocks Israeli goods and has been a prominent target of boycotters. The march stopped while this took place.

Members of the Communist League participating in the march to defend the rights of Palestinians got a hearing when they opposed the split-off action. They explained how the character of the anti-Israel boycott campaign is cover for modern day Jew-hatred. Members of the CL explained the call for a boycott of Israeli products and Israeli political, cultural, and sporting figures is not a road toward winning self-determination for the Palestinians, but a dangerous concession to anti-Semitism.

The fight for a democratic, secular Palestine

The following is an excerpt from a piece that appeared in the Sept. 11, 2006 issue of the *Militant* under the title “For a Democratic, Secular Palestine: International Capitalism in Crisis—a Death Trap for the Jews.” It is based on a report by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, that was approved by the party’s national committee in January 2006. It was adopted as part of a larger a platform by the SWP national convention in June of that year.

The *Militant* is running this excerpt as a contribution to the discussion of what road forward for the Palestinian people and their supporters in the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine. It helps shed light on the type of leadership that will be needed, including inside Israel itself, to build a revolutionary international movement that can unite Jewish and Arab workers and farmers and join the worldwide fight against exploitation and oppression.

BY JACK BARNES

The prospect of a “Greater Israel,” stretching from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, has ended for a decisive majority of the ruling class there. The United States, not Israel, has turned out to be the “promised land” for the Jews. This is reflected even in gross statistics. Of the world’s 13 to 14 million Jews, 6.2 million make their home in the United States, while 5.3 million live in Israel. As of a few months ago, the number of Israelis leaving the country since 2003 outpaced immigration by some 70,000 people.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian population in the territories under Tel Aviv’s control has grown to 5 million. That’s

just shy of a majority. . . .

Of course, the imperialist United States will not be “the promised land” for Jews forever. The next great social crisis will settle that for those who live on hope rather than proletarian politics. But for several generations it has and continues to seem that way. The big majority of Jews who emigrated from Europe to the United States in the last half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th became workers in this country, many of them considering themselves socialists or communists of some variety. But the class composition of the Jewish population has changed dramatically over the past half century, with a majority of the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of these immigrants moving into better-off layers of “rent” collectors among the middle classes and professionals.¹

According to a study last year by the American Jewish Committee, the per capita income of Jews in the United States today is almost twice that of the rest of the population on average, while 61 percent of Jews had at least a four-year college degree versus 22 percent of the overall population. . . .

So long as the imperialist system prevails, however, neither the United States nor anywhere else will be a “promised land” for the Jews for a long period in history. For Jews in this country, the consequences of the long hot winter world capitalism has entered will bring more—and much worse—than the mounting economic instability and insecurity that will hit widening layers of the middle classes. It will bring in its wake a new rise of fascist organizations that will target not just the labor

movement, Blacks, women, and others among the oppressed and exploited, but will also lace their radical anticapitalist demagoguery and conspiracy mania with Jew-hating filth and carry out physical assaults on Jews.

The U.S. bourgeoisie and their petty-bourgeois spokespersons—including many who are Jewish—promote comfortable assurances that “it can’t happen here.” But such delusions offer no greater protection to Jews in the imperialist United States (or Europe) than it did to those convinced in the 1920s and 1930s that they had fully “assimilated” into capitalist society in enlightened Germany. . . .

[T]he stakes continue to mount for the Palestinian people in forging a leadership adequate to the tasks before them, which remains the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine. The bourgeoisification and political retreat of the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, described in “The Opening Guns of World War III” some 15 years ago,² has proceeded apace. The PLO long ago exhausted its capacity to lead forward the Palestinian toilers in fighting for national liberation.

The bourgeois-nationalist opposition, Hamas, with its origins in the Muslim Brotherhood, neither has any alternative program or strategy to advance the struggle, nor offers more space to the proletariat to organize and act in the interests of the toiling majority of the Palestinian people.

A road forward

A road forward out of this political morass can only—and will—come out of the response of new generations of working people and youth as the struggle continues on many fronts: fights for land; for water rights; for freedom of movement, freedom to travel; for jobs, decent wages, and union protection; for the release of political prisoners; for

Continued on page 6

1. The high incomes of those in better-off middle class and professional layers are accounted for by the fact that on top of any payment they may receive for the sale of their labor power (comparable to workers’ wages), their relatively privileged position in bourgeois society allows them to skim off a portion of the surplus value extracted by the capitalist class from the exploitation of workers. These excess sources of income, substantial for the individuals concerned, are called “rents.”
2. For more on the political evolution of the PLO see “Washington’s Assault on Iraq: The Opening Guns of World War III,” by Jack Barnes, in *New International* no. 7 (1991), pp. 105–109 (sixth printing, 2006).

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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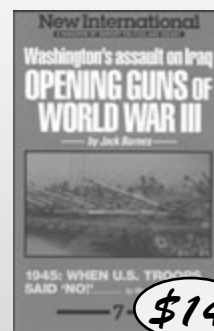
The Cuban Revolution in World Politics Today. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 23, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

For further reading:

New International no. 7

Washington’s Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III

by Jack Barnes



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Letter from Cuban Five prisoner on World Cup

The following is a letter to supporters from Antonio Guerrero, a Cuban revolutionary unjustly imprisoned in Florence, Colorado. Along with Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, René González, and Fernando González, he was framed up by the U.S. government in 1998 and convicted in 2001. The Cuban Five, as they are known, had been gathering information on right-wing groups in Florida with a history of armed attacks against Cuba encouraged by Washington. They all received stiff sentences after being found guilty in a Miami trial marked by numerous violations of their Constitutional rights.

From Florence
Dear Friends:

Spain won, and it won convincingly, in the face of a Germany that bet on errors and its tall and strong players. But they could not control or surprise the red fury. A goal by Puyol, who had flubbed an easier one that was also a head shot, was enough to make history and to put two teams into the final, Holland and Spain, that had never won a Cup.

When they speak about the “European final” or of European domination in getting teams to the semifinals and finals of this event, I have no choice but to reiterate that the best of world soccer is concentrated there and that what takes place there is, as Eduardo Galeano has well-titled his book chapter: “The best business on the planet.”

“In the southern part of the globe, this is the itinerary of the player with good legs and good luck: from his town he moves to a provincial city; from the provincial city he moves to a small club in the country’s capital; in the capital, the small club has no choice but to sell him to a big club; the big club, choking on its debts sells him to a bigger club in a bigger country; and finally the player crowns his career in Europe.” [From Galeano’s

book *El fútbol a sol y sombra*]

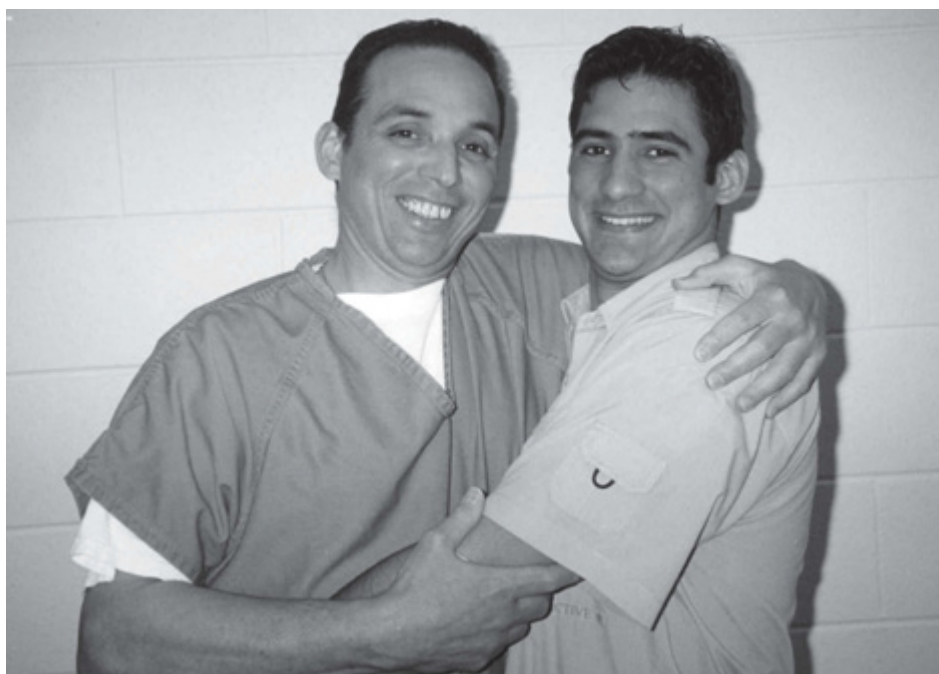
Just think about how many “nationalized” players are on the roster of countries that are at the first level, for example this young German team that has 11 players born in other countries.

A lot can be said about this topic. Let’s continue enjoying the World Cup this weekend, in its closing days.

I try to imagine how the *Yara* [a large movie theater in Havana where the World Cup was shown] was this afternoon, details from my Cuba.

Five hugs. We will overcome.

Tony
July 7, 2010



Antonio Guerrero, left, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries unjustly imprisoned in United States since 1998, with his son Tony during a prison visit.

Cuban government releases 17 arrested in 2003

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Seventeen Cubans jailed in 2003 for taking U.S. government money to organize counterrevolutionary activities on the island have been released. Eighteen other prisoners in Cuba have been transferred to jails closer to their families. Within four months the Cuban government will release all remaining prisoners convicted in 2003 of illegally collaborating with the U.S. government.

The moves were the result of an agreement between the Cuban government, the Spanish government, and the Catholic Church of Cuba. Cuban newspapers printed an announcement by the Havana archdiocese of the releases and transfers July 7.

The prisoners have been falsely described as “dissidents” in the capitalist media, but they were not imprisoned because of their political views. They were part of a group of 75 Cubans arrested in 2003 and convicted of working directly with U.S. diplomatic personnel in Havana against the Cuban Revolution, including taking U.S. funds. Some of the 75 were released earlier.

Aiding a hostile state power is a crime punishable by death in the United States. Any U.S. citizen who “adheres to” or gives “aid and comfort . . . within the United States or elsewhere” to a country Washington considers an enemy “is guilty of treason and shall suffer death, or shall be imprisoned not less than five years,” according to the U.S. penal code.

The year 2003 was a time of intense provocations against Cuba by Washington. James Cason became the head of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba that year and publicly offered millions of dollars to Cubans posing as “independent journalists,” “independent librarians,” “independent doctors,” and “independent trade unionists.”

Washington’s policy of limiting the number of U.S. visas for Cubans to come to the United States, while at the same time granting residency to any Cuban who reaches U.S. shores, including by criminal means, had led to an accelerating rate of dangerous airplane and boat hijackings.

Eleven of the prisoners just released flew with their families to Spain July 13. The Cuban government gave them the choice of staying in Cuba, according to Cardinal Jaime Ortega, who participated in the talks that led to the agreement. Spanish foreign minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, who also took part in

the talks, told the *Miami Herald* that the former prisoners could return to the island after receiving a permit; their relatives who went to Spain with them may return at any time.

On July 8 Guillermo Fariñas, another so-called dissident in Cuba, ended a hunger strike he had begun in February to demand release of “political prisoners.” Originally jailed for violent assaults on other Cubans, Fariñas was a correspondent for Radio Martí, the station sponsored by Washington that beams messages against the revolution to Cuba.

He refused food and water, but agreed to intravenous feeding. In an interview in the July 3 *Granma*, Dr. Armando Caballero, head of intensive care at the hospital in Santa Clara where Fariñas was treated, described the extraordinary effort being made to keep him alive. Ten specialists treated him. The nutrients fed him had to be purchased in Europe at great cost.

In any advanced capitalist country, the doctor pointed out, a patient would be charged at least \$1,300 per day just for the hospital room, not counting medications, exams, and lab tests. Fariñas paid nothing.

The treatment of Fariñas is a far cry from that of five Cuban revolutionaries who have been imprisoned in the United States on frame-up charges for 11 years. Known as the Cuban Five, Gerardo Hernández, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, and Fernando González were arrested for monitoring the activities of right-wing Cuban groups in Florida who have launched armed attacks on Cuba with Washington’s backing.

All five were kept in solitary confinement for 17 months before their trial. Three were initially sentenced to life in prison. Hernández and René González have been denied the right to visits from their wives since they were convicted.

Miami cops kill Black man

Continued from front page
ing information to the press about his arrest record.

Dozens denounced the police killing, despite the fact that city authorities and the cops organized to intimidate anyone speaking out. In the back of the room facing those who got up to speak was a phalanx of about a dozen uniformed cops standing shoulder to shoulder.

The meeting was chaired by Miami City Commissioner Richard Dunn, who urged residents to “let the process work” and wait for the police to investigate themselves. The cops and city officials tried to put the onus for violence on the Black community by urging people not to “riot.”

Arguing that the cops should be trusted to investigate themselves, Police Chief Miguel Exposito said that he had been part of the 1997 prosecution of the one cop in Miami history who has ever been found guilty of planting a gun on a victim. Some audience members scoffed at the notion that only one cop in Miami has ever planted a gun.

Jovan Lamb, whose brother Kiana Lamb was killed by the cops in 2009, attended the meeting. “In Miami young Black men are considered a target,” he told the *Militant*. “The cops responsible should be prosecuted for this case.”

Ernest Mailhot, the Socialist Work-

ers Party candidate for Miami City Commissioner in District 5, took the floor at the meeting. He pointed to the courage of the family in face of the brutal killing of Moore, and received applause from the crowd. Dunn then told him that he couldn’t continue speaking because he was a candidate.

After the meeting many asked Mailhot what he had planned to say. “Every candidate should be asked to take a stand against the police killing of Moore,” he replied. “Moore’s death was not an accident but an inevitable result of the role of the police, which is to punish working people and protect the propertied interests of the ruling rich.”

Mailhot explained that the Socialist Workers campaign calls for the prosecution and jailing of Marin. Police brutality will only be eliminated when working people take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class, he said.

Deborah Liatos is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

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ON THE PICKET LINE

Minnesota nurses approve new contract

MINNEAPOLIS—Members of the Minnesota Nurses Association overwhelmingly approved a three-year contract July 6 by a margin of 90 percent.

The nurses fell short in their demands around patient staffing levels. The contract does not include any language that enforces a better nurse to patient ratio.

Leading up to the strike deadline, many nurses in the 12,000-member union were preparing to walk off the job. Talks with representatives from the 14 hospitals had broken down. It was at this point that mediators from the federal government intervened and a proposed settlement was reached.

The nurses were successful in pushing back proposed cuts in health and pension benefits and won a small increase in wages.

The nurses' contract fight was widely supported by working people in the Twin Cities. Union placards in solidarity with the nurses were seen on many yards throughout the area. The nurses also organized mass picketing involving thousands of nurses and waged a one-day strike June 10.

A similar contract fight around staffing levels is brewing at hospitals in Duluth, Minnesota. Nurses from the Twin Cities are planning to join

their informational pickets there this week.

—Frank Forrestal

Pakistani ship breakers strike over work conditions

Some 15,000 members of the Ship Breaking Democratic Workers Union in Gadani, Pakistan, went on strike July 5 to demand increased wages, safety equipment, and better working conditions. The workers are also protesting that the government excludes them from social security and old-age benefits.

The ship-breaking operation at Gadani reached record levels in the current fiscal year with 107 ships producing 852,022 tons of scrap. Each ship requires 200 to 250 workers three months to dismantle.

More than 17 workers died on the job in the past year. In addition to basic safety equipment such as shoes, gloves, goggles, and belts, workers are demanding clean drinking water, medical facilities, and adequate housing.

Workers at the Gadani ship-breaking facility staged a three-day strike in mid-June, standing up to harassment and physical attacks from the police and the Anti-Terrorist Task Force. The ship-breaking bosses refused to negotiate with the union, which then called the July 5 open-ended strike.

—Angel Lariscy



Militant/Felicity Coggan

National Distribution Union members on strike in Auckland, New Zealand, July 8.

New Zealand paper workers win pay increase

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—After two weeks on strike, 25 members of the National Distribution Union at the Paper Reclaim recycling plant won their demand July 9 for a wage increase of \$1 per hour. On the pick-

et line the day before, Sinapati So-lia said, "We work with rubbish and where there are many rats. I once found a dead rat inside our drinking water cooler. Some of the workers have been here over 25 years but they still make only \$16 an hour [US\$11]."

—Felicity Coggan and Janet Roth

Nickel miners in Canada end year-long strike, ratify contract

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—The almost year-long strike by 3,000 nickel miners and smelter and refinery workers against Vale in Sudbury, Ontario, ended July 8 when 75 percent of the workers voted to accept the five-year agreement proposed by bargaining committee of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 6500. Some 84 percent of union members cast a ballot.

About 125 members of USW Local 6200 at Vale's facility in Port Colborne, Ontario, who work under the same contract, approved the agreement by a 74 percent vote. This leaves 120 strikers at Vale's Voisey Bay Mine in Newfoundland still on the picket line.

The workers were fighting against company concession demands. During the strike the unionists faced efforts by the bosses to resume full production with scab labor. While there were a number of modifications to the company's take-back demands, the new contract is in many ways similar to the proposed contract that the workers initially rejected.

New hires will have a defined-contribution pension plan instead of the defined-benefit plan current employees now have. This is less expensive for the company and shifts investment risks to the workers. The defined-benefit plan for current employees was improved.

The bonus workers receive based on the price of nickel has been adjusted, reducing their income.

Wages will increase by 90 cents an hour over the five-year contract. With cost-of-living increases in each of these years rolled into the base rate, the total wage increase over the life of the contract will be between \$2.25 and \$2.50 an hour. The deal includes cutting 113 jobs.

All lawsuits on both sides that have been filed since the beginning of the

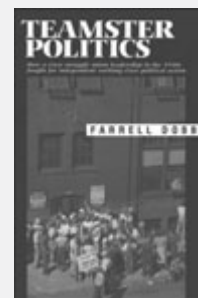
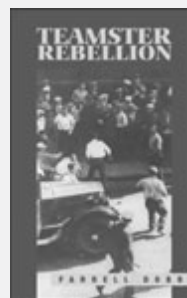
strike have been dropped.

The cases of nine union members fired during the strike for alleged violations of Vale's "code of conduct" were referred to the Ontario Labour Relations Board. Hearings on the firings began July 9.

The workers are being called back over a period of up to six weeks. Vale says that it will keep personnel from the strike-breaking security service it hired "for a while."

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 26, 1985

The Reagan administration has launched a new, direct challenge to women's constitutional right to abortion.

In a brief filed July 15 urging the Supreme Court to uphold state laws restricting access to abortion in Pennsylvania and Illinois, the Justice Department calls on the court to overturn the historic 1973 decision in *Roe vs. Wade* that legalized abortion.

That Supreme Court ruling registered the most important gain for women's rights in decades. It recognized abortion as the constitutional right of a woman, legalized abortion through the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, and struck down all laws that restricted that right.

The right to control our own bodies is the most fundamental right of women. Precisely because of the stakes involved, the right to abortion has been the target of bipartisan attack since the day it was won.



July 25–August 1, 1960

Unemployment rose by about 1,000,000 in June, according to government reports. The total jobless figure is near 4,500,000.

This June's rise in unemployment is greater than usual. Exceptionally large number of students have flooded the labor market. The inability of students and school graduates to find jobs is itself a symptom of slackening in the economy.

Unemployment is especially bad in the steel industry. According to *Steel Labor*, jobs are near the lowest level in the last 20 years.

U.S. Steel profits reached near-record heights. The steel trust showed net profits of \$112.6 million for the first quarter of 1960, an annual rate of \$450 million. This would top the prior record of \$419 million profit in 1951.

"It is increasingly evident," observed United Steel Workers president McDonald, "that even at a fifty percent operating rate, the industry can realize highly satisfactory profits."



July 27, 1935

Though a surprise to the outside world the declaration of the general strike was no surprise at all to the workers of Terre Haute [Indiana]. For seventeen long weeks a battle had been in progress between the Enameling and Stamping Plant and its employees. Their strike had gained the support and admiration of the workers in all crafts and unions. And where three days ago fifty-eight armed guards marched a crew of scabs into the plant, the labor movement rose to action.

A conference of unions took place and the workers left their jobs to a man. The town was tied up tight as a drum. From gasoline station attendants to retail clerks no one worked. Even the printing crafts, which with the abominable attitude that characterizes the so-called "aristocracy of labor" refused to join the swelling ranks, could not print the labor-hating newspapers because the teamsters would not deliver paper for the rags.

Socialist candidate: Cops serve capitalists' interests

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO—James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California, was the featured speaker at the Militant Labor Forum here July 10. The program followed the recent verdict in Los Angeles against Johannes Mehserle, the Bay Area transit cop who killed 22-year-old Oscar Grant on a subway platform Jan. 1, 2009. Mehserle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the killing of the young Black worker and is awaiting sentencing.

“Workers are living through the initial stages of a depression the likes of which we have never seen. Cutbacks are mounting. In California the wages of state workers are being chopped, teachers laid off, library hours reduced, bus and train fares are rising, and more and more workers face speedup and unsafe conditions on the job. We see the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continuing, as well as the environmental destruction in the Gulf.

“As working-class struggles intensify against these assaults, and they will, the cops will be mobilized

against us, as they always have in the past. That makes the significance of the fight to convict the cop who killed Oscar Grant so important,” Harris said. “The protests of working people were responsible for Mehserle being brought to trial and convicted.”

Harris explained that the police are used to protect the wealth and interests of the ruling class. They are used to intimidate workers, to teach obedience and strike fear, to discourage workers from fighting for their rights.

That is why, he said, despite the many killings carried out by police every year, it is rare for a cop to ever be charged, much less be convicted and go to prison. Government prosecutors pressure families of those abused or killed by cops to be quiet or take money compensation to stop any fight for justice. “The rulers do not want cops to serve jail time,” Harris said. “They do not want to tie their hands.”

Harris pointed to the example set by Oscar Grant’s family in standing up to the pressure to not pursue the



Militant/Eric Simpson

James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California, spoke at July 10 forum about significance of fight to convict cop who killed Oscar Grant.

case against Mehserle. “Any class-conscious worker who saw how the family members conducted themselves at the trial, with strength and dignity, could stand a little taller today because of it.”

“The Socialist Workers campaign will reach out broadly to explain the stakes for working people in the fight against police brutality,” Harris said. “And we will explain that to stand up to what is being inflicted on working

people we need fighting unions and a revolution in this country to take the power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers who are responsible for the disastrous conditions millions of workers face today.”

1,000 protest in Oakland after Grant trial

BY CAROLE LESNICK

OAKLAND—Chanting “Justice for Oscar!” some 1,000 people demonstrated near City Hall here July 8, voicing their protest that Bay Area Transit cop Johannes Mehserle was not convicted on stiffer charges for the killing of Oscar Grant. The Los Angeles jury, where the trial was held, found Mehserle guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

“It’s important for people to be out here,” Kevin Watson, 36, told the *Militant*. “Police brutality is a reality and I don’t like the role of police in this society. They would have been more careful that night if it wasn’t a young Black man.”

“The cops are doing what they want and it’s not fair,” Jasmine Lasukau, 20, said at the protest. “The whole system is guilty.”

More than 40 people spoke at the rally, including many young people who expressed outrage at frequent police harassment directed against Black youth in Oakland. Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of California, was one of the speakers.

Socialist Workers campaign in New York

Continued from front page

in the Militant Labor Forum here July 10. Many of those at the meeting had spent a good part of the day collecting signatures to get Róger Calero, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 15th District, on the ballot for the November election. Twenty-two volunteers had hit the streets that day, including some who were petitioning for the first time.

The socialist campaigners plan to collect 7,000 signatures by July 18, double the legal requirement, from residents of the 15th District, which includes Harlem and much of Upper Manhattan, to get Calero on the ballot. The SWP is also running Willie Cotton and Sarah Ruth Robinett for the two U.S. Senate seats. They and Fein are running as write-in candidates.

Fein reported that some 1,600 people signed the petitions in the first two days. A Black worker in Harlem who signed said, “If your candidates are for real, you’ll get a tremendous reception in this neighborhood.” Volunteers had no problem meeting the goal of 15 signatures an hour while also introducing those most interested in the campaign to the *Militant* and the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes.

“The so-called economic recovery in the United States is losing steam,” Calero told the meeting. “The fiscal crisis in Greece and the assault on the standard of living of workers there is threatening to spread.”

“In the United States there are five unemployed workers for every available job,” he added. “Pouring more and more money into the banks, cash for clunkers, and mortgage modification programs will not resolve the problem. They will mostly just put working people deeper into debt.

“That’s why we need to put forward demands that can unify the working class,” Calero explained, “such as cutting the workweek with no cut in pay and unemployment benefits for as long as a worker is jobless.”

The Democrats and Republicans put forward the opposite perspective, Calero said. He noted that the governor of California is trying to impose the minimum wage on government workers until he gets the budget he wants passed.

“There are no guarantees for workers under the dictatorship of capital,” the Socialist Workers candidate said. “All the proposals by the Democrats and Republicans are aimed at defending their economic system, running their system better.”

Calero pointed out that the teachers’ unions played a prominent role in campaigning for Barack Obama during his presidential bid and for other Democratic Party candidates. But soon after taking office “he kicked the union in the head,” launching programs aimed at getting rid of seniority rights, weakening the union, and undermining public education.

Workers need their own party

“Working people need to organize independently of the bosses and break with their parties, the Democrats and Republicans,” Calero said. “We need

our own labor party based on a union movement that fights for solidarity in face of the bosses’ assault.”

Cotton focused his remarks on opposition to the imperialist wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

In spite of all the hype about Washington’s counterinsurgency strategy, which seeks to win support from Afghan working people, there has not been a lessening of civilian casualties there, Cotton said. Washington has increased the use of Special Forces in Afghanistan and pilotless drone attacks in Pakistan.

The Socialist Workers campaign demands “not one person, not one penny for imperialist war” and calls for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops, Cotton said.

Campaign supporters are inviting coworkers and others to help circulate petitions to meet the signature requirement.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign will be gathering 6,000 signatures in Washington, D.C., starting July 24 to win ballot status for SWP mayoral candidate Omari Musa.

Democratic secular Palestine

Continued from page 3

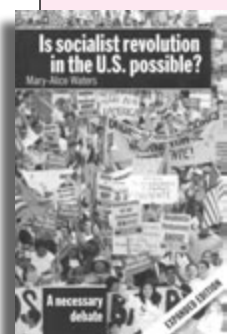
women’s equality; against the brutal operations of Tel Aviv’s cops, troops, and commandos; against war threats and mounting prospects for devastating military blows against sections of Israel itself; and many others. Neither we nor anyone else has a script or a timetable of how the forging of such a leadership, a communist leadership, will unfold in Palestine, or anywhere else in the world.

As for Israel itself, a revolutionary leadership that is proletarian internationalist to its core must be built there too—a secular, multinational leadership, with a substantial Jewish component in its makeup. This is a difficult task under

the social, political, and military conditions prevailing in Israel. It won’t happen rapidly. And the Palestinian people will not wait, and cannot be asked to wait, for class divisions and conflicts to deepen enough inside Israel for such a process to take place.

Once again, no timetables. A communist leadership of Jewish and Arab workers and farmers—dedicated to the fight for a democratic secular Palestine, and for socialist revolution—can and will be built, however. It will be built as growing numbers of toilers come to understand that if this task is not achieved in time, there will be little left of that part of the world.

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible? A Necessary Debate



In two talks, presented as part of a wide-ranging debate at the 2007 and 2008 Venezuela International Book Fairs, Mary-Alice Waters explains why a socialist revolution in the United States is possible.

\$7

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Iowa socialists kick off campaign, ballot effort

BY ELLEN BRICKLEY

DES MOINES, Iowa—Campaign volunteers launched a petitioning drive to place the Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot here, July 10. The party is running David Rosenfeld for governor, Helen Meyers for lieutenant governor, Margaret Trowe for secretary of agriculture, and Rebecca Williamson for U.S. Congress in the 3rd District.

After six hours of collecting signatures and talking with working people throughout the city, campaigners shared experiences over a barbecue dinner and short program, chaired by Williamson.

“Socialist workers are getting a serious hearing from working people and youth. We are finding an openness to our explanation of why there is such a crisis for workers and farmers today and what the working class can do about it,” said Williamson. “Young people are very much affected, too. Today a student I had previously met at a local community college was convinced to sign my petition after I pointed to recent struggles like the Puerto Rican students’ strike that show a fight is possible.”

Campaign supporters sold two *Militant* subscriptions and 19 copies of the paper to working people who wanted to know more about what communists stand for. Six people signed up to get more information about the campaign.

Diana Newberry, SWP candidate for governor of Minnesota, spoke about the recent one-day strike by Minnesota nurses, who signed a three-year contract July 6, winning some of their demands. “I met nurses here who have followed the Minnesota nurses’ fight,” she said. “The nurses did something important—they began discussing how to use their union to defend their wages and protect health and safety.”

“Think about the recent explosion of the BP oil rig and the destruction it unleashed,” Newberry continued. “Our life and limb can be saved by timely action as we begin to strengthen, organize, and mobilize union power.”

Stephanie Wright, 40, a certified nursing assistant and mother of three, signed a petition for the socialist candidates after explaining her concerns about what

is happening to working people. “Everything’s going up,” she told Trowe. “After you pay your bills, there’s nothing.”

Andy Jackson, 82, a retired farmer and Maytag assembly worker from Newton, Iowa, responded to Trowe’s comments that we’re in the first years of the kind of economic depression not seen since the 1930s. “Yes, my wife and I were just talking about how our children and grandchildren are going into a different cycle from anything they’ve experienced,” Jackson said.

The following day Williamson and Meyers met supporters in Davenport, Iowa, where they spent the afternoon campaigning. They collected 136 signatures and sold six *Militants*. In Des Moines, petitioners had a class titled “Korea Must Be One,” and then went to locations around the city.

After the first weekend, campaign



Margaret Trowe, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Iowa secretary of agriculture, campaigns and collects signatures in Des Moines, Iowa, July 10 to get on state ballot.

supporters have collected 522 signatures for Rosenfeld and Meyers, one-quarter of the goal, and 375 signatures for Williamson, more than 80 percent of what is needed. “Our goal is to wrap up collecting signatures on the July 24 weekend

and file them soon after,” Trowe said. “But we will continue campaigning across Iowa after that.” The campaign is going to Iowa State University this week, and to the Iowa City Book Fair on July 17.

Teachers facing mass layoffs and wage cuts

BY SETH GALINSKY

The two main teachers unions in the United States held national conventions in early July in the midst of layoffs of thousands of teachers, wage freezes, and attacks on seniority and other union rights.

Unlike previous years, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden did not speak at the National Education Association (NEA) convention in New Orleans, and they turned down invitations to address the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) convention in Seattle.

The NEA spent \$50 million in 2008 backing Obama’s presidential bid and mostly other Democrats. The AFT spent millions of dollars doing the same. Obama spoke at the 2007 and 2008 conventions of both groups.

According to *New York Times* reporter Sam Dillon, “Union officials feared that administration speakers would face heckling.”

“Today our members face the most anti-educator, antiunion, antistudent environment I have ever experienced,” NEA president Dennis Van Roekel

told the union delegates in New Orleans. Union officials say they feel betrayed by Obama. Pointing to federal programs that undermine public education and scapegoat teachers and their unions for “failing schools,” Van Roekel said, “This is not the change I hoped for.”

Teachers across the country have been hard hit by cutbacks in government funding for education. In March 26,000 teachers in California were told they would be laid off, on top of the 15,000 who lost their jobs last year.

Bloomberg freezes teachers’ wages

In New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg threatened in June to lay off 4,400 teachers, claiming that state budget cuts left him no other choice. In the end he froze teachers pay for the next two years, but warned that layoffs were still an option. Two thousand positions left vacant by teachers who retire or quit will not be filled.

Some 60,000 elementary and high school workers were laid off across the United States in 2009, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, double the number laid off the year before.

The Obama administration is touting the Race to the Top program, which allows school systems to compete for grants if they carry out White House-backed “reforms,” at the same time proposing cuts in other federal education funds. They have combined this with enforcement of the George W. Bush administration’s No Child Left Behind Act to promote charter schools and push for laying off teachers based on their supposed “effectiveness” instead of on seniority.

With the open backing of Obama and Education Secretary Arnold Duncan, the school board in Central Falls, Rhode Island, in February fired every teacher at the local high school, claiming they were to blame for students’ low test scores. The teachers were rehired in May after the union agreed to a longer school day, extra tutoring of students with little extra pay, and a new teacher evaluation system.

“I never thought I’d see a Democratic president, whom we helped elect, and

his education secretary applaud the mass firing of 89 teachers and staff,” AFT president Randi Weingarten told the convention, “when not a single one of the teachers ever received an unsatisfactory evaluation.”

Competition for education grants

Although the AFT, like NEA leaders, has publicly complained about attacks on the union and public education, AFT leaders have agreed to many of Obama’s education “reforms.” With the agreement of the AFT, the New York State legislature recently voted to lift the cap on charter schools, increasing them to 460 from 200. It also made it easier to fire some teachers.

While teachers at New York City public schools are unionized, most at charter schools are not. By agreeing to increase the number of charter schools and tying teacher evaluation to student performance on standardized tests, the New York State government can compete with other states for \$700 million in Race to the Top grants.

A July 5 column in the *Daily News* by a leader of the New Teacher Project, an antiunion group that backs these measures, lauded Weingarten for backing “bold reform.”

The article noted that Weingarten has helped negotiate agreements in Washington, D.C.; New Haven, Connecticut; and Colorado that allow school administrators to get rid of teachers without regard to seniority.

Lynn Nordgren, president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, boasts that the union there has helped push out more than 400 “ineffective” teachers in the past 10 years.

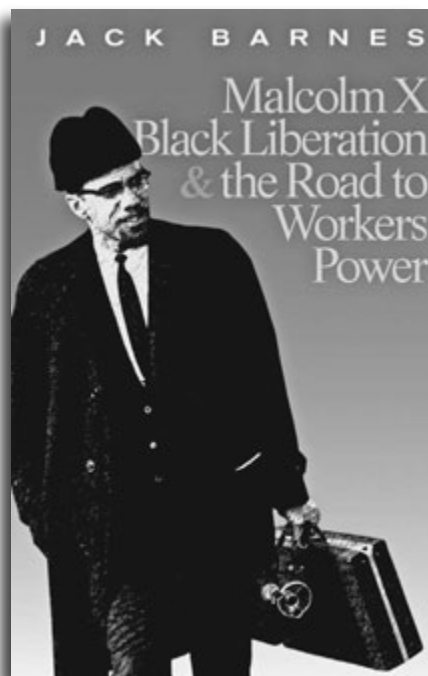
In spite of the continued bipartisan assault on public education and the teachers unions, both the AFT and the NEA are gearing up to back “education-friendly lawmakers,” mostly Democrats, in the November 2010 election.

“The contributions and voices of NEA members always make a difference during elections, and politicians know it,” the NEA Web site says, encouraging teachers to make contributions for the upcoming contests.

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Mandela: ‘Cuban Revolution is source of inspiration’

Below is an excerpt from *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* The Spanish edition is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for July. On July 26, 1991, Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro spoke together at a rally of tens of thousands in Matanzas, Cuba, marking the 38th anniversary of the opening of the Cuban Revolution. The book contains both speeches. Mandela hailed the role of Cuban internationalist volunteers who helped defeat the invasion of Angola by South Africa's apartheid regime. Between November 1975 and May 1991 some 375,000 Cubans participated in this effort. The victory accelerated the struggle for independence of Namibia and the fall of the apartheid regime. After more than 27 years of incarceration, Mandela was released from prison in February 1990. Copyright © 1991 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NELSON MANDELA

It is a great pleasure and honor to be present here today, especially on so important a day in the revolutionary history of the Cuban people. Today Cuba commemorates the thirty-eighth anniversary of the storming of the Moncada. Without Moncada, the *Granma* expedition, the struggle in the Sierra Maestra, and the extraordinary



Fidel Castro, right, greets Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress in South Africa, at airport in Havana, July 1991.

victory of January 1, 1959, would never have occurred.¹

Today this is revolutionary Cuba, internationalist Cuba, the country that has done so much for the peoples of Africa.

We have long wanted to visit your country and express the many feelings that we have about the Cuban Revolution, about the role of Cuba in Africa, southern Africa, and the world.

1. On July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro led an attack on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba, which marked the beginning of the revolutionary struggle against the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista. After the attack's failure, Batista's forces massacred more than fifty of the captured revolutionaries. Castro and others were taken prisoner, tried, and sentenced to prison. They were released in May 1955 after a public defense campaign forced Batista's regime to issue an amnesty.

On December 2, 1956, eighty-two revolutionary combatants led by Castro landed in southeastern Cuba on the boat *Granma*, following a seven-day journey from Mexico. Despite initial setbacks, the guerrilla fighters were able to establish a base for the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra mountains, from which they led the workers and peasants in the revolutionary war against the dictatorship.

On January 1, 1959, in the face of the Rebel Army's advances, Batista fled the country and the revolution triumphed amid a general strike and massive popular mobilizations.

The Cuban people hold a special place in the hearts of the people of Africa. The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom, and justice, unparalleled for its principled and selfless character.

From its earliest days the Cuban Revolution has itself been a source of inspiration to all freedom-loving people. We admire the sacrifices of the Cuban people in maintaining their independence and sovereignty in the face of a vicious imperialist-orchestrated campaign to destroy the impressive gains made in the Cuban Revolution.

We too want to control our own destiny. We are determined that the people of South Africa will make their future and that they will continue to exercise their full democratic rights after liberation from apartheid. We do not want popular participation to cease at the moment when apartheid goes. We want to have the moment of liberation open the way to ever-deepening democracy.

We admire the achievements of the Cuban Revolution in the sphere of social welfare. We note the transformation from a country of imposed backwardness to universal literacy. We acknowledge your advances in the fields of health, education, and science.

There are many things we learn from your experience. In particular we are moved by your affirmation of the historical connection to the continent and people of Africa.

Your consistent commitment to the systematic eradication of racism is unparalleled.

But the most important lesson that you have for us is that no matter what the odds, no matter under what difficulties you have had to struggle, there can be no surrender! It is a case of freedom or death!

I know that your country is experiencing many difficulties now, but we have confidence that the resilient people of Cuba will overcome these as they have helped other countries overcome theirs.

We know that the revolutionary spirit of today was started long ago and that its spirit was kindled by many early fighters for Cuban freedom, and indeed for freedom of all suffering under imperialist domination.

We too are also inspired by the life and example of José Martí, who is not only a Cuban and Latin American hero but justly honored by all who struggle to be free.

We also honor the great Che Guevara, whose revolutionary exploits, including on our own continent, were too powerful for any prison censors to hide from us. The life of Che is an inspiration to all human beings who cherish freedom. We will always honor his memory.

We come here with great humility. We come here with great emotion. We come here with a sense of a great debt that is owed to the people of Cuba. What other country can point to a record of greater selflessness than Cuba has displayed in its relations with Africa? . . .

How many countries of the world benefit from Cuban health workers or educationists? How many of these are in Africa?

We in Africa are used to being victims of countries wanting to carve up our territory or subvert our sovereignty. It is unparalleled in African history to have another people rise to the defense of one of us.

We know also that this was a popular action in Cuba. We are aware that those who fought and died in Angola were only a small proportion of those who volunteered. For the Cuban people internationalism is not merely a word but something that we have seen practiced to the benefit of large sections of humankind.

July BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: clc_can@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 4/125 Grafton Rd., Grafton. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140. Tel: (09) 369-1223. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-2466. E-mail: clondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cledinburgh@talktalk.net

8 The Militant July 26, 2010

Fight against police brutality

Workers are living through the initial stages of an economic depression that is already straining living conditions for hundreds of millions of toilers worldwide. Combined with spreading wars abroad, and attacks on constitutional rights at home, working people today are facing a crisis that few have seen in their lifetimes. More and more workers are being forced to confront the need to act as a class in order to do anything effective to fight back.

Over the past two weeks, the *Militant* has written about the killings by police of workers who are Black in Oakland, California, and Miami. As we go to press news reports indicate federal prosecutors have finally issued indictments against four cops in New Orleans for killing and covering up the deaths of two Black men in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. These few examples of police brutality demonstrate how much the capitalist rulers rely on their repressive apparatus to keep workers in their place, to keep us fearful of fighting back. That is why it is so significant that the cop who killed Oscar Grant, a young Black worker in Oakland, was brought to trial, convicted, and will likely see jail time. It is the first time that an on-duty

cop in the Bay Area of California has been prosecuted for murder.

Socialist candidates across the country call for the arrest, prosecution, and punishment of cops who brutalize and kill working people. They call on all workers to join the protests in Black communities and elsewhere against the violence of the law-and-order representatives of the capitalist state who act as judge, jury, jailers, and even executioners.

At the same time socialists explain the fight against police brutality is part of a broader response that is needed today along a revolutionary road to power by the working class—the only way to put an end for all time to the exploitation of working people by the capitalist rulers and the brutalization of workers by their police that goes along with it.

To get there, workers need to begin organizing independent of—and against—the Democratic and Republican parties, who are the political representatives of the capitalist oppressors. We need to fight to build a labor party based on the trade unions, the most basic organizations workers have to defend themselves and organize working-class solidarity.

U.S. gov’t seeks to blunt Arizona protests

Continued from front page

brown,” “I’m Mexican, pull me over,” and “We are not criminals” or asked, “Do I look reasonably suspicious?”

The main argument put forward by the U.S. government for overturning the SB 1070 law is that state governments have no right to make federal immigration decisions. The suit points out that the Arizona law could lead to the detention and harassment of U.S. citizens and immigrants with papers.

An Associated Press article notes that “on paper, Arizona’s controversial new immigration law is not that different” from existing federal laws and practice.

But in the face of protests, the White House calculated that the Arizona law went too far and could backfire. The Barack Obama administration has used existing federal legislation to intimidate undocumented immigrants and maintain a superexploited workforce for factory bosses and big growers across the United States.

Since taking office in January 2009, the Obama administration has expanded programs begun under previous presidents, including E-Verify, which allows

bosses to instantly check on employees legal status; 287(g), which trains local cops to act as immigration agents; and Secure Communities, which aims by 2013 to check the fingerprints of every prisoner in federal, state, and local jails across the country against a Homeland Security immigration database, even if they are being held for a misdemeanor.

In a move that received little media attention, the Secure Communities program was expanded in May to include New York State.

While Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has scaled back high profile-factory raids, it has expanded immigration audits, which have led to mass firings of thousands of undocumented workers. ICE has ordered immigration audits at more than 2,900 companies in the last year, almost six times the 503 audits ordered in 2008. The audits have become so common that bosses are calling them “silent raids.”

Reform Immigration for America, a group that helped organize the March 21 immigrant rights march in Washington, D.C., said that the Justice Department’s lawsuit against the Arizona legislation is “a first step” and a “down payment” on Obama’s promise to push immigration “reform.”

‘Stimulus’ has little impact for workers

Continued from front page

this year due to forced furloughs.” The paper noted that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to cut pay for 200,000 state workers to the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour until the state legislature approves a proposed budget reducing its \$19 billion deficit.

Despite federal “stimulus” funds, unemployment has been rising, hovering officially around 10 percent for the past nine months, and long-term joblessness has reached new heights. With Congress not extending unemployment benefits that expired in May, more than 200,000 workers a week are losing jobless payments.

New hiring in industry remains weak as the bosses seek to speed up production from workers with jobs, accompanied by worsening safety conditions.

The government has also tried to stimulate housing sales with an \$8,000 homebuyers’ tax credit. This ended in April. The following month home sales plummeted 33 percent to the lowest level since records began being kept in 1963, according to the Commerce Department.

The “cash for clunkers” program, initiated by the Obama administration last summer to boost automobile sales fared no better. Up to \$4,500 was offered for trade-ins, with car dealers then reimbursed by the government. In September 2009, the month after the stimulus ended, car sales dropped

23 percent from a year earlier.

Many economists say that the deep recession, which began in December 2007, ended in June 2009—several months after the “recovery” law was passed. However, few workers have seen much of a difference and continue to face depression conditions. Future stimulus moves will be even less effective as the next downturn begins with high unemployment.

In a talk in Racine, Wisconsin, June 30, Obama hailed the Recovery Act. It staved off another Great Depression, he stated. At the same time the president said that bringing the government’s debt and deficits “under control” would be a priority over the next couple of years.

Among those arguing for new government stimulus is AFL-CIO president Richard Tumpka. Without it “state and local governments plan to lay off 900,000 workers,” he said, and the economy could face a “double-dip” recession.

The world capitalist economy has entered a long-term deflationary crisis, a contraction that cannot be fundamentally reversed by ups and downs of the business cycle or by government pump-priming.

With declining profit rates, the capitalists continue to shy away from expanding productive capacity. Instead, they are once again “investing” their money in various forms of fictitious capital like derivatives, credit default swaps, and mortgage securities.

Afghanistan war

Continued from front page

against civilians, the group stated. Some 1,074 civilians were killed and more than 1,500 wounded in the first six months of the year, up from 1,059 in the same period last year.

ARM attributes 61 percent of the civilian deaths to Taliban attacks. The remaining 39 percent are from U.S., NATO, Afghan army, progovernment militias, and private security forces.

While saying that the 94 civilians killed in air strikes in the last six months is a reduction by about half from last year, the report charges U.S. and NATO troops with “indiscriminate and allegedly deliberate shooting . . . on civilian people and cars” and “violent and barbaric intrusions” and raids.

Lt. Gen. David Rodriguez, the number two U.S. commander in Afghanistan, predicted at a news briefing July 7 that the carnage will get worse. “We are going into places that have been significant support bases for the Taliban for the past several years. . . . And they’re going to fight hard for those, and that’s why we expect the casualties to go up.”

One of those places is the Sangin valley in Helmand Province. About 1,000 British troops have been stationed there, but UK defense secretary Liam Fox announced June 7 that they will be leaving. U.S. Marines will replace them in October. Of the 314 British soldiers who have been killed since the war began, more than 100 were killed in Sangin.

100,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan

By the end of August, there will be 100,000 U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, “more than three times the number of U.S. forces on the ground in early 2009,” Petraeus told the Senate Armed Forces Committee June 29. They won’t be leaving soon, he added. Reaffirming Obama’s recent remarks, Petraeus said that the July 2011 deadline for beginning withdrawal of U.S. forces “will mark the beginning of a process, not the date when the U.S. heads for the exits and turns out the lights.”

When all of NATO’s additional forces are deployed there will be more than 50,000 troops from 45 other countries fighting in Afghanistan, bringing the total number of foreign soldiers stationed there to 150,000.

Responding to issues underlying the McChrystal forced resignation, Petraeus sent a letter to all NATO troops in Afghanistan July 4. He called for a “team effort” to “achieve unity of effort with our diplomatic, international civilian, and Afghan partners,” a reference to disparaging remarks about civilian U.S. government figures made by the deposed general and his aides in the *Rolling Stone* interview.

The letter also addressed widely publicized criticism voiced by some troops of the rising NATO casualties, which they attribute to restrictions on rules of combat, such as limiting the use of air and artillery strikes when civilians are in the area. “We must . . . continue our emphasis on reducing the loss of innocent civilian life to an absolute minimum,” Petraeus wrote. At the same time, he said, “We must employ all assets to ensure your safety, keeping in mind, again, the importance of avoiding civilian casualties.”

Meanwhile, the civilian deaths continue to climb. More than 1,000 Afghans marched in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif July 10 to protest the killing of two security guards at a local market during a search for Taliban by Afghan and NATO troops. According to Reuters, the demonstrators chanted slogans against the foreign troops and Afghan president Hamid Karzai.

Obama has appointed Gen. James Mattis to take over Petraeus’s position as commander of U.S. Central Command. Mattis coauthored, with Petraeus, the military’s manual on counterinsurgency.

Speaking off the cuff at a 2005 forum in San Diego, Mattis displayed his contempt for Afghans when he said: “You go into Afghanistan, you got guys who slap around women for five years because they didn’t wear a veil. You know guys like that ain’t got no manhood left anyway, so it’s a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them.”

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, in announcing Mattis’s new appointment, called him “one of our military’s outstanding combat leaders and strategic thinkers.”