

THE MILITANT

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Fidel Castro on march to victory
in Cuba's revolutionary war
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 39 OCTOBER 31, 2011

Social crisis, class struggle spur interest in 'Militant'

BY MICHEL POITRAS

Eight hundred seventy one people have bought *Militant* subscriptions in the first two weeks of the seven-week international drive! This is 40 percent of the 2,200 goal—well ahead of schedule.

Interest continues to grow among workers and youth in a newspaper that tells the truth about the deepening crisis of capitalist rule, builds solidarity with labor resistance, and points the road forward to the conquest of power by the working class.

On October 12, a half dozen members of the Socialist Workers Party in New York City sold 11 subscriptions and 135 single copies of the paper to a demonstration of 400 office cleaners that converged with Occupy Wall Street demonstrators. Unfortunately they ran out of papers before the action was over.

Then a few days later, the same thing

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Fall 'Militant' subscription campaign					
Oct. 1–Nov. 20 (week 2)					
Country	quota	sold	%	2,200	
UNITED STATES					
Washington, DC	60	34	57%	871 should be	
Boston*	60	31	52%		
Seattle*	175	80	46%		
Des Moines*	165	72	44%		
Lincoln†	30	13	43%		
Los Angeles	150	61	41%		
New York*	260	105	40%		
Chicago*	165	59	36%		
Miami	90	32	36%		
Atlanta*	170	59	35%		
Twin Cities	140	48	34%		
New Paltz, NY†	15	5	33%		
Philadelphia	90	26	29%		
Houston*	90	24	27%		
San Francisco*	170	44	26%		
Bloomington, IN†	5	1	20%		
Muscoda, WI†	3	0	0%		
Total US	1,838	694	38%		
UNITED KINGDOM					
Manchester	60	18	30%		
London*	120	55	46%		
Total U.K.	180	73	41%		
CANADA*	85	37	44%		
NEW ZEALAND	80	42	53%		
AUSTRALIA	65	25	38%		
Total	2,248	871	40%		
Should be	2,200	629	29%		
* Raised goal † First time on scoreboard					

Immigrants stand up to Alabama antiworker law

1-day strike hits plants, schools in parts of state



AP/The Decatur Daily/ Gary Cosby Jr.
Some 300 rally in front of Limestone County Courthouse in Athens, Ala., October 16 to protest Alabama's new anti-immigrant law, which was upheld by federal judge in September. On October 12 immigrant workers in state took a day off work in protest. Two days after strike, 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a temporary injunction against certain aspects.

BY SETH GALINSKY AND SAM MANUEL

ALBANYVILLE, Ala.—Thousands of Latino workers in Alabama held a one-day strike October 12 to protest the passage of an anti-immigrant law in the state.

LEGALIZE UNDOCUMENTED! SOLIDARITY WITH ALL WORKERS IN STRUGGLE!
—See editorial, p. 9

In schools across the state students boycotted classes, as many as a quarter were absent at some, and hundreds of Latino-owned businesses closed for the day. The strike was strongest here in northeast Alabama, the center of the state's \$2.7 billion poultry industry.

Workers in a half dozen poultry processing plants and at other factories, companies and construction sites forced the bosses to close up shop or drastically reduce production.

"We did this so that everyone can see that we are together, that they have to take us into account," Pedro

Márquez, 30, who stayed at home from his job at a heating and cooling company October 12, told the *Militant*.

The strike call was initiated a week earlier by Spanish-language radio station *La Jefa*, which is based in Pelham and has a chain of affiliates heard in

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White House sends special forces to 4 countries in Central Africa

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

President Barack Obama announced October 14 the sending of some 100 "combat-equipped" troops to Central Africa. The move is but the latest by Washington in a concerted effort to strengthen U.S. imperialism's influence in the continent.

The soldiers "are primarily special operations forces," reported the American Forces Press Service.

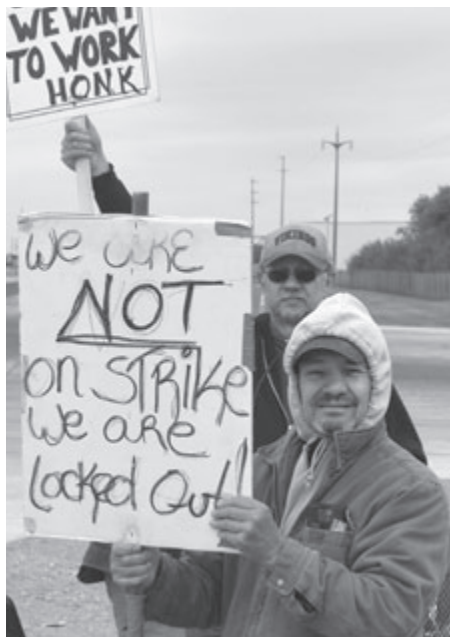
The military action will target the Lord's Resistance Army, described in the U.S. press as a persistent group

Sugar workers solid in fight against bosses union busting

BY FRANK FORRESTAL AND TONY LANE

GRAND FORKS, N.D.—After 11 weeks on picket lines, locked-out members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union will resume negotiations

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Militant/Frank Forrestal
Picket outside American Crystal Sugar in Hillsboro, N.D. Bosses locked out 1,300 after 96 percent rejected concession contract.

ILWU workers spread word about union battle at Washington port

BY MARY MARTIN

LONGVIEW, Wash.—Members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 are reaching out to other unionists and working people for solidarity in their fight against union busting at EGT Development's grain terminal at the Port of Longview.

EGT has refused to hire ILWU workers in violation of a lease agree-

ment with the port and instead hired members of Operating Engineers Local 701 through a subcontractor, under inferior conditions and without a contract. The ILWU has maintained picket lines outside EGT since June.

"Our challenge is to get out the word about our fight here," Dan Coffman, ILWU Local 21 president, told the *Militant*. "But we are also sup-

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NZ: Indonesian fishermen refuse to accept ill treatment

BY BASKARAN APPU
AND GEORGE FYSON

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—The Indonesian crews of two fishing vessels here fought for several months against working conditions, demanding back wages and an end to their contracts.

Seven workers walked off the *Shin Ji* May 25 in Auckland and 32 walked off the *Oyang 75* June 20 in Christchurch. Most have since returned to Indonesia.

The ships’ owners, based in South Korea, are contracted to New Zealand companies that hold rights to fishing quotas issued by the New Zealand government.

Crew from the *Shin Ji* spoke to *Militant* reporters in Auckland August 20. One of them, Hendra, explained what sparked the walkout. “While we were having dinner, the captain demanded two of the crew members start up a generator, which we knew was not needed until the next day. When they said they would do it after dinner, the captain began verbally abusing them.”

The incident was the last straw. In April the crew had given notice they wanted to end their two-year contracts two months early, an option the company is supposed to allow. Five workers’ contracts were due to expire in June and two in July. If a worker breaks the contract, they can be fined thousands of dollars.

The seven had spent most of the two years at sea, working 18-hour shifts. While a small portion of their wages was sent to their families in Indonesia, most was withheld.

“We worked from 4 a.m. until the dai-

ly work was finished, often late in the evening, with short breaks for breakfast and lunch,” said Hendra. “The 10 to 15 minutes we were allowed for lunch gave us not much more time than to get off our heavy work clothes and gloves.”

For meals they were often fed fish bait past its expiration date. The captain and other officers dined on meat, vegetables and fruit. “The initial quota of 10 sets of work gloves was reduced to four pairs; the ration of cigarettes was cut back and, like the fish bait, we discovered the tobacco was past its use-by date,” Hendra explained.

In August 2010 six crew members died when the *Oyang 70*, a predecessor to the *Oyang 75*, sank in the Southern Ocean. In response to the incident, the University of Auckland Business School released a study of conditions aboard such vessels.

It described accommodations with little or no heat, dirty drinking water,



Militant/Baskaran Appu
Indonesian fishermen who work in New Zealand waters walked off the *Shin Ji* vessel in May. Hendra, third from right, gave interview to *Militant* reporters about their fight.

fish bait fed to crews, lack of protective clothing and safety gear, cover-up of accidents, assaults of crew members, inhumane punishments, sexual abuse, and nonpayment of wages

There are 27 “Foreign Charter Ves-

sels” with some 2,000 crew at any one time fishing off the New Zealand coasts under similar arrangements. The study noted that crews on New Zealand-flagged ships receive up to 10 times higher wages.

US rulers push drug tests for welfare, unemployment

BY JOHN STUDER

In three dozen states proposals were made this year to impose mandatory drug testing for people applying for welfare, unemployment compensation, food stamps, public housing, home heating assistance, technical school enrollment and other social programs.

This latest attack on privacy and constitutional protections takes place as state and local governments seek to slash aid and other programs to assure they can meet payments to bondhold-

ers—their number one budget priority. At the same time, growing numbers of working people face unemployment, declining incomes, evictions and mortgage defaults, tuition hikes, and rising prices for food and other basic necessities.

A bill demanding mandatory state drug testing of all welfare applicants nationwide is pending in Congress.

A law adopted in Florida requires all workers who get or seek state aid to take a drug test—and pay for it themselves.

The law has been challenged in court by Luis Lebron, who lost his job in 2008 and has exhausted his veteran’s benefits. He goes to school at the University of Central Florida and cares for his four-year-old son and disabled mother.

“I defended the Constitution,” Lebron told the media, referring to his military service. “Now I am asking the Constitution to defend me.” He added, “It’s insulting and degrading that people think I’m using drugs just because I need a little help to take care of my family while I finish up my education.”

Drug testing welfare applicants is “a violation of the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unreasonable search and seizure,” Maria Kayanan, Associate Legal Director of the American

Civil Liberties Union of Florida, which is handling Lebron’s challenge, told the *Militant*.

Texas is one of 12 states that considered imposing drug testing on workers applying for unemployment benefits this year. In addition to testing all applicants, the law would bar unemployment benefits to anyone denied a job because they failed a company drug test.

In Chicago, the Housing Authority has proposed that everyone who lives in public housing, or applies to live there, must pass a drug test.

In New York City, officials require all those who apply for food stamps—and there are now 1.8 million New Yorkers who get them—to be electronically fingerprinted. The state of Arizona has the same requirement.

Six students at Linn State Technical College in Missouri have filed a class-action suit against a decree by the state-funded public college to impose mandatory drug tests on all students. School administrators announced each student would be billed \$50. They claim that since they are preparing youth for jobs, where they increasingly face drug tests, getting tested at school fits with their life “vector.”

THE MILITANT

‘There are others just like you out there’

“You should read the ‘Militant.’ It helps you see that there are others just like you out there who want to change things, the same as you do.”

—Henare Reti
truck driver,
Auckland, New Zealand



Militant/Annalucia Vermunt

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

NY mayor backs off move to evict ‘Occupy Wall St.’

BY DAN FEIN

NEW YORK—More one month after it began, Occupy Wall Street and similar actions worldwide continue to be a magnet for young people, workers, and hard-hit layers of the middle class, all of whose lives and plans are deeply affected by the unfolding economic and social crisis of capitalism.

In an effort to quash the protests, Republican Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced cops would remove protesters from Zuccotti Park here starting at 7 a.m., October 13 for “cleaning,” after which there would be a ban on tents, sleeping bags and other paraphernalia.

In response, hundreds came down to defend the right to free speech. Protesters brought mops and brooms, declaring they would clean the park themselves.

“Students get bogged down by debt. They shouldn’t have to be ruined to get an education,” Rebecca Bannasch, 16, told the *Militant*. She and Josia DeChi-

ara came to New York from Shutesbury, Mass., to “be part of something big, something for social change.”

“There is a whole generation of teenagers who can’t get any work experience,” Bannasch added.

“I sent out 977 resumé’s since graduation, 60 for overseas jobs. No interviews,” said Nathan Tumazi, 25, a graduate of University of California, Irvine. He’s been unemployed since June 2010.

Those who come to Zuccotti Park find a wide variety of views on the source and solution to the economic crisis. Anarchist groups that helped initiate the actions put forward the idea that the protest is an end in itself.

Some groups promote conspiracy theories and reactionary claims that the source of the problem is the Federal Reserve and Jewish bankers.

Many are attracted to working-class struggles. Several marches by union workers in various fights with the bosses have joined with Occupy Wall Street demonstrators, where they find solidarity that inspires both groups.

The Bloomberg administration faces some obstacles in the effort to evict the Occupy Wall Street camp.

Most people sympathize with the protests, which have tapped into rising discontent. According to a Quinnipiac University survey, 67 percent of people in New York agree with the protesters and 72 percent say they have a right to stay as long as they want.

And the protests have backing from prominent figures in the Democratic Party, who see them as an opportunity to garner support against their Republican Party rivals as the twin capitalist parties prepare to vie for the 2012 elections.

Central Democratic Party figures, including Manhattan Borough President



Militant/Dan Fein

Occupy Wall Street protest camp in Zuccotti Park in Lower Manhattan October 15.

Scott Stringer, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, state Senator Daniel Squadron, and Congressman Jerry Nadler, called Bloomberg and Brookfield Properties, which owns the park, and demanded the eviction be halted. The park owners, and Bloomberg, backed down.

As politicians from both parties lead the assault on working people, Democratic figures are stepping up their demagoguery against “corporate greed” and the Republican Party. However, according to a recent Gallup poll, more than twice as many people in the U.S. blame the federal government than the banking and financial system for the crisis.

“Protesters are assembling in New York and around the country to let billionaires, big oil and big bankers know that we’re not going to let the richest 1% force draconian economic policies and massive cuts to crucial programs on Main Street Americans,” says a recent email sent out by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Conservative Republicans are also

taking note. “If you put aside the political rants,” wrote Rich Lowry, in the *National Review*, “the stories [of economic hardship by protest participants] are a stark pointillist portrayal of the grinding misery of the Great Recession.”

Lowry notes that while the Democrats have no program to create jobs or do anything to ameliorate the crisis, the Republican presidential candidates don’t either. “Republicans often don’t even bother to try to connect their program to the troubles of workers down the income scale,” he admits.

Socialist Workers Party members
Continued on page 9

Imports for 2011 holidays down at US ports

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The annual surge in cargo shipments through U.S. ports prior to stepped-up holiday sales in November and December doesn’t appear to be happening this year.

Figures for August and September, the key months for these end-of-the-year shipments, show imports of cargo containers are down compared to last year, a result of declining trade and production that’s at the root of the ongoing worldwide capitalist economic crisis. Resulting high unemployment, rising debts, and growing number of underwater home mortgages affect spending and lead retail stores to order fewer goods.

In Los Angeles, with the nation’s highest volume container port, overall export and import cargo traffic in September declined 0.8 percent compared to a year earlier. While imports fell by just 0.2 percent that month, in August they were down 5.8 percent.

“We may have reached a plateau and the traditional peak season has not materialized,” Port of Los Angeles spokesman Phillip Sanfield told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Based on preliminary figures, imported cargo at the Port of Long Beach, the second largest, is expected to be down 5 to 8 percent in September, after dropping 14.2 percent the previous month, noted the *Times*.

The declines in Los Angeles and Long Beach are reflected in other major ports. According to Zepol Corp., overall U.S. import volumes were down 4.5 percent in September compared with a year earlier, the *Times* reported.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

10 Years of U.S. War in Afghanistan: U.S., NATO Troops Out! Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4025 S Western Ave. Tel.: (323) 295-2600.

San Francisco

Workers Resistance Today and the Battles Ahead. A Party-Building Fund Meeting. Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 6. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Spreading Ties of Solidarity. Preparing for the Working-Class Battles to Come. A Party-Building Fund Meeting. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 29. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: Dinner, \$7; program, \$5. 476 1/2 Edgewood Ave. Tel: (404) 525-5200.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Struggles of Workers and Farmers in the Upper Midwest: New Opportunities for Building a Revolutionary Party Today. Speaker: Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 30, 2 p.m. 1311 1/2 E Lake St. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Unfolding Working-Class Struggle and Building a Revolutionary Party. A Party-Building Fund Meeting. Speaker: Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 29. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 307 W. 36th St. 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Class Struggle in Israel and the Middle East. Speaker: Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 29. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: Reception, \$5; program \$5. 3701 Pulaski Ave. Tel.: (215) 225-1720.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

From the Waterfront Workers to the Locked-Out Workers and Coal Miners: Women Join the Fight against Employer Attacks on Workers in the U.S. Speakers: Mich-Elle Myers, Maritime Union of Australia; Joanne Kuniansky, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Donation: \$4 waged, \$2 unwaged. Upstairs, 281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718-9698.

Public meetings boost SWP fund

BY MARY MARTIN

The Socialist Workers Party fund drive is gaining momentum as three recent public meetings provided a needed boost to the effort—so far \$10,168 has been received by mail in New York, still slightly behind schedule.

David Rosenfeld writes that \$303 was collected at a Party-Building Fund meeting in Des Moines. Among the participants were Jessica Garraway and David Pope, students from University of Northern Iowa and leaders of Occupy Cedar Valley and the Feminist Action League.

Frank Forrestal from the Socialist Workers Party, who has written for the *Militant* about the fight of locked-out sugar beet workers in the Upper Midwest, was the main speaker. Garraway also spoke. She described how she and Pope concluded they were socialists and sought out members of the Socialist Workers Party. “Reading the *Militant* pushed me to want to get involved,” she said. “I talked to the sugar workers in Minnesota and was inspired to see people who were going about their daily lives months earlier and were now organizing picket lines.”

A sanitation worker from Austin, Texas; a retired carpenter; and a teacher came to a fund meeting of 20 people in Houston where \$1,300 was collected. Paul Mailhot, who organized the team

of communist workers to bring the *Militant* and books on revolutionary working-class politics to the Tahrir Book Fair in Cairo, Egypt, earlier this year, spoke on “Israel and the Class Struggle in the Middle East Today.”

In Chicago Keenan Boyd, a Columbia College student who has been part of the Occupy Chicago demonstrations, brought greetings to a fund meeting there; \$2,540 was collected.

Party-Building Fund week 1 of 7

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Des Moines	\$3,000	\$955	32%
Lincoln, Neb.	\$200	\$60	30%
San Francisco	\$14,000	\$2,425	17%
Atlanta	\$8,000	\$1,117	14%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$1,115	13%
Houston	\$4,000	\$419	10%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$1,004	10%
Twin Cities	\$6,000	\$550	9%
New York	\$20,000	\$1,803	9%
Miami	\$3,200	\$145	5%
Seattle	\$9,000	\$215	2%
Boston	\$3,800	\$90	2%
Washington, DC	\$7,500	\$20	0%
Philadelphia	\$3,700	\$0	0%
Other		\$250	
Total	\$100,900	\$10,168	10%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$14,286	14%

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page
happened in Kansas City, Mo., where party members were talking to Ford autoworkers voting on a new contract.

“Quite a few,” wrote Maggie Trowe, “were interested in *Militant* articles on the locked-out sugar workers in North Dakota and Minnesota and the fight against concessions by UAW members at Oshkosh Corp. in Wisconsin. Several workers wanted to talk about the Occupy Wall Street protests. We sold 27 single copies of the paper and 8 subscriptions—every paper we had—and kick ourselves for not bringing more.”

Clearly, *Militant* distributors need to adjust and start carrying more papers wherever they go now.

“A team went to sell the *Militant* at a shift change at the Ford assembly plant in Chicago,” wrote Ilona Gersh, “where 3,000 members of UAW Local 551 voted last week to reject the national contract by 77 percent. Five bought subscriptions and another 44 bought single copies.”

Gersh also reported that over the last two weekends, 13 subscriptions and two copies of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs—one of five books on discount with a subscription—were sold to UAW members in Oshkosh, who recently pushed back the company’s attempt to weaken their union.

“Bay Area dockworkers represented by ILWU Local 10 have bought dozens of *Militants*, two subscriptions, and two copies of *Teamster Rebellion* since Sept. 6,” wrote Betsey Stone from San Francisco. “Especially appreciated was the paper’s three-column picture of the large Longview, Wash., solidarity rally” in issue no. 37.

Militant supporters from Atlanta, Chicago and Miami sold 77 copies of the paper, 21 subscriptions, and three copies of *Teamster Rebellion* during a four-day trip to the South Illinois coalfields. “The response was

great,” wrote Alyson Kennedy from Chicago, “especially at the American Coal mine portal in Galatia, where 18 single copies of the paper were sold.”

“We sold 27 subscriptions so far this week, bringing our total to 37 as of Monday morning,” wrote Beverly Bernardo from Montreal. “We sold 10 subscriptions at the Occupy Wall Street protest here and 8 copies in French or English of the five books on special.” Two subscriptions to the paper were sold at the picket lines of striking campus workers at McGill University in Montreal and the University of Sherbooke.

In the last week 21 subscriptions were sold at Occupy Wall Street protests in New York. Nineteen signed up for subscriptions at similar actions in Iowa, 16 in London, and 5 in Sydney, Australia, during the course of the week.

“Several were keen to get a paper that explains the roots of the capitalist crisis and to find more about a working-class revolutionary course of action,” Paul Davis from London



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Socialist Workers Party member Ellen Brickley introducing *Militant* to autoworker entering a union meeting in Kansas City, Mo., on new Ford national agreement, October 16.

wrote.

In face of these seemingly endless openings, distributors in Canada; Des Moines, Iowa; Lincoln, Neb.; and London have increased their quotas

this week. In addition, a distributor in Muscoda, Wis., has been added to the scoreboard. This brings the new quota total to 2,248.

Continue the good work!

Longshore workers snatch up ‘Teamster’ books

BY MARY MARTIN

LONGVIEW, Wash., October 13— Since the end of July, 37 books from the *Teamster* series by Farrell Dobbs along with 65 subscriptions to the *Militant* have been sold to members and supporters of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 engaged in a fight against a union-busting campaign at EGT’s grain terminal here.

The best seller at 23 copies is *Teamster Rebellion*, the first of the four-part series on the working-class battles in Minnesota in 1934 that paved the way for the national rise of the CIO as a fighting social movement. Five workers have bought *Teamster Power*, the second volume; one got the four-volume set, which includes *Teamster Politics* and *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

After picking up a copy of *Teamster*

Power at the picket line, Robert Merli ordered the other three volumes. “I was taught as a small child to never cross a picket line,” he said. “Today people grow up being told to think only about the money and nothing else. This is why knowing the history of the unions is so important.”

Maynard Brent, an active retired member of Local 21, recently finished *Teamster Rebellion* and picked up a copy of *Teamster Power*. “This labor history is important,” he said. “You can read in here how the bosses use the same tactics time and again. When they want something, they take you in the office and call you by your first name. Any other time, they don’t know you. Get back with me in a couple of weeks, I’ll be ready for the third volume.”

The books tell the story of how workers in the 1930s successfully fought the courts, cops and the capitalists they serve to establish and use union power. They explain how all of the institutions of the capitalist system are arrayed against the working class, which inevitably leads to class battle. The men and

women of ILWU Local 21 in Longview have faced violence and harassment by cops, and slanders of their fight in the big-business press during the course of their battle.

These books were sold mostly on the picket line, at rallies, or door-to-door in working-class neighborhoods here. The workers who bought them are not only ILWU members and supporters from Longview, but also members of the union from Seattle and Vancouver, Wash., as well as Portland, Ore., who have participated in picket lines and union rallies here. Four of the books were sold to ILWU members in Seattle outside their union hall.

The same interest is reflected among sugar workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar in the Upper Midwest since August 1. Some 20 copies of the *Teamster* books have been sold, the majority being *Teamster Rebellion*, but also a few copies of *Teamster Power*. Two workers in Drayton, N.D., picked up the complete series.

Frank Forrestal from Minneapolis contributed to this article.

US troops to Central Africa

Continued from front page
far been unsuccessful in removing LRA leader Joseph Kony or his top commanders from the battlefield.”

Obama signed legislation last summer pledging to assist its African allies in the campaign, which has wide bipartisan backing.

Since 2008 Washington has provided \$33 million in military aid to back the Ugandan government in combating the LRA, according to Pentagon Press Secretary George Little. Training also included a light infantry brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The troop deployment to Central Africa comes as Washington has been expanding its foothold in Africa, strengthening the offensive military operations of the U.S. Africa Command during NATO’s bombardment of Libya. U.S. aerial armed drones have conducted assaults in Libya and Somalia. A drone

base is also being reopened on the island of Seychelles off the coast of East Africa, with another in operation in Djibouti on the northern part of the continent.

“There are about 200 U.S. trainers in Kenya and Ethiopia, and about 3,500 troops conducting missions in Djibouti,” according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The U.S. Africa Command has 13 major joint exercises involving troops from nations throughout the continent planned for 2011, according to the command’s website. Among the locations are Morocco, Gambia, Senegal, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Gulf of Guinea and South Africa.

The continent is quickly becoming the most important source of hydrocarbons and other fuel for the U.S. and represents a key battleground in the competition for resources and markets between Washington and rival powers in Europe and Asia, particularly Beijing.

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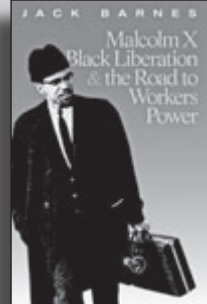
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Contact distributors on page 8—subscription rates on page 2



Pathfinder Press

ON THE PICKET LINE

Oshkosh workers defeat company's temp worker push

OSHKOSH, Wis.—In good spirits members of United Auto Workers Local 578 poured out of the Aviation Museum hangar here October 15. They had just voted 77 percent to ratify a contract with Oshkosh Corp. that did not include the company's previous demand to be able to hire as much as 10 percent of the workforce as nonunion temporary employees.

The temporary worker stipulation was the main reason 3,100 union members rejected two earlier contract offers. The first offer was voted down September 30 by 85 percent of the membership. A week later the company's second proposal was rejected by 63.5 percent.

"I think they tried to scare us into supporting the contract," Kelly Williams, a material handler who has worked at the Oshkosh truck plant for 10 years, told the *Militant*. "They say they want the company to be competitive. We say we want a share of their profits."

Two government contracts for vehicles used in Afghanistan pushed company sales toward \$10 billion in the last fiscal year, an increase of 188 percent from the previous year. During the past five years, the number of workers has doubled.

"Everybody stood united," said Joe Preisler, vice president of UAW Local 578. "They picketed, rallied, wore the same color shirts. That has to continue. It's all of us together. No member gets left behind."

—Ilona Gersh

IAM strikes at nuclear weapons plant in Kansas City, Missouri

KANSAS CITY, Mo., October 14—Workers on the picket line at the sprawling Bannister Federal Complex here say that Honeywell's plan to cut pay for new hires by 50 percent was the main reason they voted to strike. Eighty-five percent of the members of the International Association of Machinists rejected the company's contract proposal October 9.

In the first week of the walkout at the federal nuclear weapons facility union members organized two marches from the union hall to the plant. Around-the-clock pickets are stationed at four of the complex's entrances.

A large inflatable rat outside the plant holds a banner saying, "Honeywell is unfair to their current and future employees." Honeywell is also pressing to make retirees pay the entire cost of their health insurance premiums.

While no radioactive components are produced at the nuclear weapons plant, health and safety is a big concern for workers. Many pointed to the danger of contracting berylliosis, a potentially deadly lung disease caused by exposure to beryllium.

A Family Solidarity Rally has been called for Saturday, October 22.

—David Rosenfeld

Building cleaners rally in NYC ahead of contract expirations

NEW YORK—About 400 office cleaners organized by Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ and supporters rallied in the Financial District here October 12 to support tens of thousands of building cleaners in contract negotiations in the region.

Contracts for thousands of cleaners in the Washington, D.C., area and Philadelphia expired October 16. D.C. area workers are voting on a tentative pact. In

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Miami contracts expire December 31.

Speakers included Hector Figueroa, secretary treasurer of Local 32BJ; Lucien Clarke, a locked-out building worker at Flatbush Gardens apartments in Brooklyn; Teamster-organized auction workers locked out by Sotheby's; a young woman representing Occupy Wall Street; and a member of Communications Workers of America Local 1109, representing Verizon workers recently on strike who are still negotiating a new contract.

"They want to take away some of our sick days and make us pay hundreds of dollars to access the emergency room," Rosa Delgado, a cleaner for 11 years, told the *Militant*. "Where am I going to get the money?"

Following the rally, demonstrators marched again to join Occupy Wall Street protesters in Zuccotti Park where they got a warm welcome.

—Rebecca Williamson

ILWU dockworkers reach out for solidarity

Continued from front page

porting fights of other working people. Our local just sent a solidarity message and \$500 to the locked-out sugar workers in North Dakota, who receive no unemployment compensation. Recently we received a photo and solidarity message signed by 42 members of Teamsters union Local 627 who have been locked out by the Emerald Performance Materials plant in Henry, Illinois, since March. We replied with a solidarity message and a \$500 contribution to their fight."

ILWU members have also joined the Occupy Portland protests, 40 miles south of Longview. "The Occupy protests are all about uniting working people and that's great," Coffman said.

In Japan members of the National Railway Motive Power Union of Chiba delivered a letter of protest to Itochu Corporation, one of EGT Development's international partners, condemning the union-busting campaign. The Japanese unionists also invited Local 21 to send a representative to address an International Workers' Solidarity Rally in Chiba City in November.

Some 300 ILWU members and supporters held a peaceful protest at the



Militant/Dan Fein

Some 400 building cleaners and supporters marched October 12 through Lower Manhattan ahead of contract negotiations. Action was organized by SEIU Local 32BJ.

port October 13 when a grain train entered the EGT terminal.

A federal judge has threatened fines for trying to block trains from entering the terminal of \$25,000 per incident for the union and \$5,000 per union officer and \$2,500 per union member involved.

EGT continues to fill its grain terminals. "We are not trying to block the trains at this time. We continue to protest alongside the trains on the track," Coffman said. "We are watching what EGT does next. When the silos are full and the grain is ready to ship, EGT will bring in a ship to take it away. If ILWU members are not performing this work we will protest."

The Inland Boatmen's Union, which operates the tugboats that guide barges and ships to company docks along the Columbia River, has pledged its full solidarity with ILWU Local 21.

Coast Guard representatives visited the union hall, according to Coffman. They warned that under certain conditions protests directed at EGT's shipping operation could result in revoking ILWU members' Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, which are required to work under the Maritime

Transportation Security Act of 2002.

U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Leighton ruled October 7 that the Port of Longview's working agreement with the ILWU also applies to EGT. At the same time he stopped short of ruling that EGT must now hire ILWU workers and instead said the case will go to federal labor arbitration.

The ILWU has pushed for a recall ballot to remove Cowlitz County Sheriff Mark Nelson from office in response to cop assaults and harassment of union members. Officials of the union have complained that the language of the draft ballot written by County Prosecutor Monty Cobb is so watered down that it makes the union's claims seem unserious.

The union has proposed the ballot include the following description:

"Using excessive force on Sept. 21, 2011, by 1) responding to 10 protesters with 80 officers, allowing officers to get pumped up and not decelerating the situation 2) by officers removing one protester tearing her rotor cuff, 3) by officers choking a protester to unconsciousness, and 4) by refusing medical care of two people that were excessively pepper sprayed and injured."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 31, 1986

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—CIA mercenary Eugene Hasenfus went on trial here October 20 for war crimes against the Nicaraguan people. That morning, a land mine planted by U.S.-backed mercenaries blew up a truck carrying dozens of civilians in northern Nicaragua. Five people were killed instantly and 34 wounded, many of them seriously.

Hasenfus has admitted to participating in 10 CIA flights into Nicaragua to supply weapons to these mercenaries. His plane was shot down October 5 by Sandinista soldiers.

Nicaraguan Attorney General Rodrigo Reyes detailed the death and destruction caused by U.S. aid to the mercenaries and said that Hasenfus was one of the "tools" of this criminal aggression.



October 30, 1961

The mounting anti-imperialist movement in Latin America is putting new stumbling blocks in the way of the Wall Street-organized gang-up on Cuba. Coincident with reports of revolutionary demonstrations in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, came word from Washington that the major Latin American countries had forced postponement of a projected meeting of the Organization of American States which was to have laid the basis for "hemispheric action" against Cuba.

Washington suffered another jolt with the disclosure that Col. Mariano Faget, a top-ranking Batista henchman, was employed by the U.S. Immigration Service to interrogate and screen Cuban refugees near Miami.



November 28, 1936

The end of the fourth week of the maritime strike on the Pacific Coast finds all shipping completely tied up and the situation still frozen in a deadlock.

The ship owners have made no moves toward settlement, and the workers are not moving any ships.

The constant warfare of the ship owners against the workers who maintain the nation's maritime industry broke spectacularly into the open when after two months of exhausting effort to negotiate agreements with ship barons intent upon smashing every vestige of unionism, the meeting of Joint Negotiating Committees called for strike action.

Within a few minutes of that decision picket lines were forming upon the docks of every major port in the nation.

Australia rally demands 'Free the Cuban Five!'

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Chanting “Free the Cuban Five!” and “Let René return to Cuba!” about 30 supporters of five Cuban revolutionaries—framed up by Washington and imprisoned for the last 13 years for their defense of the Cuban Revolution—demonstrated in front of the U.S. Consulate here October 8.

The protest was organized by the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society and the Latin American Social Forum to coincide with the release from prison of René González, one of the Cuban Five, as they are known internationally. The others—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González—remain incarcerated on prison terms ranging from 17 years for Fernando González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

While René González is no longer in prison, his sentence includes a three-year supervised release. He holds dual Cuban and U.S. citizenship. Despite the fact it is common for citizens of another country to be allowed to return to their own country to serve probation, his request to return to Cuba has thus far been denied.

Speakers explained the half-century of hostility by the U.S. rulers against the Cuban Revolution, including Washington's backing for counterrevolutionary groups with a violent history of assaults and sabotage against Cuba since the 1959 revolution. Before their arrests in 1998, the five were living and working in Miami while keeping the Cuban government informed of the activities of these counterrevolutionary forces.

In a 2001 trial in Miami marked by flagrant violations of constitutional rights the five were railroaded to prison on sweeping “conspiracy” and other trumped-up charges.

An Irish folk group, the Hungry Phelan, sang their song “Free” dedicated to the Cuban Five.

The numbers at the U.S. diplomatic offices swelled as more than 200 marchers protesting the decade-long Afghanistan war converged on the same location. Joanne Kuniansky, a

member of the Communist League, was invited by rally organizers to explain the political case and international campaign to free the five to the wider audience.

In a “Message to the people of Cuba” released by the Cuban press October 14, René González reiterated his commitment to continue fighting.

“The fact that I am now out of prison,” he said, “only means that one avenue of abuse to which I was subjected has been exhausted. . . . For me, this is only a trench, a new place in which I am going to continue fighting for justice to be done so that the five of us can return [to Cuba] together.”



Militant/Ron Poulsen

Picket outside U.S. Consulate in Sydney, Australia, October 8 demands René González, one of Cuban Five who is now out of prison on “supervised release,” be allowed to return to Cuba.

Immigrant workers hold 1-day strike in Alabama

Continued from front page

nearly half the state.

“After the law was passed, we got call after call after call saying we have to do something,” radio announcer José Antonio Castro said in a phone interview. “So we decided that the strike would give people hope.”

Rubia Velásquez's husband works at Sunrise Foods here. “The bosses heard that something was going to happen,” she said. “They called the workers together on Tuesday and asked who would work on Wednesday. No one raised their hand, so they said they would close for the day.”

Several Latino workers told the *Militant* how they have been reaching out to their nonimmigrant coworkers.

“I talk with my white coworkers,” Márquez said. “I tell them I'm not taking away anybody's job. I came here for a better future.”

Militant reporters went to the Pilgrim's Pride poultry processing plant in nearby Boaz, which was working on Sunday to make up for production lost during the strike. About 45 percent of the workforce is Latino.

“The law is too strict,” said a mechanic who is Caucasian. “It's wrong to target people who work hard and have families here. They should give people

a way to become legal.” A company security guard interrupted the interview and told the reporter he couldn't talk to anyone on company property without permission.

A couple poultry plants stayed open, including Albertville Quality Foods.

“Most of my coworkers are temp workers. But we had all agreed that we weren't going to work on Wednesday,” said a permanent Quality Foods worker who asked that her name not be used. “But then the company called all the temp workers into the office and threatened to fire them if they didn't show up.”

“So we came to work, but we're still very upset with the company,” she said.

Quality Foods did not return calls by the *Militant*.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley boasted that the new law is “the strongest in the country.”

“The Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act,” like recent laws in Arizona, Georgia, and other states, builds on existing federal law. Among the provisions: instructing police to “determine the citizenship and immigration status” of anyone they stop; requiring schools to determine if each student is a legal U.S. resident “or is the child of an alien not lawfully present”; and banning many contracts and business transactions with undocumented immigrants, including rental and home ownership agreements.

Some undocumented workers left the state. Before the law there were an estimated 185,000 Latinos, mostly

Mexican along with many Guatemalans, among Alabama's 4.7 million population.

“So far we're not seeing the police doing anything different than they were,” said Horacio Ramírez, 30, who works at a large carpet factory and participated in the strike. “I'm still going out but I worry that I could be stopped.”

The same day that *Militant* reporters were in Albertville and Boaz, 200 people protested against the law in Athens, 70 miles north.

Two days after the strike and protest actions, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a temporary injunction against parts of the law, including the sections on determining the immigration status of students and their parents.

The appeals court ruling blocks cops from filing misdemeanor charges against individuals who can't prove legal residence, but upheld their power to check the immigration status of anyone they stop.

The ruling also left intact provisions that deny undocumented immigrants use of the courts to enforce contracts such as a lease and that make it a felony for undocumented immigrants to carry out any “transaction” with the state like getting a driver's license.

On October 22 a mass rally against the law is planned for the Fair Park Arena in Birmingham and a march is planned for Athens on October 23.

Rachele Fruit contributed to this article.

United States vs The Cuban Five: A Judicial Cover-up

by Dr. Rudolfo Dávalos Fernández

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Several dozen Latino-owned businesses shut down for the day October 12 in downtown Albertville, Ala., as part of a protest in state against Alabama's anti-immigrant law.

Fidel Castro on how Cuban Revolution was won

‘Strategic Counteroffensive’ contains invaluable lessons on forging working-class leadership

De la Sierra Maestra a Santiago de Cuba. La contraofensiva estratégica (*From the Sierra Maestra to Santiago de Cuba: Strategic Counteroffensive*) by Fidel Castro. In Spanish, 608 pages (includes 72 photos, 16 maps with legends, and 24 copies of original documents). Office of Publications of the Council of State, Havana, Cuba, \$25.

BY SETH GALINSKY

From the *Sierra Maestra to Santiago de Cuba: Strategic Counteroffensive* by Fidel Castro, who led the victorious 1956-58 revolutionary war in Cuba, is an invaluable contribution to the understanding of that victory. It contains rich

IN REVIEW

lessons for the forging of a leadership of the working class with the discipline and moral character necessary to wrest political power from the exploiters and lead the toiling majority in the reorganization of a new society based on class solidarity.

The book is the second of two volumes, available only in Spanish, on the battles in 1958 that led to the overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. In the first volume, *On Every Road Through the Sierra: Strategic Victory* (reviewed in the Dec. 27, 2010, *Militant*), Fidel Castro describes how 300 confident and dedicated combatants of the Rebel Army defeated an offensive by 10,000 heavily armed soldiers of the U.S.-backed dictatorship in the course of multiple battles fought between May and August 1958.

The Rebel Army was formed after Castro and 81 other members of the July 26 Movement returned to Cuba on Dec. 2, 1956, to launch the armed struggle against the Batista regime, one of the most repressive in Latin America at the time.

Volume two, *Strategic Counteroffensive*, recounts how after breaking the back of the dictatorship’s “encircle and annihilate” campaign, the Rebel Army immediately took the offensive, drawing more and more workers and peasants into its ranks, and rapidly spreading the revolutionary war across the entire island. The book consists of letters, statements, radio broadcasts and speeches

written or given in the heat of battle, many of them never before published.

In this volume—for the first time—Castro provides a detailed account from the point of view of the Rebel Army’s central leader of the intense fighting from mid-November to December 31 as the revolutionaries under his command prepared to take Santiago de Cuba in the eastern part of the island. Batista’s army in the city surrendered to Castro’s advancing column on January 1, shortly after forces under the command of Ernesto Che Guevara took Santa Clara in central Cuba and in face of Castro’s call for a general strike and 6 p.m. surrender deadline.

Taken together both volumes are irreplaceable for understanding the dynamics of the political and military campaign that removed the dictatorship.

In an Aug. 19, 1958, broadcast on the rebel radio station, reprinted in the book, Castro explained to the Cuban people how it was possible for the relatively small number of revolutionary combatants to defeat the much larger and better armed Batista army.

“Victory in the war depends on having a minimum of weapons and the highest morale,” he said.

The leadership of the Rebel Army was fighting not just to overthrow a brutal dictatorship, but in the course of the struggle to forge a cadre capable of fighting to create a different kind of society, one run in the interests of workers and peasants, not those of the capitalist landowners, industrialists, and their imperialist backers in Washington. Everything the revolutionaries did—from the way they dealt with captured or wounded Batista soldiers to ensuring the disciplined functioning of revolutionary fighters—was to advance this final objective.

Conduct of Cuban revolutionaries

“The victories obtained through our weapons without assassinating, torturing, or even interrogating an adversary proves that committing outrages against human dignity can never be justified,” Castro said in the August 19 radio address. It wasn’t just words. That was the conduct of the Cuban revolutionaries in the most difficult moments of the war.

The rebels’ example in this regard



Council of State Office of Historical Affairs

Fidel Castro, on mule, speaks with peasants in the Sierra Maestra, early 1958. As Rebel Army took control over areas of the island, measures were initiated in interests of working people, including Law Number Three guaranteeing peasants the right to land.

stands in sharp contrast to the conduct of the exploiting classes throughout history up through the U.S. rulers’ present treatment of prisoners—from Afghanistan to the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to the overflowing jails at home.

As the Rebel Army took control over larger areas of the island in 1958, rebel commanders were instructed to initiate measures in defense of the interests of working people. The book reprints part of Law Number Three, issued in October 1958 by the Rebel Army, guaranteeing “the right of peasants to the land.”

“The settlement of the land of the small farmers who work it is the first step of the agrarian reform and is a right that now can and must be guaranteed to the Cuban peasantry by those who have accepted the historic responsibility of freeing the homeland from political tyranny and social injustice,” reads the preamble to the law.

Need for centralization, discipline

Many of the letters in the volume were written to Rebel Army commanders and leaders of the July 26 Movement in the cities, explaining the need for centralization and discipline.

“There can’t be two kinds of plans in an organization, some [to be carried out] as a member and others [viewed] as a private matter,” Castro writes to Agustín Tomé, coordinator of the July 26 Movement in Camagüey, criticizing Tomé for organizing to obtain weapons for his troops on his own without any discussion in the leadership bodies of the July 26th Movement and the Rebel Army. “No member of an organization, and even less so a leader, can undertake projects of a private character and justify them because he’s backing them with his own personal resources.”

“If the plan is good, propose it to the organization. If the organization accepts it, it must invest its resources in it.”

Castro also sought to instill financial discipline among the Rebel Army commanders.

“We have to establish a healthy norm: All of the fronts must periodically turn in a report on income and expenses,” Castro wrote to his brother Raúl Castro, “from the head of a platoon to the heads of the fronts.”

Castro fought to foster a habit within the cadre of always starting with the needs of the entire revolutionary movement, in sharp contrast to functioning rife among petty-bourgeois and bourgeois organizations opposed to Batista.

The book also includes an exchange of letters with Huber Matos, a businessman and landowner, who was given command of a column in Camagüey in the final months of the war, and later opposed the revolution. He was arrested in October 1959 and found guilty of planning to overthrow the revolutionary government.

But Castro doesn’t write him out of the historical record. In volume one he notes the useful role that Matos played in organizing defenses in his areas of responsibility during the army offensive.

In the exchange reproduced in volume two, Castro reprimands Matos for trying to get weapons for his unit regardless of whether other units needed them more, undermining the centralized structure of the Rebel Army.

“My desire to have more weapons for my column is kept in check by my own dignity as a man,” Matos wrote back in anger. “Believe me, today I regret having come to the Sierra. I accept your insult as one more sacrifice at a time when what matters is the fate of Cuba.”

Castro answered back that he never regretted joining the struggle no matter what the difficulties and obstacles. Commanders in a revolutionary army reject the norms of conduct that predominate in bourgeois military structures, where “everyone wants the best for their troops and they forget that victory can only be the result of the efficiency and effort of everyone,” Castro replied.

Military tries to salvage regime

As the Rebel Army advanced, top military officials of the dictatorship, seeing the writing on the wall, tried to salvage the regime without Batista. Some claimed they were acting in the interests of the Cuban people. Castro sought to minimize the cost of a revolutionary victory in some cases by winning some army officials to the side of the revolution or, more often, at least gaining their neutrality. He refused to make concessions that would maintain remnants of

Continued on page 9

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‘Capitalist economy has entered long-term crisis’

Below is an excerpt from Capitalism’s World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium by Jack Barnes, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for October. It is taken from the chapter titled “So Far from God, So Close to Orange County: The Deflationary Drag of Finance Capital,” which is based on a talk by Barnes at a socialist educational conference in Los Angeles over the 1994-95 New Year’s weekend. Copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

The world capitalist economy has entered a long-term deflationary crisis, a contraction that cannot be fundamentally reversed by the ups and downs of the business cycle. With their profit rates under long-term pressure, the capitalists are in their “lean and mean” period, their “just-on-time” period, their “downsizing,” “computerizing,” and “de-layering” period. They are laying off workers and other employees, speeding up production, and raking in short-term cash in the bargain.

But the one thing the capitalists are not doing, and are incapable of doing, is expanding productive capacity to anywhere near the degree they need to fuel another gigantic boom, set industrial profit rates on a long-term upward



Éole
Closed Renault plant in Paris. With their profit rates under long-term pressure, the capitalists are incapable of expanding productive capacity to fuel another boom, explains Jack Barnes.

course, and accelerate capital accumulation. Even as capitalists temporarily boost their returns by cutting costs and taking a bigger slice of market share away from their rivals, the long-run profit expectations of capital are such that they are still not investing in new plant and equipment that draws more and more workers into expanded production.

The money that is going into new equipment goes largely into ways to make us work faster to produce more with fewer co-workers. That does not expand productive capacity, however. It intensifies speedup and extends the workweek. But that alone does not create the basis for the rising profit rates and capital accumulation that marked the post-World War II capitalist boom until it began running out of steam by the early 1970s.¹

In fact, instead of issuing stock to finance expansion—the classic source of “capital formation” extolled in standard economics textbooks—U.S. corporations for most of the 1980s and 1990s have actually bought more previously offered stock from each other than they have issued in new shares. Capitalists have also issued large quantities of high-interest corporate bonds—gone deep into debt, in other words—to finance takeovers and buyouts.²

So, the world’s propertied families have been fighting among themselves

more and more to use credit to corner a bigger cut of the surplus value they collectively squeeze from working people. They have been blowing up great balloons of debt. But ever since the 1987 stock market panic, and at an accelerated pace since the onset of world depression conditions at the opening of the 1990s, the capitalists have been plagued by the problem that

1. This trend continued in the 1990s despite talk in the big-business press about an “investment boom.” The total stock of industrial plant and equipment in the United States has grown at an annual rate of 2 percent since 1980, compared to an annual rate of 3.9 percent over the previous three decades. Investment as a share of national income has also fallen in the imperialist countries as a whole since 1980.

“There can be little doubt about the option that corporate America has chosen in the 1990s: downsizing has triumphed over rebuilding,” wrote Stephen Roach, chief economist for the Wall Street investment house, Morgan Stanley, in November 1996. “Downsizing means making do with less—realizing efficiencies by pruning both labor and capital. . . . Historically, periods of accelerating productivity have been associated with *increased* employment.”

Roach reports in a later article that computer hardware accounted for 57 percent of the growth in capital spending from 1994 to 1997. But the vast majority

first one balloon, then another, and then yet another begins to deflate. And they have no way of knowing which balloon will go next until they start hearing the “whoosh,” and by then it is often too late.

All of us were children once and have blown up balloons. They can expand very slowly, very gradually. But then try to let the air out. That is harder to control. Remember? The balloons can get away and ricochet all over the room.

With returns on investments in capacity-expanding plant and equipment under pressure since the mid-1970s, owners of capital have not only been cost cutting; the holders of paper have been borrowing larger and larger amounts to buy and sell various forms of paper securities at a profit. They blew up a giant balloon of debt in Orange County over a period of years; the bondholders thought they had died and gone to heaven. Then the balloon began to deflate, as they learned the hard way that interest rates go up as well as down. . . .

Over the past couple of decades, upturns in the business cycle have relied on floating large amounts of fictitious capital—ballooning debt and other paper values. The capitalists are now paying the piper for the lack of sufficient economic growth during that period to keep rolling over the loans.

of such spending goes to replace obsolete equipment, not expand capacity. With the slowdown in the U.S. capitalist economy in late 1998, capital investment *excluding computers* was in fact declining.

2. “One of the consequences of corporate restructuring,” Wall Street economist Edward Yardeni told the *Barron’s* financial weekly in March 1996, “has been to generate an enormous amount of corporate cash flow. . . . [Companies] have hesitated to build new plant and equipment. Instead, they are to a certain extent buying their competitors—and by doing so they are basically buying back stock.” In the third quarter of 1998, according to U.S. government figures, the withdrawal of shares from the market via buybacks and corporate mergers and acquisitions reached record levels, for a net shrinkage in shares—after accounting for stock newly issued—at an annual rate of \$234 billion. Since the early 1980s, the nearly \$2 trillion in stock that has disappeared from the market through buybacks and corporate takeovers is greater than that newly issued.

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Legalize undocumented workers!

On October 12 thousands of working people in Alabama took a stand for our class when they went on strike for one day in poultry plants and other work sites to protest the state’s new anti-immigrant law. They are fighting to be able to work, send their kids to school and walk the streets without the fear of being arrested or deported.

This law—and others like it—is part of a broader assault by the bosses’ government in Washington to intimidate immigrant workers and maintain their second-class status.

The White House has stepped up use of local police as immigration cops and checking workers’ “status” at their place of employment. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton bragged October 18 that the agency forcibly deported nearly 400,000 immigrants last year, a record number.

The exploiting class is assaulting our unity and solidarity on many fronts. Their stepped-up attacks on those of us without “proper papers” is key to this offensive.

The target is all working people. Just as they use the lever of high and persistent unemployment they scapegoat the foreign born, to pit worker against worker. The aim is to weaken our capacity to mount an effective fight against their drive to foist the burden of their economic crisis on our backs and to intensify the rate of exploitation across the board.

It’s not immigrants vs. U.S.-born. It’s the boss class,

the capitalist class, backed up by their army, their cops, and their courts, on one side. On the other side stands the working class, working farmers, and our allies—representing the overwhelming majority of society.

The *Militant* has been reporting on fights against employer assaults across the country: sugar workers locked out by American Crystal in the Red River Valley, longshore workers fighting union busting in Washington state, coal miners fighting to organize in Illinois, autoworkers refusing concessions at Oshkosh in Wisconsin, locked out Steelworkers in Pennsylvania, Honeywell workers in Kansas City, Mo. The list keeps growing.

These battles—from Alabama to the Midwest—are at the center of politics in the U.S. today. They are part of our class gaining fighting experience, seeking and giving solidarity to all those targeted under the capitalist offensive, learning to place our struggles onto a broader social plane, and beginning to see ourselves as workers of the world.

The union movement must take up the banner against all forms of exploitation and oppression. Championing the fight of immigrant workers—who have proven a combative section of our class and whose breadth of experience strengthens our ranks—is a life and death question for labor.

Legalization for undocumented workers now! Extend solidarity to all those in struggle against the common enemy! An injury to one is an injury to all!

Castro on Cuba’s revolutionary war

Continued from page 7

the existing state power in place.

“Even if you have the intention of turning power over to the revolutionaries, it’s not power in and of itself that interests us, but that the revolution carry out its destiny,” Castro said in a Dec. 31, 1958, letter to Col. José Rego Rubido, Batista’s military commander in Santiago de Cuba, shortly before he surrendered control of the city to the Rebel Army. “You can’t call anything obtained with duplicity and deception a triumph,” Castro said.

Just after midnight on Jan. 1, 1959, Gen. Eulogio Cantillo staged a coup in Havana, allowing Batista and some of the worst assassins to flee, along with parts of the fortune stolen from the Cuban people.

“The dictatorship has been overthrown as a result of the overwhelming defeats it has suffered,” Castro said on Radio Rebelde that morning. “But this does not mean that the revolution has triumphed.” He immediately issued a call for working people to prepare for a general strike in every workplace and instructed Rebel Army units to continue the fight.

The book ends with Castro’s speech the next day to a crowd of thousands after the Rebel Army entered Santiago de Cuba, where he explained to the Cuban people what was at stake.

Accepting Cantillo’s coup would be “a half-way revolution, a scam, a caricature of a revolution,” Castro told the crowd.

Working people throughout the island agreed. A general strike and mass insurrection swept the country. By January 2, Cantillo’s military junta had collapsed. On Jan. 8, 1959, rebel forces commanded by Castro entered Havana.

Wall St. protest

Continued from page 3

have joined the discussions at Zuccotti Park and nationwide, stressing the importance of solidarity with working-class struggles today and the need for working people to organize independently of the two capitalist parties in order to mount a revolutionary struggle to wrest power from the propertied rulers.

On October 15 coordinated days of protest held around the same themes as Occupy Wall Street took place around the world, including 300,000 in Madrid, as well as actions in Greece, Switzerland, South Africa, Australia, Japan, Germany and the Philippines.

Candace Wagner contributed to this article.

LETTERS

Prisoner wants ‘Militant’

I am a 25-year-old prisoner at Florida State Prison. A friend of mine gave me the Aug. 1, 2011, edition of the *Militant*. I read it and enjoyed a lot of the articles. My friend told me you might allow me to have a free subscription if I write and ask. I do not have any money or family that might purchase a subscription for me.
A prisoner
Florida

Editor’s note—The prisoner was given a free six-month subscription. (See ad).

Keep writing in-depth analysis

I’m very happy to see the articles in this week’s *Militant* linking Oc-

cupy Wall Street to the crisis of capitalism. Please keep writing in-depth economic analysis, which is only possible by revolutionaries.

Judy Cuttler
New York, New York

Missing something?

I went on the *Militant* website, expecting to see on the front

page the hundreds of thousands, if not millions of Occupy people from around the country and the world revolution going on.

The front page has a thousand sugar beet workers! Are you kidding me? This is it. . . . The revolution is coming about. I sure hope the *Militant* doesn’t sleep through it.

Jimi Bowers
Las Vegas, Nevada

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners free or reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Sugar workers

Continued from front page

with American Crystal Sugar, the largest beet sugar refiner in the U.S. The talks, called by a federal mediator, will begin October 24.

The BCTGM has publicly asked the company to return to the negotiating table and end the lockout. “Despite being locked out for more than two months, our spirits are good,” said Ken Lamberson, who works at American Crystal Sugar’s plant in East Grand Forks, Minn.

About 1,300 workers were locked out by American Crystal at five plants in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota and in two smaller plants in southern Minnesota and Iowa after they rejected the company’s “final offer” by 96 percent. The plants are being run by hundreds of scabs, who work two 12-hour shifts, seven days a week.

“We’ve been ready to negotiate from day one. If they don’t change their offer, then it will be a stalemate,” Gayln Olson, BCTGM Local 372G president from Hillsboro, told the *Militant*.

In an October 13 letter to the membership, the union negotiating committee reviewed two of the main reasons the contract was rejected: “contracting language [that] allows our jobs to be outsourced” and the company’s demand to have “the right to increase our health care costs whenever they choose.”

The company has sought to convince workers that they are not targeting job security and the union by contracting out certain jobs currently performed by union labor. “Despite the company’s claims in the press and public letters,” the letter said, “the language still allows for the outsourcing of our jobs. If the company has no intention of outsourcing our jobs, they shouldn’t have a problem working together to clarify the language.”

As for health care, the union letter notes, “While we are open to discussing changes in health insurance, we are not open to bringing that much uncertainty to workers and their families.”

As winter approaches, locked-out workers are preparing their pickets to withstand the cold months ahead with home-constructed wind shields, fire-barrels, and wood stoves. The firewood, in most cases, is donated from union supporters. In Drayton, an icehouse is already in place to keep the pickets warm.

BCTGM lawyers are appealing the decision by the North Dakota unemployment office to deny unemployment compensation to its locked-out members in that state.

Some locked-out workers, especially those denied unemployment, have been forced to find work. Some have taken jobs in North Dakota’s oil fields, which are booming right now. About a dozen sugar workers from the Moorhead, Minn., and Hillsboro plants joined an October 15 Occupy Fargo protest of 150 at U.S. Bank Plaza in that city. They carried signs on the lockout and handed out flyers. Further north they participated in an Occupy Grand Forks protest. “These protests in the Red River Valley are important to go to and they help energize locked-out workers,” said Lamberson.

Charlie Wang, who has worked in the Moorhead plant for a year, was making sure participants at the Fargo action got flyers on their fight. “Some of the people say that the unions are the past, but they are most what we need today,” he said.

Speaking at the end of the Fargo action, Bev Jones encouraged people to come to the picket line at shift change. “If you want to see an example of corporate greed, this was it.”

Students from North Dakota State University in Fargo, and Minnesota State University and Concordia College, both in Moorhead, were there. “When’s the best time to come down to the picket line?” asked Mohammed Mostafa, a student from North Dakota State University who came with friends.

Union spokesman Mark Froemke addressed an October 12 meeting of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation. The executive board donated \$500. A separate motion by a unionist in Teamsters Local 120 for \$1,300 passed unanimously and a hand collection raised another \$1,000.

Donations to the sugar workers can be sent to BCTGM Local 167G, 100 N 3rd, Suite 50, Grand Forks, ND 58203. Write checks to BCTGM 167G with “2011 BCTGM lockout” in the memo line.

Diana Newberry contributed to this article.