

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
Cuban Revolution, an example to emulate in U.S. and world over  
—EDITORIAL, PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 29 AUGUST 8, 2011

## Iowa lockout ends: union fought, came out stronger

BY MAGGIE TROWE  
AND HELEN MEYERS

KEOKUK, Iowa—Workers locked out by grain processor Roquette America voted July 23 to accept a contract offer by the company and will be returning to work after a 10-month battle.

The company locked out 240 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) Local 48G in September 2010 after workers rejected the bosses' "last, best, and final" offer.

Some 80 percent of the membership turned out to vote on the five-year contract, which, according to local president Steve Underwood, was approved by a narrow margin. The day before workers had rejected an offer that included a clause that would have lowered the pay grade for some 50 workers.

The *Militant* spoke to workers during the two days of voting, both those who voted for and against.

"As a union, we've gotten stronger," said Charlie Hayner, a 15-year employee. "Those who have been on the picket line discussing things have gotten to know each other better."

Hayner described the solidarity work—  
**Continued on page 4**

## Washington aims to retain garrison force in Iraq

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington is pressing the Iraqi government to agree to terms for the U.S. armed forces to maintain thousands of troops in Iraq beyond the Dec. 31, 2011, "withdrawal deadline."

There are currently 46,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, down from some 170,000 in 2007. Another 39,000 U.S. forces are stationed in neighboring Kuwait. The current "status of forces" agreement, signed by Washington and Baghdad in 2008, authorizes U.S. forces in the country through the end of 2011.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government is rapidly doubling its "diplomatic" staff, with the goal of having roughly 16,000 embassy personnel there by 2012, according to James Jeffrey, U.S. ambassador to Iraq. By comparison, the State Department says its London embassy in the United Kingdom has a staff of some 750, and acknowledges a few hundred personnel at its embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.

According to the *New York Times*, Iraqi prime minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki and White House officials have "privately" told each other they

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## Protests set out to keep abortion clinics open



Volunteer escorts and women's rights supporters at clinic in Orlando, Florida, where rightists recently failed to close facilities. Pro-choice advocates are building July 31–August 7 actions in Germantown, Maryland, in response to Operation Rescue's "Summer of Mercy 2.0."

BY SETH GALINSKY

Supporters of a woman's right to choose abortion are stepping up efforts for a big turnout in Germantown, Maryland, starting July 31. The Summer Celebration of Choice is being organized in response to the nine-day "Summer of Mercy 2.0" planned by

Operation Rescue and other antiwoman groups to target Dr. LeRoy Carhart and the Germantown Reproductive Health Services clinic.

"We want to outmobilize them every day to show that supporters of a woman's right to choose are the ma-

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## Socialist candidate in N.Y.—'Choice is a woman's right'



Rebecca Williamson, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York State Assembly, 54th District, talks with Laurina Paul while campaigning July 24 in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

BROOKLYN, New York—Laurina Paul, a live-in caregiver, stopped on the street to talk with Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York State Assembly in the 54th District here, July 24.

"There are a lot of single mothers out there—no one's helping them," she told Williamson. Paul's two sons live with relatives in Brooklyn while she works at a home on Long Island. The train fare from Brooklyn to her job just went from \$5.75 to \$7—one way, she said. "Imagine if I had to pay

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## Striking building workers rally in Queens, N.Y.



Militant/Paul Mailhot

QUEENS, New York, July 26—Fifty building workers, family members, supporters, and Dayton Beach Park Co-Op tenants rallied here in Rockaway Beach to back members of Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, on strike since July 7. Workers are fighting planned layoffs and a wage freeze by the co-op's board of directors.

Board president Jennifer Grady recently wrote a scurrilous letter to a local paper, *The Wave*, accusing strikers of intimidation, drunkenness, and racism. "Tenants support us," striker Phil Provenzano told the *Militant*. "Jennifer Grady is using intimidation and scare tactics. She says we are responsible for fees going up, but everything is going up—milk, transit, gas, rent."

—DEBORAH LIATOS

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# Miami protest hits bill to further curb Cuba travel

BY ANTHONY DUTROW

MIAMI—Honking, with flashers blinking, defenders of the right to travel to Cuba drove 120 cars in a caravan to the offices of Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart here July 9. The Republican congressman is sponsoring a budget amendment that would reinstate limits on visits and remittances by Cuban Americans to Cuba that were in place from 2004 to 2009.

The response to the bill here is but the latest confirmation of the weakening influence of counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups, which for decades dominated politics and intimidated opposition in Miami.

Under the regulations that Diaz-Balart seeks to bring back, family visits to Cuba were limited to once every three years and remittances to \$300 every quarter to immediate family members only.

The caravan was organized by the Asociación de Mujeres Cristianas en Defensa de la Familia (Association of Christian Women in Defense of the Family), as well as other member groups of the Alianza Martiana (Martí Alliance), a coalition of organizations promoting normalization of U.S. relations with Cuba.

At Diaz-Balart’s office, 20 women presented a letter opposing the reintroduction of the pre-2009 regulations, while the caravan circled the block around the building.

About a dozen Cuban American rightists tried to intimidate them, thrusting bullhorns at their faces and blasting their sirens at close range.

But the women—many of whom have been defenders of the Cuban Revolution in Miami for decades—stood their ground unprovoked as police looked on.

Earlier this year the White House issued new travel and remittance regulations, which eased some restrictions on travel by U.S. residents to Cuba. In line with U.S. imperialist policy for the last 50 years, these new rules are crafted with the aim of undermining Cuba’s socialist revolution. Like previous administrations, the Obama White House claims to be promoting “democracy” and “independence from Cuban authorities.”

One recent change, for example, allows U.S. residents to send up to \$500 per quarter to anyone in Cuba in order to “support private economic activity, among other purposes.” To anyone, that is, except high-ranking officials of the Cuban government or “senior members” of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Washington remains the only government in the world that prohibits travel to Cuba by most of its citizens. The Obama administration maintains, in full force, the economic and financial embargo against Cuba, designed to maximize hardship and punish the Cuban people for overthrowing the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959. Over the last two years, the White House has increased funding for its spy program and patronage of counterrevolutionary groups on the island.

The easing of travel prohibitions



Militant/Anthony Dutrow

Participants receive orientation before July 9 car caravan in Miami to protest bill that would reinstate restrictions on travel and remittances by Cuban Americans to Cuba. Response to the bill shows weakening influence of counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups in city.

has created yet another rift among opponents of the Cuban Revolution in Miami. According to Reuters, 350,000 Cuban Americans visited Cuba in 2010 alone.

On July 7 the Agenda for the Transition in Cuba, made up of groups and individuals on the island opposed to the Cuban government, held a press conference in Havana criticizing the proposal to restrict family visits and remittances. They urged the Congressional supporters to back off and withdraw the amendment.

*El Nuevo Herald* published a full-page ad July 12 from the Cuban-American Commission For Family Rights, opposing the amendment by Diaz-Balart. The ad includes an open letter to Obama urging him to reject the amendment.

The White House budget office issued a statement July 13 saying Obama’s “senior advisors would recommend a veto” of any amendment or legislation that reverses the current policies in place towards Cuba travel and remittances.

## “International Labor Movement Stands up for Human Rights” Event in support of Cuban Five prisoners in the United States

**Los Angeles—Saturday, August 13 at 6 p.m.**  
**SEIU-USWW Hall 828 W. Washington Blvd.**

The Cuban Five—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González—are Cuban revolutionaries who were framed up and railroaded to prison by the U.S. government. They have been incarcerated since 1998 with sentences ranging from 15 years to double life. The five had been tracking the activities of Cuban American paramilitary groups in Miami with a long history of armed assaults and acts of sabotage against the Cuban people.

Program includes:

**Mike Garcia**, president of SEIU-USWW

**Cristina Vazquez**, Workers United

**Tony Woodley**, former president of Unite, Britain’s largest trade union

**Alicia Jrapko**, U.S. coordinator, International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5  
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Juan Liverance

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# Hunger strikers protested treatment in Calif. prisons

BY LEA SHERMAN

SACRAMENTO, California, July 25—Thousands of California prisoners ended their 21-day hunger strike this week, against increased use of solitary confinement and other inhumane treatment. Some 50 supporters of prisoners’ rights demonstrated here today at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to protest these conditions.

The hunger strike began July 1 in a section of the Security Housing Units (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison. According to a call to support the “protest of the violation of our civil/human rights,” issued by hunger striker Mutope Duguma, prisoners took action because they were being punished for refusing to snitch on fellow inmates. SHUs are windowless, 8-by-10-foot cells where prisoners are held in solitary for at least 22 hours a day, sometimes for years or decades at a stretch.

Prison officials try to entice inmates to finger other prisoners, in exchange for release from SHU. This “debriefing”—along with prison-fostered racial and gang divisions, and coerced “therapy” programs—are used to degrade and divide workers behind bars.

“This protracted attack on SHU prisoners cuts across every aspect of the prison’s function: Food, mail, visiting, medical, yard, hot/cold temperatures, privileges (canteen, packages, property, etc.), isolation, cell searches, family/friends, and socio-culture, economic, and political deprivation,” Duguma wrote.

The protest quickly spread from 11 Pelican Bay inmates to more than 6,500 prisoners across the state, according to the northern California *Times-Standard*. The Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity website said demands included an end to group punishment, abolishing “debriefing,” ending long-term solitary confinement, adequate and nutritious food, and permission to have a wall calendar, a photo a year, and a weekly phone call.

“My brother lost 20 pounds during the strike,” said Maggie Ruan of Riverside, California, at today’s protest. Her 39-year-old brother has been at Pelican Bay for 21 years. He has spent 12 years in SHU because prison officials claim he had a “gang-related” address book.

“The prisoners suffered, but the strike was worth it,” Ruan said. “They crossed the race barrier. They divide and conquer and do the race game on us.”

Kendra Castañeda of Long Beach joined the protest because her husband is in solitary at Calipatria State Prison charged with gang affiliation. Officials ended her visits and calls, and she hasn’t spoken with him for six months. “I want



Militant/Lea Sherman

**Demonstrators at California Department of Corrections in Sacramento July 25 protest inhumane conditions in prisons. At right, holding sign and picture, is Kendra Castañeda, whose husband is in solitary confinement. She hasn’t been able to speak to him for six months.**

to help give him and others strength and hope, and tell their story,” she said.

The day before, Castañeda and Ruan protested outside Calipatria, where they collected signatures from prison visitors supporting the hunger strikers’ demands.

Sophia García’s brother has been in SHU at Corcoran State Prison for six years. “Anthony wants everyone to know that what the prison system was doing was wrong,” she said. They were “validating” people as gang members by the “bulk.” “People make mistakes but don’t deserve to spend 23 hours a day in a cell,” she said.

In an July 21 statement, Matthew Cate, secretary of the state’s corrections

department, sought to discredit the hunger strike as an “ineffective” ploy ordered by dangerous “gang leaders.”

The department was forced to negotiate with the Pelican Bay strikers and grant some concessions, including “cold-weather caps, wall calendars, and some educational opportunities for SHU inmates,” said Carol Strickman, lead attorney for the prisoners, at a July 22 press conference announcing the end of the hunger strike.

Strickman said the strike had exposed the correction department’s “torturous and barbaric practices, boosted the growing movement in support of the prisoners, and unified prisoners of different racial groups.”

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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#### San Francisco

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### MINNESOTA

#### Minneapolis

**The Pacific Is Not Eternal U.S. Property.** Fri., Aug. 5, 8 p.m. 1311 1/2 E Lake St., Second Floor. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

### TEXAS

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### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

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### AUSTRALIA

#### Sydney

**Murdoch ‘Hacking’ Scandal: What’s at Stake for the Working Class?** Speaker: Manuele Lasolo, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 5, 7 p.m. Donation: \$4. Upstairs, 281-7 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718 9698.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**Washington and Allies Step Up Efforts to Maintain Military Dominance in the Pacific; New Zealand Imperialist Rulers Join Anti-China Drumbeat.** Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League. Fri., Aug 5, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 4/125 Grafton Rd. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

# Washington presses to keep U.S. troops in Iraq

**Continued from front page**

want to keep a substantial U.S. garrison force in Iraq. Disputes within the Iraqi government, however, have held up the signing of a new agreement and contributed to an impasse over the appointment of ministers of defense, interior, and national security, reports the *Financial Times* of London.

“There are needs that will continue for some time,” chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen told the media, commenting on Washington’s plans for Iraq and the region.

In a recent trip to Iraq, U.S. defense secretary Leon Panetta voiced frustration over Baghdad’s delay in approving Washington’s ongoing military operations there. “Dammit, make a decision,” he said. “Don’t they want us to stay? . . . [D]on’t they want to get a minister of defense?”

The *Los Angeles Times* reports that unnamed U.S. officials say the White House is prepared to keep as many as 10,000 U.S. troops around Baghdad and elsewhere in the country. That would be on top of the nearly 50,000 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force personnel the Pentagon reports deploying “around Iraq” as of March 31 of this year.

The Pentagon is putting “multiple plans” in place to support U.S. troop operations in Iraq in 2012, Alan Estevez, the Pentagon’s nominee to lead its logistics and materiel readiness office, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee at his confirmation hearing July 19. As contracts expire on food services, fuel, and logistics support, he said, the Department of Defense can almost immediately

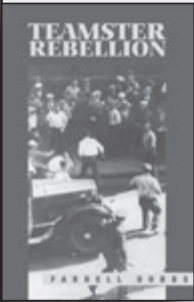
turn “the volume on [them] back up.”

The U.S. embassy, which opened on new grounds in January 2009, is by far the largest in the world—about the size of 80 football fields and 10 times bigger than any other U.S. embassy.

The thousands of diplomats and U.S. military advisers and trainers operating on embassy grounds will be backed by

5,500 private armed security “contractors,” often former members of U.S. special operations forces, more than double their current size. By next year, some 20,000 non-military personnel will be employed at two U.S. embassy branches, two consulates, and three police training centers, according to the U.S. ambassador.

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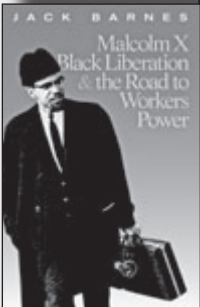
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Pathfinder Press



# Lockout in Keokuk, Iowa

Continued from front page

ers received and the impression it has made on him. For example, he said, his six children received Christmas gifts donated by others last winter. “It’s opened my eyes. I’m definitely going to support other unions in the future.”

“I thought [the contract] was as good as we’d see,” said one worker, who asked that his name not be used, as he left the Labor Temple following the July 23 vote. A number of others expressed similar sentiments.

Jason White, a young worker who started at Roquette after getting out of the military in 2008, was among those opposed to the offer. “Corporations think they can push people around,” he said. “No way I’ll live my life like this.”

“We have to go back together and keep fighting,” said Buddy Howard, a strike leader and picket line organizer. “We got support from other unions and the community, and we have to take part in other struggles to better the lot of all workers.”

Local 48G members are scheduled to return to work in August.

After locking workers out Sept. 28,

2010, Roquette America hired temporary replacement workers, including some from LB&F, Inc., an Ohio-based company that specializes in providing strikebreakers. Picket lines went up immediately and were maintained for the duration. Three union members crossed the picket line when the lockout began, but the other 237 remained firm.

Three months into the lockout, Roquette presented a contract proposal that, for the first time, included a clause allowing the company to unilaterally subcontract or eliminate jobs. Workers snubbed the offer, refusing even to vote on it. The proposal was dropped from the latest offer, but Roquette threatened to revive it if the latest offer wasn’t approved by 5:00 p.m. July 23.

Signs reading “We support Local 48G” are common on lawns of houses and in windows of small businesses throughout the area.

The local organized solidarity rallies in October and November 2010 and March 2011, as well as an expanded picket line in April. Local residents organized a food pantry. Members of the United Steelworkers (USW), United



Militant photos by, top, Laura Anderson, inset, Ellen Brickley  
**Top:** March 26 rally in solidarity with members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union Local 48G locked out by Roquette America in Keokuk, Iowa. **Inset:** Workers leave Labor Temple July 23 after contract vote ended 10-month lockout. “I’m proud of this group. We’re stronger than anyone ever thought we could be,” said Cindy Runge, a worker at Roquette.

Food and Commercial Workers, United Auto Workers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and others made contributions and joined picket lines.

Members of Local 48G reached out with their fight, speaking to workers in the region, and bringing solidarity to other workers in struggle. They joined labor rallies of public workers resisting government assaults on their unions in Madison, Wisconsin, and Des Moines, Iowa. They went to Illinois to back USW-organized workers locked out by Honeywell in Metropolis and members of Teamsters Local 627 locked out at the Emerald Performance Materials chemical plant in Henry.

According to Underwood, the new contract includes a \$2 per hour wage cut for new hires, instead of Roquette’s original demand of a \$4 reduction. The probationary period has been increased from 480 hours before the lockout to 680 hours with the option of extending it by 240 hours. The company’s September offer included a 920-hour probationary period for all new hires. Like previ-

## Illinois: Locked-out Honeywell workers to vote on contract

BY BETSY FARLEY

METROPOLIS, Illinois, July 27—Workers at Honeywell’s uranium conversion plant here will vote on a new contract offer later this week, according to Darrell Lillie, president of United Steelworkers Local 7-669. Members of the local were locked out by the company 13 months ago after rejecting concessions demanded by Honeywell, including a 10 percent wage reduction, elimination of seniority and retiree medical benefits, and pension cuts.

Local members have maintained 24-hour picket lines at the plant and organized solidarity rallies here, winning support from workers in the Midwest and beyond. They’ve traveled to Wisconsin, Indiana, and Keokuk, Iowa, bringing solidarity to workers standing up to government and company union busting.

“We want to thank everybody throughout the United States and the world for their support and help,” Lillie told the *Militant*. “Without that we would never have gotten this far.”

ous company offers, the contract raises workers’ health-care payments.

“They can’t hurt me anymore, but I have two sons that might want to work here someday and I’d like to see them make a decent living and have union backing,” said Roberta Ludwick, who worked at the plant for 32 years and became eligible for retirement during the lockout. After the vote Jim McGhghy, a worker with 31 years at the plant, said, “Same job, same pay, that’s what I was fighting for.”

The Roquette bosses “didn’t think we had the morale to stand together, and they underestimated small-town America. They look at us like a bunch of dumb hicks,” said Wade Kehler, a 51-year-old mill operator.

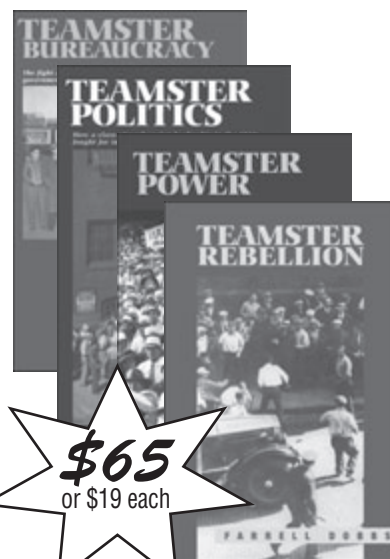
“I’m proud of this group. We’re stronger than anyone ever thought we could be,” said operator Cindy Runge.

During the two days of deliberation, union members bought eight subscriptions to the *Militant*—five of them renewals—a dozen single copies of the paper, and a copy of *Teamster Rebellion*.

Frank Forrestal contributed to this article.

## The Teamster Series

Lessons from the labor battles of the 1930s  
by Farrell Dobbs



The 1934 truck drivers strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, recounted in four volumes by a central leader of that battle.

**PathfinderPress.com**

## A leader of fight against Iowa lockout thanks ‘Militant’

Local 48G in Keokuk, Iowa, has accepted the latest offer from the corporate criminal Roquette America, ending the brutal 10-month lockout initiated by the company. We fought a valiant struggle and our union became stronger as time went on. This new contract is designed to divide workers, so it will take a constant effort to remain strong.

This letter I write today is a thank-you letter. Early on in our struggle, these folks showed up at our picket lines talking about the working class and selling this newspaper called the *Militant*, where we could read about other workers’ struggles. At the time, we were so timid as a union, we tended to shy away from words like “militant” or even “SOLIDARITY” and phrases like “class warfare.” As time went on, we found these comrades weren’t just selling a newspaper. And it wasn’t them joining our war. It was us joining the war already being waged against the working class.

These days you don’t have to look far to find a member of 48G with a subscription to the *Militant*. We came to rely on the *Militant* as they covered our story more often than our international’s monthly did.

I thank David Rosenfeld, who ran for governor of Iowa as the Socialist Workers Party’s candidate, for mentioning our struggle during the “third party debate” hosted by WHO radio in Des Moines. There are others too numerous to name, but I thank all the good people I now call friends and comrades for the rides, the meals, the books, and the opportunity to tell 48G’s story. This includes the opportunity to tell it to locked-out SEIU members in New York when I visited there last January.

Most of all, thank you for breaking down the walls that corporations and their puppets are constantly trying to divide us with. They are coming after all of us.

My brothers and sisters are grateful for you being there for us. I will close with one of my favorite chants being heard around the country in marches, at rallies, and on picket lines: “Gay, straight, Black, white, same struggle, same fight!” We are all in this together.

In SOLIDARITY,  
Buddy Howard,  
President Lee County Labor Council  
Proud member of Local 48G  
Immigrant



Militant/ Mike Fitzsimmons

Buddy Howard, second from left, picket organizer during 10-month fight against Roquette America, at January 16 picket line of locked-out building workers in Brooklyn, New York.



# March in UK protests deaths in police custody

BY ANITA ÖSTLING

BIRMINGHAM, England—A march protesting deaths in police custody was held here July 2. The action was called by family members of Kingsley Burrell, Smiley Culture, and Demetre Fraser, three men who died recently while under police “supervision.” All were black.

“Nobody has been brought to justice for the people killed in police custody in recent years,” Audrey Cotterell, who was on her first march, told the *Militant*. “This is not about color. Ordinary people can live side by side. But the police can do what they want and the courts cover them.”

According to police accounts reported in the *Birmingham Mail* July 4, Burrell, 29, had been arrested March 27 and detained under the Mental Health Act, after calling to report intimidation by a local gang. Authorities say that following a March 30 “disturbance” at the hospital where he was held, Burrell died of cardiac arrest.

Culture, 48, died of a stab wound March 15 while police were in his south London home to arrest him. Culture was a musician who had big sellers in the 1980s, including “Cockney Translation” and “Police Officer.” According to a Scotland Yard spokesman cited by the *Guardian*, “While they were at the address, an incident occurred during which a 48-year-old man died.” Investigators “are understood to be looking into whether the wound was self-inflicted,” the paper reported.

Fraser, 21, from London, was living temporarily in Birmingham, a condition of his bail. According to the June 14 *Mail*, Fraser was found by police seriously injured at the bottom of the apartment building where he lived, shortly after the cops visited the address reportedly to investigate an alleged breach by Fraser of curfew conditions. Fraser died shortly afterwards.

“It not clear how he had come to be at the foot of the tower block,” the *Mail* reported, but “one unconfirmed report said he may have fallen from the 11th floor.”

Family and friends of others who died in police custody joined the protest. Among them were the brother and sisters of Sean Rigg, who carried a banner demanding “Justice for Sean Rigg.” They told the *Militant* their brother died in police custody following his arrest in 2008.

Tippa Naphtali marched behind the banner “Friends of Mikey Powell.” His

cousin Powell died while in police custody in Birmingham in 2003, Naphtali said. Caroline Bailey told the *Militant* that her son Michael Bailey, 23, was found hanged in his prison cell in 2005.

Inquest, an organization that investigates deaths in custody, says that 1,400 people died in England and Wales after contact with the police between 1990 and 2011—937 in police custody, 310 during pursuits, 109 in traffic accidents, and 52 in shootings.

In the 11 years up until 2011, the Independent Police Complaints Commission investigated 333 deaths in police custody. The IPCC, an official government body mistrusted by many working people, recommended that 24 cops be prosecuted. None was convicted.

The most publicized recent death at the hands of the police was Ian Tomlinson. On April 1, 2009, Tomlinson, 47, was walking home from work and crossed paths with a demonstration protesting the G20 summit in central London. According to the *Guardian*, Tomlinson died shortly after “being struck with a baton and pushed to the ground”



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

March in Birmingham, United Kingdom, July 2 protesting deaths of people in custody of cops. “Police do what they want and the courts cover them,” said marcher Audrey Cotterell. Between 1990 and 2011, 937 people died in police custody in England and Wales.

by police officer Simon Harwood. The events were caught on video.

At first the director of public prosecutions refused to bring criminal charges against Harwood. In face of a public outcry, and after an inquest jury concluded

Tomlinson had been unlawfully killed, Harwood was charged with manslaughter. He will stand trial in October.

*Alex Xezonakis contributed to this article.*

## Bombardier layoffs met by British nationalist demagoguery

BY HUGO WILS

LONDON—Train manufacturer Bombardier July 5 announced layoffs of more than 1,400 workers at its assembly plant in Derby, nearly half the plant’s workforce. The 446 permanent and 983 temporary employees have been given 90-day termination notices.

The announcement came after the company lost a £1.4 billion (\$2.3 billion) government bid to upgrade the Thameslink rail network. The bid went to Siemens, which will produce the trains in Germany.

The ax comes down on these workers amid high unemployment and deep-going government austerity measures, including layoffs of public workers. Official unemployment stands at 2.45 million people. The number of people working part-time because they cannot

find full-time work rose by 80,000 to 1.25 million, the highest figure since records began in 1992.

The capitalist rulers across Europe and elsewhere are united in their determination to foist the crisis of their exploitative system on the backs of working people. Meanwhile, rivalry among them, including those “united” in the European Union, is sharpening, along with accompanying nationalist demagoguery.

Bombardier, itself a Canadian-owned company, has played up the bid loss to Siemens in an effort to divert workers’ anger from the company and its profit-maximizing decisions. Union officials, the capitalist media, and opposition politicians echo Bombardier’s rationalizations, issuing reactionary nationalist calls to save “British” jobs and “British” industry—pitting work-

ers in the United Kingdom against those in Germany.

“Whitehall [the UK government] did not have ‘balls or brains’ to beat Germans,” was the headline on an article in the *Derby Telegraph*, a local newspaper.

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond says that under European Union regulations, they “had no choice but to announce [Siemens] as the preferred bidder.”

According to BBC, some 6,000 people marched through Derby July 23 backing Bombardier. Speakers at the rally included Bombardier’s UK chairman, Colin Walton; Derby South Member of Parliament Margaret Beckett; Bob Crow, general secretary of the RMT (railworkers) union; and Diana Holland, assistant general secretary of the Unite trade union.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 8, 1986

The wealthy owners of the largest steelmaker in the country, USX Corp., are demanding major takebacks from its employees, members of the United Steelworkers of America.

The concessions include Steelworkers giving back up to \$3.50 an hour in wages and benefits and granting a reduction of job classifications from 33 to nine. Such job combinations would mean the loss of thousands of jobs. The company is also trying to expand the work carried out in the mills by nonunion workers.

There are 44,000 workers covered by the contract due to expire August 1. Only 21,000 of them are currently working.

Mobilizing solidarity for the Steelworkers will be important since the outcome of the confrontation will have broad ramifications not only in the steel industry but throughout basic industry.



August 7 & 14, 1961

A million Cubans—more than one-seventh of the entire population of the island—assembled in Havana July 26 to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the attempt to take the Moncada fortress at Santiago. The fervor of the enormous crowd that heard Fidel Castro’s address was reported to be the highest yet since the downfall of Batista and the beginning of the profound changes that have put Cuba on the road to socialism.

One of Cuba’s worst social evils, the permanent unemployment of approximately one-third of the labor force has been greatly ameliorated.

The major change was made possible by ending capitalist control over hiring and firing, by the introduction of a big program of public works, including ambitious projects to industrialize Cuba and mechanize its agriculture.

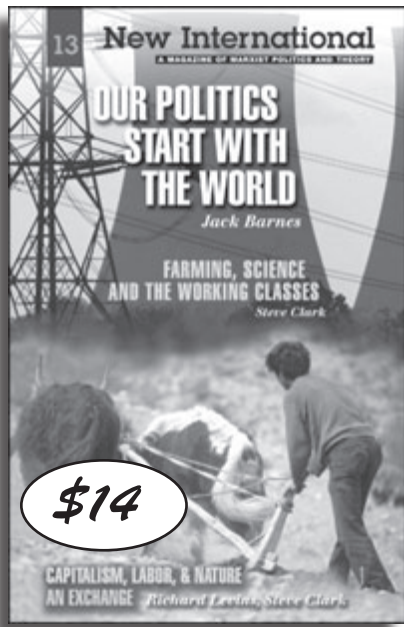


November 28, 1936

A new field for profit-making in the coming war will be the production of disease germs, says an article in “Contact,” an aviation news weekly. Already a plant has been constructed in the United States for the manufacture of bombs that will be loaded with disease germs.

“Self-infecting powder, consisting of exploded gas and ground silicon dioxide, is impregnated with germs and a food paste, capable of keeping them alive 60 to 80 hours under the severest conditions. This is blown out behind the planes through the exhaust and makes its own minute cut and infection, filtering through the clothing and breathed in with the dust.

“There will be more profit in growing germs than in making shells. Most germ culture will sell for over \$300 a pound. The cost of production is less than \$6 a pound.”



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# Moscow, to boost births, targets right to abortion

BY CINDY JAQUITH

A reactionary alliance of the Russian government, the church hierarchy, and groups opposed to a woman's right to choose is pressing to make abortion illegal again. The backdrop is an anti-working class, nationalist campaign by top state officials who say Russia faces a "national security" crisis because its population has sharply declined. They blame the falling birth rate on women.

Currently abortion is available in Russia for the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, at no cost to the woman, and into the second trimester under certain conditions, the Associated Press reports.

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev signed a law July 14 that makes it illegal to describe abortion as a safe procedure. The law also requires at least 10 percent of any ads for abortion services to contain warnings that abortion is dangerous to your health.

This fall, according to the Moscow news agency RIA Novosti, the Russian parliament will consider a bill that would disqualify abortion as a medical service, meaning doctors could choose not to perform them.

The bill would also make it a crime for doctors to perform abortions during the second half of pregnancy.

Opponents in Russia of women's right to control their own bodies use the same methods as their U.S. counterparts—falsely claiming to be "pro-life" and glorifying the family. President Medvedev's wife, Svetlana Medvedeva, is a good example. Her Foundation for Social and Cultural Initiatives recently sponsored a "Week Against Abortion" campaign titled "Give Me Life." Along with the Russian Orthodox Church hierarchy, she also declared a "Day of Family, Love, and Faithfulness" holiday.

Russia's population has declined by about 5.7 million since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, according to AP. The public health system, already in crisis under the Stalinist regime, has sharply accelerated its decline.

In 2006 then-president Vladimir Putin, in his state of the nation speech, said shrinking population was "the most acute problem in modern-day Russia." As the Moscow-based correspondent for the British *Independent* newspaper put it at the time, "The problem is regarded as a national security issue since large areas of Siberia and the far east of Russia are dangerously underpopulated. It is an anomaly that has stoked fears . . . that [Russians] will one day be usurped



Women auto workers on lunch break in Russia, April 27. Consequences of making abortion illegal again in Russia will fall most harshly on women workers and farmers. Drive by Moscow against abortion rights is opposite of course implemented by Bolsheviks in early years of Russian Revolution. Inset: Women march in 1917 in support of revolution.

by migrant workers from neighboring China, whose 1.3 billion people are packed into a territory considerably smaller than Russia."

"We have to stimulate the birth of a second child in every family," Putin declared. As an incentive he called for cash and other benefits for women who have more children. An exuberant Putin announced a slight increase in population by 2009.

Russia has a very high abortion rate—it was 53.7 per 1,000 women in 2004, according to the UN. This is because the current government and previous Stalinist regimes rejected

providing safe and effective contraception, forcing women to end pregnancy by abortion alone.

But a major factor contributing to the shrinking population in Russia is that it has one of the world's highest mortality rates. In 2011 it was 16.04 per 1,000 population, the fifth highest in the world. The UN's World Health Organization reported that from 1990 to 1994, Russian men's life expectancy fell from 64 to 57. Factors contributing to this were the breakdown of the public health system, alcoholism on a wide scale, and poor diet, the *London Times* said.

## Bolsheviks were first to legalize right to choose

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Unlike the privileged bureaucrats and wannabe capitalists who govern Russia today, the Bolshevik Party, which led the workers and peasants of Russia in carrying out the October 1917 revolution, recognized abortion as a woman's right.

Writing in 1913, at a time when the procedure was illegal everywhere in the world, Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin demanded "the unconditional annulment of all laws against abortions or against the distribution of medical literature on contraceptive measures."

The Bolsheviks were equally opposed to pressuring, much less compelling, women to have an abortion or use contraception as a means of population control—thus denying women the right to make their own decisions about bearing a child. This course, still pressed by "zero population growth" advocates today, was already popular among bourgeois and middle-class "reformers" in Russia early in the 20th century.

In the 1913 article, Lenin commented on press accounts of a medical conference where some argued paternalistically that limiting births eased the oppressive conditions of workers and peasants in tsarist Russia. One cynical participant exclaimed: "We have to convince mothers to bear children so that they can be maimed in educational establishments, so that lots can be drawn for them, so that they can be driven to suicide!"

Such an outlook was "depressed and cowardly," Lenin replied. If only

"there were fewer children to suffer our torments and hard toil, our poverty and our humiliation—such is the cry of the petty bourgeois." But what about bearing children, Lenin asked, in order "that they should *fight* better, more unitedly, consciously and resolutely than we are fighting against the present-day conditions of life that are maiming and ruining our generation?"

Acting from the very first days after the 1917 workers and peasants victory, the young Soviet republic took steps to advance the fight for women's economic, social, and political equality. By 1920 it had become the first country in the world to wipe laws outlawing abortion entirely off the books.

This working-class-led struggle for women's emancipation ground to a halt in Russia in the later 1920s, following Lenin's death. A petty-bourgeois layer in the Soviet government and Communist Party, led by Joseph Stalin—acting to defend their own material privileges at the expense of workers and peasants—began to carry out counterrevolutionary policies that reversed Lenin's proletarian course both at home and abroad.

The Stalinists began taking back gains won for women, oppressed nationalities, and working people as a whole. In 1936 Stalin outlawed most abortions, as a measure to increase the population. These privileged social layers said women had no right to refuse "the joys of motherhood." It was a patriotic duty to help expand the toiling

population. *Hero mothers, give birth in order to increase production!*—that was their reactionary cry.

Such state-enforced motherhood was uncompromisingly opposed by exiled Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky, who, since the mid-1920s, had waged a political battle to continue carrying out Lenin's course. Condemning a top Soviet judge who sought to rationalize denial of a woman's right to choose by arguing "We have need of people," Trotsky replied:

"Then have the kindness to bear them yourselves," might be the answer to the high judge of millions of toiling women, if the bureaucracy had not sealed their lips. . . . These gentlemen have, it seems, completely forgotten that socialism was to remove the cause which impels women to abortion, and not force her into the "joys of motherhood" with the help of foul police interference in what is to every woman the most intimate sphere of life. (See "Family, Youth and Culture" in Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed*, published by Pathfinder Press.)

Abortion was once again legalized in 1955. But the Soviet government, with its eyes still on the birth rate, refused to develop safe, effective contraception so women wouldn't have to resort to the procedure. As a result, most women have multiple abortions during their child-bearing years. Since the regime gives no priority to providing sanitary clinics, abortions often lead to infection or infertility.

In her 1990 book *Soviet Women:*  
**Continued on page 7**



### Women and the Family

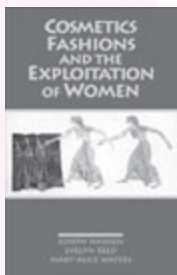
by Leon Trotsky  
How the October 1917 Russian Revolution transformed the fight for women's emancipation, guaranteeing the

right to abortion and divorce, establishing equality in economic and political life, and setting up child-care centers and public kitchens.—\$13

### Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women

by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, Mary-Alice Waters

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# ‘Working-class alternative to the bosses’ two parties’

BY RUTH ROBINETT

NEW YORK—“I work in a factory, and I’m running for Congress because I think it’s important to have a working-class party that’s an alternative to the Democrats and Republicans. We need workers and farmers running the government,” said Christopher Hoeppepner as he greeted people here at the Harlem Book Fair July 23.

Hoeppepner is running on the Socialist Workers Party ticket for U.S. Congress in the 9th District in parts of Queens and Brooklyn. The special election is September 13.

“One of the first things I’d do is use my office in Congress to help working people organize a social movement in the streets to fight for a massive, federally funded public works program, as well as a law shortening the work-week with no cut in pay, to create jobs,” the candidate told people. “The funds would come out of the bosses’ profits, which they take from the wealth working people produce with our labor.”

Tiffany Joyner, a teacher at the Institute of Technology in Media, Pennsylvania, told Hoeppepner about the cuts and layoffs at her school. “I get no benefits,” she said.

“How do we fight this?” responded Hoeppepner. “We need a revolution like they had in Cuba. Working people run that country. The idea of turning people away from the hospital because they have no insurance card is unheard of there.”

Hoeppepner explained the difference

## Brooklyn

Continued from front page that every day.”

Williamson showed Paul an article on the front page of the *Militant* about defending the right of abortion clinics to function free of harassment. Paul said she opposes abortion because of her religious beliefs. “Our campaign believes every woman should have the right to decide for herself whether to bring a pregnancy to term,” said Williamson. Paul replied, “Well, I guess I’d agree to that.”

Harry D’Agostino, SWP candidate for Assembly in the 27th District in Queens, joined Williamson in campaigning. Both urged everyone they met to take part in the July 31–August 7 actions in Germantown, Maryland, to defend the abortion clinic there from right-wing efforts to close it down. Daral Williams, a construction worker and member of Laborers’ International Union Local 79, stopped to listen. “It shouldn’t be illegal for a woman to choose an abortion,” he said.

Williams talked about the conditions in the construction industry: “It’s real bad now. The only reason I’m working is because I’m an apprentice. We’re cheaper. The journeymen are having a harder time finding work.”

D’Agostino noted that when bosses make fewer people do the same amount of work, speedup takes a big toll on safety. Williams nodded. “They are just looking to make profits,” he said. “I see that everyday in construction where they cut corners on safety.”

between what the capitalist parties call “politics” and what the socialist campaign presents. “The capitalists have their two parties, the Democrats and Republicans. Neither of them is on our side, neither represents working people,” he said.

“When my campaign talks about politics, we’re talking about *what workers do together*” to defend ourselves, Hoeppepner said. “We’ve done it before. Look at the massive struggle of millions to end segregation. Working people did that, in the streets.”

Both Hoeppepner’s opponents, Democrat David Weprin and Republican Robert Turner, argue that cutbacks in health care, pensions, and schools are necessary to “balance the budget.”

“Everyone agrees that we must tighten our belts,” Weprin told the Douglaston Patch, a Queens community website.

“I’m not a socialist, but the government better get its stuff together, because the average person’s had enough,” said T.J. Manning, a book printer, as he grabbed a flyer from Hoeppepner. “These politicians go to Washington and separate themselves from the people who elected them.”

New campaign supporter Virgen López accompanied Hoeppepner as he

## N.Y. weekly interviews Hoeppepner

“Last week the battle lines seemed to be drawn for the race to fill Anthony Weiner’s vacated seat in Congress,” said an article in *The Wave*, a weekly published in Rockaway Beach, Queens, in New York’s 9th Congressional District. “This week, the Congressional contest is getting a little more complicated. The Socialist Workers Party, after gathering 7,000 signatures . . . is putting its own candidate on the ballot, Chris Hoeppepner.”

Hoeppepner “is a Queens native, factory worker, and son of a New York firefighter,” the paper said. It noted he has been on the picket line at the strike of building maintenance workers at the Dayton Beach Park apartments, located in Rockaway Beach. The strike is organized by Service Employees Interna-

Continued from page 6

*Walking the Tightrope*, author Francine du Plessix Gray reported what she had learned from interviews with doctors, women, and others in the Soviet Union in the late 1980s. The Soviet Ministry of Health had only recently ended its refusal to make birth-control information available, she discovered. In Tbilisi, Georgia, then part of the Soviet Union, a doctor told Gray that only 18 percent of Soviet women used some form of birth control, and only 5 percent used the pill or IUD.

Illegal abortions proliferated alongside legal ones, Gray learned. And conditions—from hygiene to anesthesia



Militant/Brian Williams

Christopher Hoeppepner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in New York’s 9th District, and campaign supporter Ruth Robinett (center) discuss the campaign’s perspective with Makeela Amani at the Harlem Book Fair July 23.

introduced the socialist campaign to people at the fair. “It was nothing like I thought it would be,” she said afterward. “I thought we would be rejected. But people were open. They gave us their insights.

“Everybody’s going through the same thing—unemployment, cuts. We talked to one single mother with two kids who just lost her job.” A Bronx resident all her life, López works in a pharmaceutical factory. Would she campaign with Hoeppepner again? “Of course!” she replied.

Mina Ertas, a student, also campaigned with Hoeppepner. “When Chris talked about legalizing immigrants and a federal public works program to create jobs, people started listening. One man told him he didn’t disagree but Chris wouldn’t have any chance against the two-party monopoly. Chris said, ‘We have to start somewhere.’”

Longtime Democratic Party leader and former New York mayor Edward Koch announced July 25 that he is endorsing Republican Turner in the election to send a message to President Barack Obama, who he says wants to throw Israel “under the bus.” Koch opposes Obama’s remark that “the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps.”

Weprin told the *Daily News* that “I’m probably the most pro-Israel candidate around” and said it was “untenable for Israel to retreat to its pre-67 borders,” according to the *Politicker*.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign calls for a democratic, secular Palestine, where the national rights of the dispossessed Palestinian people are restored and no one has special rights based on religious or other beliefs. Arab and Jewish working people—whether in the fight for Palestinian rights or other social battles—will come to recognize the need for class solidarity and the fight for workers power, both in Israel and across the Middle East.

A democratic secular Palestine will guarantee the right of refuge to any Jew fleeing the anti-Semitic scapegoating and terror that will accompany intensifying capitalist breakdowns in years to come.



tional Union Local 32BJ.

“For the next two months, Hoeppepner is committed to leading a vigorous campaign . . . as the race’s ‘only working-class candidate,’” *The Wave* said.

## Bolsheviks and women’s emancipation measures

procedures—were abhorrent for most women, especially workers and peasants. The rate of injuries and deaths was high.

Gray interviewed factory worker Olga Lipovskaya, who had already had seven abortions and described conditions in a Leningrad clinic. After standing in line outside the operating room with other women, she said, “Then it’s your turn, and you go into a hall splattered with blood where two doctors are aborting seven or eight women at the same time . . . if you’re lucky they give you a little sedative, mostly Valium. Then it’s your turn to stagger out to the resting room, where

you’re not allowed to spend more than two hours because the production line, you see, is always very busy.”

Far from alleviating such “abortion-mill” conditions, the moves by the current Russian government to now restrict access to the procedure (see article on page 6) are just another swing in its decades-long course of denying women’s right to control their own bodies. It is the negation of Lenin’s statement nearly a century ago that class-conscious working people must demand “the unconditional annulment of all laws against abortions or against the distribution of medical literature on contraceptive measures.”



# Role of women’s platoon in Cuba’s revolutionary war

*Below is an excerpt from Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon in Cuba’s Revolutionary War, 1956–58. The Spanish edition is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for August. Puebla, a brigadier general in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, joined the struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1956 when she was 15 years old. She served in the Rebel Army’s first all-women’s platoon and was a founding member of the Federation of Cuban Women. The interview was conducted by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, and Luis Madrid. Copyright © 2003 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

WATERS: The founding of the Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon marked a milestone in the Cuban Revolution. It demonstrated in practice the social course a victorious Rebel Army would fight for. As Karl Marx put it, you can judge any society by the status of women.

What led to the unit’s formation?

PUEBLA: In May 1958, as the dictatorship’s military offensive began, the army stepped up its repression against the population of the Sierra Maestra. . . . After the army’s offensive had been defeated, we asked our commander in



Courtesy Teté Puebla  
Fidel Castro with members of Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon, Oct. 8, 1958, before one of its combat missions. From left, Fidel Vargas, Lola Feria, Edemis Tamayo, Teté Puebla, Castro, Isabel Rielo, Celia Sánchez, Lilia Rielo, Marcelo. Castro gave rifles to women when there were not enough for all the men because, he said, “They’re better soldiers. They’re more disciplined.”

chief to allow us to fight arms in hand. He agreed. Fidel said yes, women had won the right to fight with a rifle face to face with the enemy.

On September 4, 1958, a meeting took place, a sort of roundtable. Fidel assembled his general staff at the time, those who were left in the Sierra Maestra. . . . There was a discussion at this roundtable meeting that lasted more than seven hours. Fidel had a very big argument there. There were still not enough weapons for everyone, and the men were saying, “How can we give rifles to women when there are so many men who are unarmed?”

Fidel answered: “Because they’re better soldiers than you are. They’re more disciplined.”

“In any event,” he said, “I’m going to put together the squad, and I’m going to teach them how to shoot.”

So on September 4, the Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon was formed. As I explained, Isabel Rielo became the commanding officer. I was named second in command. The squad came to have thirteen combatants in it. The commander in chief chose the name as a tribute to Mariana Grajales, a heroine of our war of independence and the mother of Antonio Maceo, the legendary general who fought heroically in Cuba’s wars of independence for over thirty years.

Fidel was the one who taught us to shoot. We had to hit a quarter—or a 20-

centavo coin—20 to 30 meters away, depending on how he wanted to test our aim. And he drilled us. We had to split that coin. . . .

Then Fidel informed us: “You’re now going to be my personal security detail.”

From that day on, when people saw us, they would comment: “The Marianas are here. Our commander in chief must be arriving.” We were his advance detachment. He did this to demonstrate his confidence in women, in women’s equality. . . .

The first combat we saw was the battle of Cerro Pelado on September 27, 1958. This was the Marianas’ baptism by fire. The entire squad participated.

This was a tough battle. Remember that the enemy had artillery. The area had become the last redoubt of the dictatorship’s troops who had fled the territory after our counteroffensive had begun. We had to fight to get them out of the Sierra Maestra. Five compañeros were killed in the fighting; there were no casualties among the Marianas. Fidel has talked about this battle.

Afterward, Fidel went up to Eddy Suñol, one of the officers who was most opposed to having us as combatants, and he said: “I have a mission for you. We want to send you down to the plains, but you’re going to take the girls with you.”

Right then and there Commander Su-

ñol said no. “I’m not going to the cities with them.”

Frankly, he was forced to take us. Fidel told him: “Either you take the women or you’re not going.” Suñol took us, although he did so gritting his teeth.

We arrived in Holguín on the night of October 20. The first battle began at dawn on the 21st, near the Holguín reservoir, where we were surprised by two trucks and a jeep full of the dictatorship’s soldiers.

We were surrounded with no way out, because the soldiers were less than ten minutes away from us. We agreed among ourselves that we would never surrender. We’d die fighting.

WATERS: The army troops must have been surprised to see you.

PUEBLA: Yes, because they had never before seen women in combat.

Back at the command post, when the report on the battle was made, the question was asked: “How did the women conduct themselves? What was their stance?” After that battle, the issue was settled. Women could fight alongside the men. Radio Rebelde was reporting it. We suffered two wounded and captured eleven rifles.

MADRID: What about Eddy Suñol?

PUEBLA: Suñol sent a message to Fidel apologizing for having opposed him on this question and acknowledging that Fidel was right. Because that battle had demonstrated that what Fidel had been saying about women was correct. They are as good soldiers as the men.

I have to tell you that after having been one of the main opponents of women’s integration, I’m now completely satisfied. I congratulate you once again because you are never wrong. Beforehand I believed that this time you were mistaken. I wish you could see—even if it were a movie, so you could smile with joy—the actions of Teté in particular, as well as the other compañeras. When the order was given to advance, some of the men stayed behind, but the women went ahead in the vanguard. Their courage and calmness merits the respect and admiration of all the rebels and everyone else.

EDDY SUÑOL  
Letter to Fidel Castro, October 1958

August

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# Cuban Revolution sets the example

On July 26, 1953, a group of 160 fighters led by Fidel Castro attacked the Moncada garrison in Santiago, Cuba, determined to open a popular revolution against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Fifty-eight years later the Cuban Revolution remains an example of how working people can organize to win political power and transform society and themselves in the process.

Amid a capitalist crisis ravaging workers and farmers today, it is an example that needs to be emulated in the United States and the world over.

The Moncada attack was defeated. But the July 26 Movement that arose from it defied Batista's prisons and torturers and, on Jan. 1, 1959, led Cuba's workers and farmers to power. Ninety miles from U.S. shores, the new revolutionary government began acting in the interests of the exploited majority, beginning with a deep-going agrarian reform that confiscated the plantations of the U.S. sugar companies and wealthy Cuban families and distributed land to the peasants. The government outlawed segregation of Afro Cubans in jobs, housing, education, and society as a whole.

From the day it took power, Cuba's revolutionary state power stopped enforcing laws banning abortion. In 1965 that medical procedure was legalized, making Cuba the first country in Latin America and the

Caribbean to do so. (To this day, only Guyana and Puerto Rico, in addition to Cuba, allow abortion on demand.)

Cuba's workers and peasants didn't back down in the early 1960s when their course came into conflict with the U.S. government and U.S. companies Washington protected. Instead, they deepened their revolution, taking over U.S.- and Cuban-owned industry, banks, and farms and organizing them for the benefit of the Cuban people.

For that the imperialists have never forgiven them.

If working people in the United States, the richest nation on earth, emulated the example of Cuban workers and farmers by taking political and economic power out of the hands of the capitalist class and beginning to organize society to meet human needs, imagine what we could accomplish. Imagine the solidarity we could mobilize for struggles by working people the world over.

That's exactly what the capitalist class in the United States does not want us to organize and carry out. Every U.S. administration since the Cuban Revolution came to power—including that of Barack Obama—has sought to overturn the Cuban government. Our response must be to demand: Lift all U.S. restrictions on travel to Cuba! End the U.S. economic embargo!

## Roy Inglee, lifelong fighter for socialism

BY JOHN STUDER

WILMINGTON, Delaware—Some 50 people here July 20 celebrated the life of Roy Inglee, a member and then supporter of the Socialist Workers Party for 47 years. Inglee died two days earlier.

Richard Johnson, a fighter for Irish national freedom imprisoned in the United States for 10 years for "conspiracy" to violate the federal Arms Control Act, spoke at the event. When he was railroaded to prison in 1989, Johnson said, he got a letter from Inglee, whom he'd never met. "When you're a political prisoner," Johnson said, "contact from political people on the outside means a lot." Inglee became a regular correspondent and visitor, as well as a lifelong friend and political collaborator.

Kathy Dunlap, a coworker of Inglee's at Sears, said how much she enjoyed and appreciated the "political opinions he shared every day about everything."

John Studer, from the Socialist Workers Party in nearby Philadelphia, noted that Inglee had been centrally involved in winning ballot status for SWP candidates in Delaware. In 2004, he said, state officials had kept the party's presidential candidate off the ballot. But in 2008, with Inglee's help and building on what had been achieved four years earlier, the party registered hundreds more people, and the SWP ticket of Róger Calero and Alyson Kennedy was placed on the ballot.

Last year, state lawmakers doubled the registration requirement for ballot status. "Roy was looking forward to fighting for the party's spot in 2012," Studer said.



Roy Inglee and Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for vice president in 2008, after filing to get party on Delaware ballot.

Over the years, Studer said, Inglee had helped form a Young Socialist Alliance chapter at the University of Delaware; supported workers fights on the docks, at auto plants, and in poultry plants on the Delmarva Peninsula; built protests against U.S. imperialism's wars; and carried out other political work. He was a well-known supporter in Delaware of the struggle to end British colonial rule of Northern Ireland and get all UK troops out.

At the time of his death, Inglee was a new member of the Print Project, working to keep Pathfinder Press books in print for workers joining the fight against capitalism's deepening attacks.

The meeting to mark Inglee's political life was organized by his companion K.B. Inglee and daughter Bodge, who chaired.

### Bonus was for 'no injuries,' but workers know it's a lie

*Below is a July 17 note from a factory worker in Iowa, sent in with a "blood money" contribution to the Socialist Workers Party's Capital Fund. Class-conscious workers take "bonuses" and other bribes by bosses and put them to good use by giving them to this special fund, which makes possible long-term projects of the party. "Safety" bonuses—designed to keep workers silent about dangerous speedup and other unsafe conditions on the job—are a good example.*

In the mail is a check from me for \$25. This is blood money from the tire company I was working at. They mailed a bond for \$25 and also \$25 was added to my last check. I was told at the bank you have to wait a year to cash in a bond.

This "bonus" was supposedly for no injuries in a certain amount of days (the sign in front had it at well over 200). Most workers there know this is a lie. A coworker in the press department (where it gets to around 130 degrees) had a heart attack. His doctor said he had a thyroid condition and the heat caused this attack. Because it happened at home it's not considered an on-the-job injury, and because he was there less than six months and was still on probation the company refused to move him to another department. He also had to pay out of pocket for the medical expenses. I had also heard of a supervisor breaking his arm by getting it caught in a machine. I'm sure there are many others.

—MAURA DELUCA

## Abortion clinic

Continued from front page

jority," Lindsey Creekmore, one of the organizers of the Summer Celebration of Choice, said in a phone interview.

More than 200 supporters of women's rights have already signed up in advance for the pro-choice presence outside the clinic, Creekmore said. More are expected to directly join the week of actions. "For many this is their first time being part of a pro-choice action like this," she noted. "We are organizing two training sessions" so participants can be prepared and avoid provocations organized by Operation Rescue.

Alicia Dudziak, a student at Oberlin College in Ohio, attended the first training session, which drew about 30 people. "Although abortion is legal, there are many things that make access difficult—like cost, transportation to the nearest clinic, parental notification laws, and clinic violence," said Dudziak, who volunteers as a clinic escort in Cleveland. "I want to make sure that women feel safe."

The Maryland actions are also being spurred by a spate of laws around the country that restrict the right to choose. According to the Guttmacher Institute, states enacted 80 restrictions on abortion rights so far this year, more than double the previous record of 34 in 2005. Many prohibit abortions performed after 20 or 21 weeks, except if the mother's life is in danger.

Operation Rescue has made "late-term abortions" and Dr. Carhart central targets of its campaign against the right to choose. He is one of just a handful of doctors in the United States who performs abortions after the 20th week. In a front-page article in the July 25 *Washington Post*, Carhart said most women who come to him for abortions later in their pregnancy do so because the fetus has severe abnormalities. According to the Centers for Disease Control, only 1.3 percent of abortions take place at 21 weeks or later.

"Women should have control of our own bodies," Lisa Sendrow, a student at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, told the *Militant*. She volunteers with the National Organization for Women and is promoting the Summer Celebration of Choice.

Sendrow has helped protect a clinic just once before. Rightists had come to a Pennsylvania clinic, "and they called us baby killers," she said in a phone interview. "They don't understand that it's about making your own choice for yourself. I'm not 'pro-abortion,' I'm for the right of women to reproductive freedom."

Another rightist group, Operation Save America, provocatively targeted a half-dozen abortion clinics in Orlando, Florida, from July 16 to 23 without closing any down. They used loud speakers to play the sound of a heartbeat, shouted "murderer" at women going into the clinics, and offered money to clinic-goers to attend a video showing against the right to choose.

Some of those accompanying women entering the clinics in Orlando joined with pro-choice supporters and held up signs saying, "This clinic says open." Ida Eskamani, a student at the University of Central Florida, organized students and others to help defend the clinics. "Each day we organized to meet on campus and caravan to different clinics," she said.

Summer Celebration of Choice begins at Germantown Reproductive Health Services at 7:30 a.m. July 31 and will include a 1.3 mile Kick-Off Walk at 1:00 p.m. The pro-choice presence at the clinic will continue every day through August 7.

On Wednesday, August 3, we're making a "concerted effort to turn out large numbers for a peaceful presence," Laura Kacere, campus organizer for Feminist Majority Foundation, told the *Militant*, "in response to Operation Rescue's plans for a 'Live Ultrasound.'"

For up-to-date information on the week's activities, go to [www.summerofchoice.com](http://www.summerofchoice.com).

*Paul Pederson in Washington, D.C., and Tom Baumann and Naomi Craine in Florida contributed to this article.*

### Our August schedule

With this issue the *Militant* begins its biweekly schedule for August. The next issue will be mailed August 11 and the one after that on August 25. We will resume weekly publication with issue number 32, mailed out September 1.