

All out for final days of subscription campaign!

BY JIM CARSON

November 15—With six days left to go in the seven-week international drive to win 2,200 new and renewed subscribers to the *Militant*, we stand at 1,862, or 85 percent of our goal. We urge all our distributors to use every remaining day of the drive to bring this effort to a successful conclusion.

All subscriptions received in the *Militant* Business Office by 9 p.m. Wednesday, November 23, will be counted in the drive. Because of the *Militant*’s Thanksgiving holiday, the final scoreboard will be printed in the following issue, dated December 5.

Harry D’Agostino from New Paltz, N.Y., reports that a team of socialist workers and youth from four cities

Continued on page 4

Greek steel strikers take on boss, gov’t austerity

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece, November 12—“Not a single sacrifice for the plutocracy!” reads the large banner over the front entrance to the Elliniki Halivourgia steel mill in Aspropyrgos outside Athens, where workers have been on strike for 13 days. Four hundred workers are employed at the mill.

Mill bosses gave up trying to run the plant three days into the strike, according to workers. “Management does not even show up any more. Our people must guard the plant 24/7 to make sure no harm comes to the equipment,” Nikolaos Harokopos, vice president of the Workers and Employees Union of Elliniki Halivourgia, told the *Militant*.

The *Militant* spoke with pickets in front of the steel mill’s gate today around two barrels of burning wood with temperatures close to zero degrees Celsius (32°F).

The company “went to its other plant in Volos and asked for a five-hour workday, which means a 40 percent cut in pay. The union there

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Locked-out workers demand jobless pay

North Dakota gov’t backs sugar bosses



AP/Dale Wetzel

Locked-out sugar workers and supporters rally inside North Dakota’s capitol in Bismarck November 9 demanding legislature reverse decision to deny them unemployment benefits.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

More than 100 locked-out American Crystal Sugar workers and their supporters rallied in Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota, November 9, to press the state government to reverse its decision denying them unemployment benefits.

Workers from five locked-out plants

in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota traveled to Bismarck to protest at the “special session” of the state legislature. Many came by bus. They were

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Fall 'Militant' subscription campaign				
Oct. 1–Nov. 20 (week 6)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,200
UNITED STATES				
Muscoda, WI†	3	3	100%	should be 1,862
San Francisco*	170	154	91%	
Seattle*	175	157	90%	
Los Angeles	150	132	88%	
Des Moines*	165	145	88%	
Boston*	60	52	87%	
Lincoln*	30	26	87%	
Atlanta*	170	144	85%	
Twin Cities	140	113	81%	
Houston*	90	72	80%	
Washington	60	48	80%	Total U.S. 1,849 1,482 80%
Chicago*	165	127	77%	
Miami	90	64	71%	
New York*	260	175	67%	
New Paltz†	15	10	67%	
Philadelphia	90	56	62%	
Cincinnati†	4	2	50%	
Albuquerque†	3	1	33%	
Bloomington†	5	1	20%	
Pittsburgh†	4	0	0%	
Total U.S.	1,849	1,482	80%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
Manchester	60	56	93%	Total U.K. 180 174 97%
London	120	118	98%	
Total U.K.	180	174	97%	
CANADA*	85	78	92%	NEW ZEALAND 80 66 83%
AUSTRALIA	65	62	95%	Total 2,259 1,862 85%
Total	2,259	1,862	85%	Should be 2,200 1,886 86%
Should be	2,200	1,886	86%	
* Raised goal † First time on scoreboard				

* Raised goal † First time on scoreboard

Alabama actions for immigrant rights inspired by Black struggle

BY SAM MANUEL

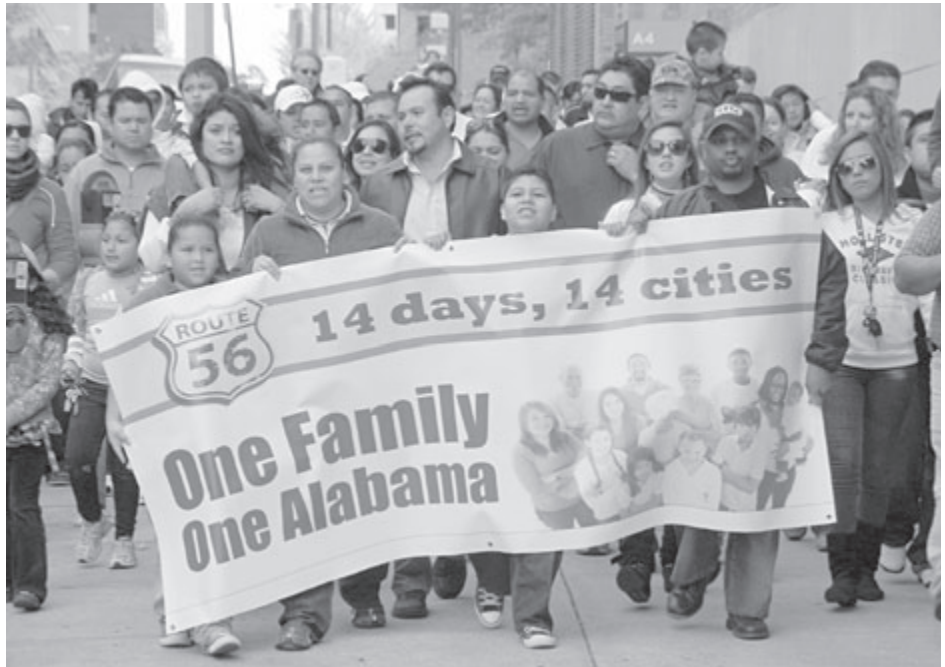
BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Some 125 mostly Latino workers and their families marched and rallied here November 12 to protest the state’s anti-immigrant law. About 200 marched the same day in Huntsville, according to the *Huntsville Times*.

In Birmingham, the day’s activities

began by placing flowers on the grave of Fred Shuttlesworth and a march to Kelly Ingram Park, an historic site marking the 1963 battle against Jim Crow racial segregation of which Shuttlesworth was a central leader.

“We are here in this very important site of the struggle for human rights

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Militant/Sam Manuel

November 12 protest in Birmingham, Ala., against anti-immigrant law. In middle is José Antonio Castro of La Jefa radio station; Anthony Johnson of NAACP is at right holding banner.

Cops move to evict Oakland, other ‘Occupy’ encampments

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif.—In the early morning of November 14, hundreds of cops in riot gear descended on the Occupy Oakland campers, destroying their tents and removing them from the park in front of City Hall where many have been for over a month. Unlike an earlier raid on October 25, no injuries were reported.

Cops have moved to shut down Occupy encampments in a number of cities, including New York; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City and Denver. Sim-

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Also Inside:

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- Jefferson County, Alabama, files for bankruptcy 6

London protest demands end to ‘deaths in custody’

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON—Demanding “No more deaths in custody!” hundreds marched here October 29. The organizers, the United Families and Friends Campaign, have worked to expose the fact that 3,180 people have died in the United Kingdom since 1969 while in custody of police, or in prisons, psychiatric units, immigration jails, or while being deported. There were 225 such deaths reported last year.

“We have to take to the streets and stand with other families. The police need to be accountable,” stated Marcia Rigg, UFFC joint chair, at the rally close to Prime Minister David Cameron’s residence. Her brother Sean Rigg died in London in 2008 after being restrained by cops. Rigg said the Independent Police Complaints Commission, which investigates such deaths, was “biased towards the police.” Since 1969 only two officers have ever been convicted.

“The police think they can control everybody and act above the law,” Roy Senkali, a 16-year-old supermarket worker from London, told the *Militant* as the march assembled.

“We need to stand firm, be strong, the fight goes on,” said Patricia Coker at the rally. Her son Paul died in 2005.

Floyd Jarrett’s mother Cynthia was killed in the Tottenham neighborhood of London in 1985 when police burst into her house. The killing sparked an anti-police riot. “Twenty-six years later they kill Mark Duggan. You people will be brought to justice,” Jarrett said. Duggan was shot dead by cops in Tottenham in August, which also sparked protests and riots in the area.

A cousin of Jean Charles de Menezes,

the young Brazilian worker who was shot on a train in July 2005, also spoke, as did the family of Jimmy Mubenga, who died in October 2010 while being deported to Angola. “The police are there to protect—not you and me—but the establishment,” said Rupert Sylvester, whose son Roger died in 1999.

Michelle Kelly from Birmingham came with the friends and family of Michael Powell, who died in 2003. “The police laid Mikey down in a van like a dog,” she told the *Militant*.

“We want some answers not just for my cousin but for all the others,” said Paulette Burrell-Ennever in an interview. She is the cousin of Kingsley Burrell, who died this past March in Birmingham. “We have always told our children if they are in trouble ‘go to the police,’” added Vicky Burrell, another cousin. “Now, I can’t trust them.”

A letter delivered to the prime minister charged the government with “a strategy of long drawn out investiga-



Militant/Debra Jacobs

Protest in London October 29 against deaths while in cops’ custody. Last year 225 such deaths were reported. “Police need to be held accountable,” said Marcia Rigg, a march organizer.

tions, which go on for years in order to wear families down. We have relentlessly used the judicial process system to no avail.” It contained a list of eight demands, including the “replacement

of the IPCC . . . by a ‘truly’ independent body,” immediate suspension and interrogation of all cops and officials involved in a custody death, and “full disclosure of information to the families.”

‘Militant’ makes changes to volunteer staff

BY SETH GALINSKY

As part of moves to strengthen the *Militant*, John Studer is joining the volunteer editorial staff and a business manager, Lea Sherman, is being added to the masthead. Doug Nelson is now the managing editor.

Nelson, 35, joined the communist movement in 1995 in Minneapolis. The following year he was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota state assembly in District 63-A. In 1997 he ran for mayor of Atlanta, where the

party pushed back attempts by city officials to keep him off the ballot. From 1998 to 2003 he volunteered in the print shop that produced the *Militant* and books on revolutionary working-class politics by Pathfinder Press.

In 2004-2005 Nelson was an editorial volunteer for the *Militant* and worked in the SWP National Office. In 2007 he moved from Washington, D.C., where he was working in a meatpacking plant, to volunteer again for the paper. Earlier this year he was part of a *Militant* reporting team at the Havana International Book Fair.

Studer, 65, has moved to New York from Philadelphia, where he worked at a Hyundai-Rotem rail car plant. He has been active in politics ever since high school when he joined the Congress of Racial Equality in Freeport, N.Y.

As a student at Antioch College in Ohio, Studer was chair of the campus chapter of the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. There he joined the Young Socialist Alliance and in 1968 joined the SWP.

From 1981 to 2007, Studer was executive director of the Political Rights

Defense Fund. Founded in 1973, PRDF organized support for the SWP and YSA lawsuit against the FBI and other government agencies for wiretapping, burglary, bombing, and other harassment against members and supporters of the communist movement.

Sherman, 63, joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1977 in Dallas, where she was a leader of the National Organization for Women chapter. After moving to Birmingham, Ala., Sherman was one of five women hired at Ingalls Iron Works in 1981 as a result of an antidiscrimination lawsuit.

Sherman has been an SWP candidate for public office numerous times, most recently running for San Francisco mayor in the November elections. Before becoming business manager she was organizer of the executive committee of the party’s San Francisco branch and worked at an airline catering company.

As the worldwide economic crisis deepens, the *Militant* will be organizing more systematic coverage from outside the United States, including Canada, the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe, and the Pacific.

THE MILITANT

‘Workers must all stand up and be heard’

“I knew unions and the working class were struggling in our country. But the ‘Militant’ made me aware that the struggles are worldwide and that we must all stand up and be heard.”

—Kari Sorenson
locked-out sugar worker
Fargo, North Dakota



Militant/Frank Forrestal

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

Quebec students reject steep increase in tuition

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL—Chanting, “We want education; we don’t want to be indebted,” more than 20,000 students and their supporters from across Quebec marched downtown through the rain here November 10 to protest the Quebec government’s plan to raise tuition fees by \$325 each year for the next five years.

The demonstration was part of a one-day boycott of classes voted on by some 200,000 university and cegep students. Widely referred to as colleges, cegeps provide pre-university public education in Quebec. On many campuses students picketed and rallied before getting on buses to come to the Quebec-wide protest here.

“We organized three buses to come,” Antoine Rail, an executive member of the cegep student association in Jonquière, told the *Militant*.

“Vanier College and Collège St-Laurent put our differences aside to fight for the same cause,” said Deborah Otter, a second year student at Vanier, an English-language cegep. St-Laurent is a French-language one next to it.

“I came out of solidarity and also because I have a son who will soon be starting university and these tuition fee hikes will be an issue for him too,” said Marie-Claude Bélanger, who marched with her daughter, a student at the University of Montreal.

Although the marchers were overwhelmingly students, there were placards from the Quebec Federation of Labor and the Confederation of National Trade Unions. About a dozen members of Parti Québécois in the National Assembly attended the action as did Amir Khadir, Québec Solidaire’s member of the legislature.

Many members of the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association on strike since September 1, took part. “The students have supported us,” said MUNACA striker Tara Alward. “We were students and we know what it’s like.”

Jean-Luc Arseneau, vice-president

of the Alliance of Montreal Teachers, was there as part of his union’s contingent. “I don’t like the government’s position that the user should pay. It turns education into a commodity like any other,” he said.

On the eve of the action Quebec Prime Minister Jean Charest said he won’t back down and will raise average annual tuition to \$3,793 by 2016, up from the current average of about \$2,168. Even with the increase, he argued, Quebec students would still be paying the lowest fees in Canada. Average tuition fees in the country are \$5,138.

Katy LeRougetel and John Steele contributed to this article

With Libya war, Ottawa seeks foothold in Africa

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL—“Canada once again punched above its weight as part of an international coalition,” boasted Canadian Defence Minister Peter MacKay November 4, as he confirmed withdrawal of Canada’s military personnel from the attack force on Libya. The military mission conducted under the NATO flag—in which the U.S., France and Britain played a dominant role—was commanded by Canada’s Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard.

Six hundred and thirty Canadian forces were deployed in the imperialists’ Libya campaign. One task force patrolled the Mediterranean in naval frigates enforcing the blockade of Libya. The other, based in Italy, helped lead aerial surveillance and assaults on Libyan territory.

From March to October of this year, Canadian fighter jets conducted 946 sorties, 10 percent of all NATO strikes, and dropped 696 bombs on Libyan soil.

The mission tested and served to improve the capacities and skills of the Canadian rulers’ armed forces. The Department of National Defence touted a series of “firsts” for its Aurora long-range patrol aircraft. “The benefit of the Aurora . . . is that we can sit over an area for a long time and build an accurate picture of activities and pattern of life, which allows better target identification and a more precise collat-



More than 20,000 students and supporters participated in November 10 Quebec-wide demonstration in Montreal in opposition to a sharp increase of university tuition fees over the next five years being implemented by the Quebec Liberal Party government.

eral damage estimate,” said Maj. Scott Hale, Deputy CP 140 Aurora Flight Commander. “Collateral damage” is a common euphemism coined by U.S. military brass to describe civilian casualties.

As part of the reinforcement and transformation of Canada’s military,

Ottawa has plans to establish two Operational Hubs in Africa, part of an international network of seven throughout the world, according to Montreal daily *Le Devoir*. Negotiations are under way with Senegal and Kenya, marking the first time Canada would have bases on the continent.

‘Keep the change for your organization,’ say workers

BY OMARI MUSA

Members of the Socialist Workers Party were told to “keep the change for your organization,” by two members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union picketing outside EGT Development’s grain terminal in Longview, Wash.

They had each bought a subscription to the *Militant* along with a copy of *Teamster Rebellion* and gave \$5 to the party’s annual fund drive. “We appreciate your support, the newspaper and the books, and you use the money for your organization to keep doing this,” one of them, Mike Wilcox, said.

The union is engaged in a fight against unionbusting by EGT, which has refused to honor an agreement with the Port of Longview to hire ILWU labor.

Another indication of support for the fund comes from Atlanta, where

members of the party branch raised their goal from \$8,000 to \$10,200.

Joel Britton reports from San Francisco that two immigrant rights activists contributed \$5 and \$20 to the fund after an appeal by Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for San Francisco County Sheriff in the November elections.

“On numerous occasions individuals buying the *Militant* have pitched in a dollar or two ‘to help the cause’ as some put it,” Britton said. “We have blasted through our initial goal of \$14,000 and are confident we will go over \$15,000.”

Sergio Zambrana, a 21-year-old student at Montgomery College in Rockville, Md., was unable to attend the fund event in Washington, D.C., but sent a note to the meeting featuring Ma’mud Shirvani, a longtime party leader.

“I send cheerful greetings to Ma’mud, my friends in the SWP and everyone else attending tonight’s forum. Every time I make donations to the funds or put time into activities and trips organized by the party, I know it will not go to waste. . . . This is a disciplined, politically strong and dedicated party that I support and look forward to working with in the future.”

Zambrana contributed \$20 to the fund and took a personal goal of raising \$80 more.

“I didn’t know what to expect when I came. It wasn’t a lecture, but a discussion on why we need to fight for a revolution,” said Mathew Gravenor, a freshman at Hood College in Frederick, Md., who came to the meeting and contributed \$8.

The Party-Building Fund ends November 20. Contributions should be sent to the SWP unit listed in the chart on this page. Let’s bring the fund home and on time!

Party-Building Fund week 5 of 7

Area	Quota	Collected	%
San Francisco	\$14,000	\$12,310	88%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$6,900	81%
Seattle	\$9,000	\$7,148	79%
Lincoln	\$200	\$155	78%
Atlanta*	\$10,200	\$7,904	77%
Boston*	\$4,100	\$3,055	75%
Des Moines*	\$3,200	\$2,219	69%
Miami	\$3,200	\$1,963	61%
New York	\$20,000	\$11,982	60%
Houston	\$4,000	\$2,224	56%
Twin Cities	\$6,000	\$3,361	56%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$5,144	51%
Washington	\$7,500	\$2,910	39%
Philadelphia	\$3,700	\$1,125	30%
Other		\$850	
Total	\$103,600	\$69,251	69%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$71,429	71%
* Raised goal			

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Crisis of Capitalism in Europe: Instability, Harsh Austerity and Workers Resistance. Fri., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. 1311 1/2 E. Lake St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

How the Conquests of the 1950s-60s Civil Rights Movement Strengthen the Working Class. Speaker: John Studer, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. **European Union Frays Under Lash of Capitalist Crisis.** Speaker: Anita Olsson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. Both events at 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor. Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

UNITED KINGDOM

London

European Union Begins to Unravel. Speaker: Tony Hunt, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 25, 7 p.m. Donation: £3. **First floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (entrance in Brick Lane), E2 6DG.** Tel.: (020) 7613 2466.

—CALENDAR—

GREECE

Athens

Book Launch of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara. Sun., Nov. 27, 7 p.m. Speakers: Luis Prado, ambassador of Cuba; Nikos Karandrea, president of the Greek-Cuban Friendship Association; Costas Isihos, former vice president of the Athens Labor Center; Natasha Terlexis, Diethnes Vima publishing house. Sponsors: Cuban Embassy in Athens and Diethnes Vima. *Greek-Cuban Friendship Association Hall, Bouboulinas 28.*

UNITED KINGDOM

London

Free the Cuban 5 protest. Thurs., Dec. 1, 6 p.m. With participation of mothers of three of the five: Mirta Rodríguez, Irma Schwerert and Magali Llort. Organized by Cuba Solidarity Campaign. *Outside the U.S. Embassy, Grosvenor Square.* Tel.: (020) 8800-0155.

‘Militant’ subscriptions

Continued from the front page
across the U.S. sold six subscriptions in the coal mining area of southern Illinois during the weekend of November 12-13.

“One of these subscriptions was sold at the portal of an American Coal mine in Galatia, Ill., to Justin Gibbons, a miner working at the Pat-tiki Coal Mine in White County, Ill.,” D’Agostino says. “He was also quick to buy *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs,” one of five books offered at a reduced price during the drive. (See ad below.)

From Washington, D.C., Janice Lynn writes that over the course of the weekend members of the Socialist Workers Party sold 21 subscriptions and 33 single copies of the socialist newsweekly in Birmingham, Ala. “Ten of the subscriptions were sold to participants at an event of 125 protesting the state anti-immigrant law. The rest were sold to workers who signed up in trailer parks, apartments and in a Mexican restaurant.”

From Los Angeles, Norton Sandler reports that he just sold his fourth subscription on the job. “My coworkers are especially attracted to the short articles that analyze the economic crisis and the real situation of the working class: the actual unemployment rate, low salaries and working conditions. They also read the On the Picket Line column very carefully.”

From Auckland, New Zealand, George Fyson writes that members of the Communist League visited the picket line of locked-out meat workers at the Canterbury Meat Packers plant in Marton for a second time. (See article on page 5.)

“One worker bought a subscription on the spot, another picked up a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, and several others gave their names so we could follow up with them later,” reports Fyson.

“This week members of the Communist League sold 13 new subscrip-

tions and one renewal,” Linda Harris writes from Sydney, Australia.

“A young worker at Occupy Melbourne,” she says, “bought a subscription and told us about a picket line at the Baiada chicken processing plant. We went there and sold eight subscriptions, including to two young women workers from Vietnam and Ethiopia, who are leading the strike, and three to young union organizers, one of whom also got *Teamster Rebellion*. One of the volunteer picketers also bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. We sold four more subscriptions going door to door in a working-class neighborhood nearby.”

Because of the special Thanksgiving schedule, send your next sales reports by 8 a.m., New York time, Monday, November 21.



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Coal miner Justin Gibbons, second from left, bought *Militant* subscription along with copy of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs from Alyson Kennedy and Max Bontrager, both standing, November 12 outside mine portal owned by American Coal in Galatia, Ill.

Immigrant rights demonstrations in Alabama

Continued from front page
and justice,” said José Antonio Castro, program director for *La Jefa*, a popular Spanish-language radio station throughout the state. Castro, along with radio announcer Orlando Rosa, arrived in the city that is the seventh stop in their “14 days, 14 cities” walk to campaign for the repeal of the “Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act.”

Known as HB 56, the act, like recent laws in Arizona, Georgia and other states, builds on existing federal law. Its provisions include instructing police to “determine the citizenship and immigration status” of anyone they stop and banning many contracts and business transactions with undocumented immigrants, including rental and home ownership agreements.

One aspect of the legislation requiring schools to determine if each student is a legal U.S. resident “or is the child of an alien not lawfully present” was temporarily blocked by a federal court.

“Whatever happens we must continue to fight for our rights,” Celso Rivera, a construction worker on the march, told the rally. Rivera said he was six months into paying for a house when the bill was passed. He has had to stop payments and lost what he had already paid. His two children are afraid to attend school.

“Jim Crow may be dead but his cousins are very much alive,” said Anthony Johnson to the crowd’s applause. Johnson spoke on behalf of the Birmingham National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. “Your battle today is part of the battle to continue the fight for civil rights.” Johnson led rally participants on a walking tour of the park’s plaza, which also includes the 16th Street Baptist Church and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

On Sept. 15, 1963, during Sunday service, a bomb exploded at the church, killing four young Black girls. Twenty-three other people were also hurt in the blast.

At the entrance to the civil rights institute Castro was approached by several workers who had attended the rally. One of them explained that the

fight against HB 56 is very difficult because many people don’t have papers.

Castro responded that when young Blacks attempted to enter restaurants and other places that were segregated the law was against them. “The law is the law. Like those young people did, we must also confront it,” said Castro.

The “14 Days, 14 Cities” tour started in Athens. Next was Huntsville, followed by Cullman, Albertville, Oneonta and Gardendale. After Birmingham will be Tuscaloosa, Centerville, Clanton, Selma, Prattville and Wetumpka. The tour ends November 19 with a rally in Montgomery, the state capital.

A rally is also planned November 21 here at the 16th Street Baptist Church. Among the announced speakers are Democratic Congress members Terri Sewell, John Lewis and Luis Gutierrez; Rev. Arthur Price Jr., the church’s pastor; Bernard Simelton, president of the Alabama NAACP; Hillary Shelton, director of NAACP, Washington bureau; and Mitch Ackerman, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union.

Referendum votes in Ohio reject antilabor law and ‘Obamacare’

BY JOHN STUDER

In one of the most closely watched votes this November, a far-reaching antilabor law was overturned in Ohio in a statewide referendum.

In the same election, Ohio voters adopted by an even larger margin a referendum opposing President Barack Obama’s health care law.

“The people of Ohio thoroughly rejected blaming public employees for the economic troubles in the state,” Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio, one of the groups that championed the campaign against the antilabor law, told the *Militant*. “The defeat was resounding, and not just in areas traditionally expected to support workers.”

The measure was defeated 61 to 39 percent, losing in virtually every county in the state, in cities and countryside.

Introduced last March and championed by newly elected Republican

Gov. John Kasich, the law took aim at public employees’ unions representing 360,000 workers. It would have replaced wage raises based on seniority with a “merit” system, end the right to bargain on benefits and pensions, impose a ban on strikes, increase workers’ health care costs and cut pensions.

The bill was heralded by the *Wall Street Journal*, saying it was “about political resolve, which is the only way to modernize government amid opposition from the usual pro-spending constituencies.”

While the law was being debated in the legislature, tens of thousands of workers rallied at the state capitol and across the state.

The Ohio law was similar to one enacted in Wisconsin and already on the books in Indiana.

The rejection of the antilabor bill highlights the big challenge Republican
Continued on page 9

Special offers with Militant subscription

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs ~~\$19~~ **\$10 with subscription**

The story of the strikes and union organizing drive the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, paving the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a fighting social movement.

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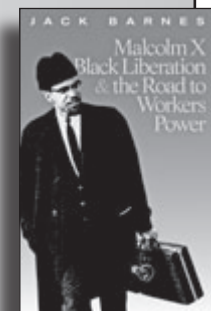
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Pathfinder Press

Locked-out workers picket meat plant in New Zealand

BY FELICITY COGGAN

MARTON, New Zealand—Some 100 locked-out meat workers are picketing along the country’s main highway here every weekday from 4 a.m. The workers, members of the Meatworkers Union, were locked out October 19 by their employer, Canterbury Meat Packers Rangitikei, after refusing to sign a contract that includes large cuts in pay and allowances.

Canterbury Meat Packers Rangitikei, which slaughters lamb, is one of five large meat plants in the country owned by ANZCO Foods Ltd., which also owns smaller plants and a cattle feedlot.

The rejected contract, according to union organizer Robbie Magee, included pay cuts of 20 to 30 percent, shift changes that lengthen the workweek, elimination of allowances for cleaning gear at breaks and for night shift, a reduction of pay during mechanical breakdowns, and cuts in severance payments.

“Workers have been incredibly generous in their offer—they are prepared to take a 10 percent pay cut,” said a press release from the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

“I believe the company planned this from the beginning of the year,” said Trevor Collis, a 53-year-old butcher who stands to lose 30 percent in take home pay and was also told he had to change his shift. “I don’t think they anticipated us staying out this long or getting this kind of support.”

The company told the union in March that it wanted concessions, according to Magee. On October 3, just after the old contract had expired, and after weeks of short pay due to the annual low production season, workers were told they would be locked out if they did not sign the new agreement, he said.

Leading up to the lockout company representatives visited workers at home and held meetings to pressure them to sign, said Magee. Night shift workers laid off over the slow season were offered day shifts at higher wages for signing.

After contacting Canterbury Meat Packers Rangitikei for a statement, a receptionist referred the *Militant* to a company press release issued November 14. “We are asking employees to take these cuts now so that we can ensure the viability of the plant and not have any job losses,” it said.

About 190 workers have individually signed the contract, but so far the company has only been able to operate one shift. In New Zealand, nonunion workers can sign contracts as individuals outside of collective agreements with a union. On the second day of the lockout,

it was forced to fly meat inspectors in by helicopter when the plant’s inspectors refused to work.

Police, present every day, are preventing picketers from stopping traffic in and out of the plant. Picketers are handing out leaflets in English and Samoan to workers going in, urging them to join the union’s fight for a better contract. They have also leafleted a local farmers’ market and letterboxes in nearby towns.

“I have never been on a picket line and am learning things,” said Lovey Jonathan, 59, a butcher at the Canterbury Meat Packers plant for six years. Everyone here is very staunch. I want to be staunch as well because I don’t want to work my guts out for less money.”

Donations of food and money are coming in, including \$1,000 from a fund-raising concert in Auckland. While this reporter was at the picket line, a large tray of hot pies and bottles of flavored milk were dropped off by a local milk vendor.

Workers locked out in New Zealand are eligible for emergency welfare payments, but many spoke of the red tape and snooping they face when applying



Militant/Baskaran Appu

Workers locked out by Canterbury Meat Packers Rangitikei company in Marton, New Zealand, on the picket line, November 7. Unionists rejected contract demanding large pay cuts.

for these.

On November 10 union members voted 100 percent to reject a slightly revised company offer. Talks with the company are continuing.

“We’re not just fighting for ourselves, we’re fighting for the other little plants around here,” said Terangi Wroe, 37, a laborer on the slaughter floor. “They’ll

do the same to them, and if that happens I’ll be on their picket line.”

Donations to the locked-out workers can be made by online transfer to account number: 38-9007-0894028-08, account name: Disputes Fund.

Baskaran Appu contributed to this article.

Canada: 3rd miner killed in Vale nickel mines

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—In the last five months, three miners have been killed in Canadian nickel mines owned by Vale.

Greg Leason, 51, died October 19 from injuries received 12 days earlier at Vale’s nickel mine in Thompson, Manitoba. Leason was operating a scooptram at the 3,500 foot level of the T-3 underground mine October 7. The ore moving machine fell more than 100 feet to the level below while Leason was inside.

Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health officials are investigating his death. A joint investigation is also being conducted by United Steelworkers Local 6166 and Vale officials. Leason had worked in the mine for 23 years.

On June 8 two other Vale miners, Jordan Fram, 26, and Jason Chenier, 35, died under tons of broken rock at the

3,000 foot level of Vale’s Stobie nickel mine near Sudbury, Ontario. In this case, USW Local 6500 decided to conduct its own investigation.

According to Local 6500 officials, the company impeded the union investigation by ordering two of five union committee members back to work on the pretext that they were taking too long.

“We don’t have a time frame. What we are concentrating on is to find out the result, find out what happened that killed two of our members,” Local 6500 President Rick Bertrand told the *Sudbury Star*. It has taken months to clear the site, finally allowing investigators access to the area.

“Some of our team are still investigating the site where our two brothers were killed,” Bertrand told the *Militant*.

Local 6500 filed a complaint with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which in mid-October ordered Vale to return

the miners to the investigation.

Vale, based in Brazil, is the second largest mining company in the world, operating in 38 countries with more than 126,000 employees and contract workers. So far this year, along with the deaths in Sudbury and Thompson, nine Vale workers have died on the job, including one in Colombia, three in Brazil and one in Guinea.

Meanwhile, the case of eight workers framed up and fired last year by Vale for allegedly threatening scabs and company-hired guards is finally scheduled to be taken up by the Ontario Labour Relations Board December 8. The workers were fired during a one-year strike by 3,000 members of USW Local 6500 in Sudbury that ended in July 2010.

Katy LeRougetel contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 28, 1986

The catastrophic release of millions of gallons of poisoned water into the Rhine River, one of Europe’s most important waterways, was the direct result of corporate greed.

The huge spill, November 1, resulted from a fire that destroyed two warehouses at the Sandoz chemical company in Basel, Switzerland. Fire fighters dumped millions of gallons of water on the blaze. Combining with tons of lethal chemical, this water then poured into the Rhine. The river runs through Switzerland, West Germany, France, and the Netherlands, where it flows into the North Sea.

The destroyed warehouses lacked the most elementary fire safeguards. The buildings where the fire erupted were originally built to house machinery.



November 27, 1961

The apparent decision of the Justice Department to move with “deliberate speed” in its prosecution of the Communist Party does not lessen the danger to democratic rights inherent in this first attempt in the nation’s history to outlaw a political party. If the Kennedy administration succeeds in forcing dissolution of the Communist Party, a precedent will exist which could ultimately lead to the suppression of all political opposition.

The Justice Department had given the Communist Party until Nov. 20 to turn over its membership lists, financial records, etc. The demand was based on a ruling, approved by the Supreme Court, that the party must register under the Internal Security Act as a “foreign agent.”



December, 26, 1936

A unity convention of the Minnesota locals of the Workers’ Alliance of America was held Dec. 12 and 13 in St. Paul. An attempt of Communist Party elements to provoke a split in the convention failed.

The organized unemployed in Minnesota have been divided into two groups. First from point of view of size and effectiveness has been the Federal Workers Section of Local 544. This organization, sponsored, financed and organized by the General Drivers Union Local 544, has been in existence ever since the 1934 drivers’ strikes in Minneapolis. Because the F.W.S. has this tie-up with the organized union movement, workers in this area obtained probably the highest relief and work relief standards in the United States.

The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota

by Fred Halstead

The hard-fought strike against Hormel opened a round of battles by packinghouse workers that—together with strikes by paper workers, cannery workers and western coal miners—marked a break in the rout of the U.S. unions that began with the 1981-82 recession. \$6

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‘Occupy’ protesters evicted

Continued from front page

ilar moves are being pursued in more than a dozen other cities, including London.

In all of these places, city officials have used issues like crime, cleanliness and safety as a pretext for the removals. In Los Angeles, police spokespeople warned they will shut down the camp on City Hall grounds because “they’ve destroyed the lawn” and are “becoming detrimental to the trees.”

Over the past few weeks, mayors and other officials from dozens of cities have conferred on how to move against Occupy encampments in national conference calls organized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Police Executive Research Forum.

Three days before the Oakland raid, the city’s Police Officers Association issued an open letter to participants in Occupy Oakland, urging them to leave the camp for their own health and safety, citing a fatal shooting near the camp that the occupiers have explained they had nothing to do with.

After the predawn raid on the camp October 25, when protesters attempted to reoccupy the area, police fired tear gas, bean bag rounds and flash-bang grenades, critically wounding Scott Olsen, a Marine veteran of the Iraq war and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War. Outrage spread when video footage was released showing the cops tossing a projectile directly at those who came to the aid of Olsen.

Under pressure of the widespread opposition to the attack, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan withdrew the heavy police presence from the immediate area of the camp and the tents were allowed to return.

Then on November 9 cops at the University of California, Berkeley campus attacked students with clubs as they tried to defend the tents they had set up as part of “Occupy Cal.”

Videos showing the cops advancing on a peaceful line of students with arms linked led to condemnation of the cops, including by the student government.

“A lot of the students had never seen anything like that before,” Jessica Vott, a Latin American studies major who witnessed the beatings, told the *Militant*. “They saw what can happen if you question society.”

The cop attack came the same day as a demonstration of hundreds on campus protesting a threatened increase in tu-

ition. A “Strike and Day of Action” has been called for college and university students on November 15 to continue the fight against the rising cost of education and cutbacks, as well as to protest police brutality.

In Oakland, in response to the October 25 attack, many thousands turned out for a day of protest November 2. Dubbed a “general strike” by the organizers, the protest attracted youth, workers and middle class people hard hit by the economic crisis from throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Rallies were organized throughout the day, as well as marches on downtown banks. More than 10,000 marched at nightfall on the Port of Oakland, shutting it down.

Among the largely young crowd that marched to the port was Jacob Davis, 24, a veteran of the Iraq war. He told the *Militant* he opposed the war and was marching “because of what happened to Scott Olsen.”

Many longshore workers did not show up for work. Others left when they saw the marchers. The *Militant* spoke with port drivers whose trucks were surrounded by the demonstration. Most of the drivers supported the action.

After nightfall on November 2, a small grouping of individuals built fires in the street, broke windows and spray painted stores in the downtown area near the Occupy Oakland camp. The next day participants in Occupy Oakland decided to dissociate their movement from the vandalism, with some pitching in to help in the cleanup. During one of the protests, demonstrators physically forced other marchers to stop trashing a Whole Foods store.

Andrina Huxey, who was present October 25 when the cops attacked, told the *Militant* that before seeing the police brutality she had been thinking of using her eight years in the Navy as experience to help her get a job as a cop. “Now I know I don’t want to be



Militant/Eric Simpson

Thousands of protesters shut down operations at Port of Oakland November 2 in action called by Occupy Oakland and endorsed by the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

part of that,” she said.

Socialist Workers Party members and supporters joined the discussions during the day of protest, stressing the need for working people to organize independently of the two parties that represent the propertied rulers, whose government is organizing assaults on working people to make them pay for the crisis of the capitalist system.

Articles in the *Militant* sparked discussion of how the cops are used by the bosses against workers in union struggles, as has been the case with longshore workers fighting union-busting in the port of Longview, Washington.

Annie, an unemployed construction worker who did not want to give her last name, was one of those who turned out November 13, the night before the raid, to show support for the camp. When learning that the *Militant* builds solidarity with union struggles, she bought a copy and said, “Union busting has to stop! That’s a quote to put in the paper.”

The November 15 move by New York police to clear our Zuccotti Park, the site of Occupy Wall Street, was described by the *New York Times* as a “minutely

planned, almost military-style operation.” Practice runs were conducted, based on “disorder training” and counterterrorism plans, and honed over weeks.

The raid began at 1 a.m., when the fewest people were present. Arrests were made with a minimum of violence, unlike earlier assaults on protests with pepper spray and physical attacks, showing cop violence can be turned on and off when needed.

Complaints of abuse came from reporters, who were systematically barred from the park. “I’m press,” Rosie Gray, a writer for the *Village Voice*, told a cop who blocked her from covering the operation. He responded, “not tonight,” she said.

Adbusters, the Canadian anarchist magazine that originally proposed the encampments, said November 14 that protesters should “declare victory” and head indoors. Others said they were considering supporting “like-minded” political candidates.

Eric Simpson contributed to this article.

Jefferson County, Alabama, files for bankruptcy

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Unable to meet payments on a \$4.1 billion debt, Jefferson County, Ala., filed for bankruptcy November 9. It’s the largest bankruptcy filing for a municipality in U.S. history and a harbinger of what the propertied owners and their government have in store for working people as the crisis of their economic and social system unfolds.

The county is the largest in the state and includes Birmingham, the state’s biggest city.

The filing surpasses the previous municipal bankruptcy record set in 1994 by Orange County, Calif., with a \$1.7 billion debt. In both cases local governments and those that loaned them money blew up a giant balloon of debt through use of complex derivatives and other speculative bets. As long as paper values continued to rise, the counties could count on low interest rates as the bondholders raked in profits. But when the paper values of these debt “instruments” began to deflate, as they did throughout the United States several years ago, the counties’ interest rates shot up and their debts became unpayable.

In 1996 a federal judge ordered Jef-

erson County to repair and rebuild its sewer system, which was polluting waterways in the region. Over the next several years the county began massively borrowing funds through issuing bonds. Many of these loans were refinanced in 2002-2003 with speculative bets on derivatives and the city’s payments to the bondholders became linked to their performance. “No other local government has as great reliance on such derivatives as Jefferson County,” noted the *Birmingham News*.

The county has been teetering on the brink of bankruptcy since 2008 when the accelerating financial crisis sunk the county’s debt to junk bond status. Interest rates then rose rapidly to as high as 10 percent on the sewer debt, which is now up to \$3.2 billion.

To pay the bondholders, county officials have laid off hundreds of workers, and cut work hours and social services. In 2009 the county ordered budget cuts of 33 percent with hundreds of layoffs as well as furloughs and 32-hour workweeks. Last June county officials put 547 workers on administrative leave without pay.

Jefferson County has slashed its budget for this fiscal year by almost \$100

million, reported the *Wall Street Journal*, “and is considering \$40 million more in budget cuts in December.”

County officials have also sought to raise funds through an occupational tax, which has been challenged in the state legislature and in court.

In September, the Jefferson County Commission approved sewer rate increases of more than 8 percent a year and called for bondholders to write off about \$1 billion in debt, reported the *Washington Post*. But the municipal bond owners rejected the deal.

Under bankruptcy, holders of municipal bonds, just like U.S. Treasury bills, are always at the front of the line to be paid, with funds for hospitals, schools, roads, sewers, and workers jobs’ first in line for cuts.

Jefferson County is the fourth local government to file for municipal bankruptcy so far this year, according to Associated Press. The others include Harrisburg, Pa.; Central Falls, R.I.; and Boise County, Idaho. A judge rejected Boise County’s filing. Harrisburg’s is over a \$300 million debt from a trash incinerator. The mayor and state officials have challenged this filing, which a judge will rule on November 23.

New International

MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

Issue no.10 includes:

“Imperialism’s March Toward Fascism and War”

—by Jack Barnes

“What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold”

—Resolution adopted by 1988 Socialist Workers Party convention

New International 10



What the 1987 stock market crash foretold
Imperialism's march toward fascism and war

\$16

Cuba, defending socialist revolution

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Greece steel mill strike

Continued from front page

buckled and accepted it. We in Aspropyrgos said no, and 34 workers were fired,” explained union President Giorgos Sifonios. “How can you live on 500 euros [\$677] a month?” asked Harokopos.

“We are fighting to be able to raise our families with basic human dignity and we have won tremendous support from people and unions in the area and beyond,” said Sifonios. “All the steel bosses are looking at what happens here.” The workers will not return to work or negotiate with the company until the 34 are hired back, he emphasized.

At the start of this round of austerity in Greece “many workers watched the attacks on the public sector workers and said, ‘They deserve it,’” Sifonios said. “Now you see how foolish

this attitude was. If they can fire public workers, they can fire you!”

The night before hundreds of area unionists attended a solidarity benefit concert at the steel mill’s gates.

The Elliniki Halivourgia strikers also led the march of thousands in central Athens November 10, organized by the All Workers Militant Front (PAME) union federation. This was the first union march in opposition to the new “national unity” government and its mandate for a new round of austerity measures aimed at working people. “We will continue our fight; we won’t be turned into slaves,” Sifonios told rally participants.

New government of ‘technocrats’

The rulers of Greece—under pressure from their main creditors and strongest imperialist powers in the eurozone, Berlin and Paris—have cobbled together a new government touted as a “technocratic” regime of “national unity.” Its overriding function is to implement further austerity measures to slash jobs, wages, social services and living conditions of the country’s working class. Similar moves are under way in Italy.

The governments of Germany and France seek



Militant/Natasha Terlexis

“No to the firings, No to intimidation,” reads banner directly behind strikers at Elliniki Halivourgia steel mill outside Athens, Greece, November 12. From left, Nikolaos Harokopos, union vice president; Giorgos Sifonios, president; and Dimitris Diakos, treasurer.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel lectures Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou while French President Nicolas Sarkozy looks on at G20 summit in Cannes, France, November 2. Papandreou resigned the following week.

to protect the solvency of their banks, deeply leveraged in investments in Greek and Italian bonds, and defend their faltering economies, dependent on exports to the rest of the European Union. This unfolds as countries in the eurozone, those that use the euro as a common currency, are lurching into recession.

Under the pressure of these developments, the European Union is beginning to unravel, as the crisis and increasing interstate conflicts mount pressure on the individual capitalist states to break away and rely on their own currency, their borders and their

army to shore up their class rule.

Greece’s gross domestic product has contracted for six consecutive quarters. Official unemployment hit a record high of 18.4 percent in August, according to recent government figures. Youth unemployment stands at 43.5 percent.

The workers in Greece continue to seek ways to defend themselves. Trade unions have threatened a new round of strikes. A mass protest is scheduled for Athens November 17.

Georges Mehrabian in Athens contributed to this article.

Washington, allies mount ‘unprecedented pressure’ on Iran

BY JIM CARSON

On November 8 the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency released a report presenting evidence of Iranian research designed to further knowledge of nuclear weapons technology. Washington and its imperialist allies have seized on this as an opportunity to deepen their two-decade campaign of aggression to force Tehran to abandon its nuclear program altogether.

Washington, London and Paris are pressing for stiffer trade sanctions on Iran. Beginning with what is reported as a press leak earlier this month, sections of the Israeli government have maintained threats to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities.

Iranian officials say the U.N. report is a fabrication dictated by Washington and vow to retaliate against any military action. “If the thought of invasion against the Islamic republic of Iran crosses any-

body’s mind he must ready himself to receive a strong slap and an iron fist,” said Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei,

The U.N. report attests that Tehran has not used any of its enriched uranium for military purposes since the Iranian government’s nuclear program was officially halted under imperialist pressure in 2003. The IAEA also offered no evidence that Tehran was actively trying to build a weapon at this time.

What is new in the U.N. report is its statement that, among other things, Tehran has built a steel container at its Parchin military facility that can be used for testing explosions capable of triggering a nuclear reaction; is creating computer models for a nuclear warhead; and has stocked enriched uranium.

Tehran has maintained for years that its nuclear program is not military, aimed above all at increasing the country’s power production. It did not directly respond to claims contained in the IAEA report.

Even before the release of the IAEA report, Washington had made clear it intended to impose “unprecedented pressure,” as President Barack Obama put it, on the Iranian government. In a joint statement, Paris and London “made clear their determination to seek new powerful sanctions if Iran refuses” to submit to imperialists’ demands.

In the weeks leading up to the U.N. report, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had pressed his cabinet to launch a military airstrike against Iran’s nuclear facilities. A section of Israel’s rulers sees as a threat the mass popular movements for democracy and

social justice sweeping North Africa and the Middle East, including Israel. And they anticipate that Washington’s recently announced withdrawal of its troops from Iraq by the end of the year will strengthen Iran’s influence in the region.

While supporting a new round of harsh sanctions against Iran, Tel Aviv has not publicly ruled out the possibility of a military attack. In 1981 and 2007 Israeli airplanes destroyed nuclear reactors in Iraq and Syria.

Campaign of sabotage, assassination

Through the U.N. or individually, Washington and its imperialist allies have already imposed four rounds of sanctions that have crippled Iran’s economy by significantly reducing its access to international financial institutions, making trade more expensive. They have also targeted its nuclear program with sabotage and assassinations, particularly of scientists involved in the development of nuclear technology.

On November 12 one of the top commanders in Iran’s ballistic missile program, Brig. Gen. Hasan Moghadam, was killed along with 16 other Revolutionary Guards members in an explosion that Tehran said was accidental at the Bidganeh military center for missile development and storage. Speculation has since spread that this was an Israeli intelligence operation.

In recent days, the Iranian government also said its computer systems have been attacked by a new virus called Duqu. Its nuclear facilities had already been damaged by another cyberweapon called Stuxnet, setting

back its program.

Imperialism’s deep hostility toward Iran began with the 1979 revolution when workers and peasants overthrew the monarchy, a key ally of Washington. Shortly afterwards, a counterrevolutionary bourgeois regime was established through repression of workers and peasants. At the same time the Iranian government has consistently refused to simply bow to imperialism’s diktats.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported November 11 that, in the context of withdrawing its troops from Iraq, Washington is selling thousands of advanced “bunker-buster” bombs and other munitions to the United Arab Emirates as part of a stepped-up effort to pull together a regional coalition against Iran involving other monarchial regional allies in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta November 10 warned that military actions against Iran could have “unintended consequences” in the region.

Stratfor, a U.S.-based private intelligence and news analysis service, said that after U.S. troops depart from Iraq U.S. State Department personnel and “contractors” will be more vulnerable. It also pointed out that “Iran’s ballistic missiles arsenal can target both American and Israeli targets across the region.” Adding, “Iran has for decades cultivated the ability to essentially conduct guerrilla warfare in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. . . . No one can manage the markets’ reaction to even the hint of disruption to 40 percent of the world’s sea-borne crude.”

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Miners were pillar of support for Che's guerrilla in Bolivia

Below is an excerpt from Fertile Ground: Che Guevara and Bolivia by Rodolfo Saldaña, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. Saldaña (1932-2000) was a Bolivian revolutionary who in 1966-67 helped recruit fighters and provided logistical support to the ultimately unsuccessful guerrilla campaign organized in Bolivia by Ernesto Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban Revolution. Guevara's campaign sought to forge a revolutionary movement of workers, peasants and youth to overthrow the military dictatorship in Bolivia and open the road to socialist revolution in South America. He was eventually captured and murdered by the Bolivian army in a CIA-organized operation.

Saldaña was interviewed in April 1997 by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder, and Michael Taber. Copyright © 1997 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

QUESTION: What was the popular response within Bolivia on learning of Che's *guerrilla*?

SALDAÑA: After the first clash between the army and Che's forces occurred on March 23, I drafted a manifesto, and we distributed it in the cities. We did not yet have a name, so we were posed with the decision of what name the organization



Courtesy Gladys Brizuela
Ernesto Che Guevara, left, with Rodolfo Saldaña in Bolivia, 1966. Saldaña, himself a former tin miner, worked to garner support among miners in Bolivia for revolutionary movement led by Guevara that sought to overthrow dictatorship and extend socialist revolution in region.

should use to address the people. We knew the decision rested with Che and the guerrilla group. That was where our command was. But we needed to say something to the people in some way, to explain somehow what was happening.

This was the document we used to begin to work in the mines, with which we began to work in the city, explaining more or less what the guerrilla struggle meant.

QUESTION: Without mentioning Che?

SALDAÑA: Correct. Under those conditions, we had to do our work without mentioning Che. The enemy already knew there were guerrillas, and it had to have known that groups were working to support the guerrillas. We were telling them nothing they didn't know. There were individuals among the people, among the workers, however, seeking ways to make contact with the guerrillas, seeking that possibility. These were the reasons for what we did, and the conditions under which we did it.

QUESTION: What was happening among the tin miners?

SALDAÑA: The support received from the miners is one of the things that gives the lie to charges that the Bolivian workers and peasants were indifferent to the struggle Che initiated.

I had been a miner at Siglo XX [tin

mine]. I built the Communist Party there in the 1950s. So I knew the party members, many of whom I had recruited.

I went to Siglo XX, it must have been in February 1967. I spoke with Rosendo García Maismán, who in those days was general secretary of the union, of the miners of Siglo XX, and a leader of the party there. He was an intelligent comrade, a very capable and courageous comrade. Without entering into details, I informed him that a decision had to be made soon. Later, after the first battle, he and I met on a number of occasions. By then he was already one of us, and he began to form two groups. One of these groups was to join the guerrilla column, and the other was to carry out support tasks.

As to the miners' commitment to the struggle, we have the testimony of Rosendo García's widow. . . . The miners registered their support to the guerrillas at general assemblies. They decided that each worker would donate one day's pay to help the guerrillas. Their commitment shows us that there was generalized support among the workers. It's possible, of course, that there were some who were not in agreement. But the miners unanimously made this decision at their assembly. . . . This was at the end of May or at the beginning of June.

On June 24 there was supposed to be an expanded meeting of the miners federation, that is, union leaders from all the country's mines were coming to Siglo XX. Representatives of the teachers and university students were also coming. In addition, this meeting at Siglo XX was to serve as a vehicle to discuss some general questions dealing with the workers' demands, and certainly it would have taken up support to the guerrillas.

During the night of June 23 into the dawn hours on June 24, the army entered the mining camp shooting, throwing grenades at the homes of the miners while they slept. This is why many women and children were among those killed. That was the Noche de San Juan massacre. The only place the troops encountered armed resistance was at the union hall, where Rosendo García was, together with the few who were able to respond to the call of the mine's siren. The union's siren would be sounded in the mornings so the workers would get to work; it's like an alarm clock. But the siren was also used to summon people to assemblies and as a warning about some danger. That night the siren was sounded.

Immediately the workers knew—since it wasn't time to go to work it had to be something else, some emergency, or an assembly. Something was happening.

With a few rifles, they confronted the army. A number of people were killed there at the union hall, including Rosendo García Maismán, the central leader of the workers at Siglo XX. Many others died in their homes from machine-gun fire.

The delegates who had arrived for the meeting hid out in the mines, and later in different ways they secretly left the area, which was occupied by the army.

This was the highest expression of support the guerrillas received, but this doesn't mean it was the only one. There were other demonstrations of support, although none reached this level. . . .

This is in response to those who say there was no support among the Bolivian people, that Che was isolated. That is not true. The guerrilla events after March 23 stirred the people as a whole, the population as a whole, in all their different social layers.

November

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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8 The Militant November 28, 2011

The dictatorship of capital

This week, city officials and their cops in dozens of cities across the country moved to evict campers at Occupy Wall Street actions.

The *Militant*, like millions of working people, defends the rights of these protesters, demands freedom of speech and assembly, and condemns police brutality.

The propertied capitalists rulers—owners of the factories, mines, mills, all means of production, as well as masters of finance capital, one and the same—hold the reins of the U.S. imperialist state. The Democratic and Republican parties are their parties, a two-party system of capitalist rule.

The owners of American Crystal Sugar, who have locked out 1,300 workers in the Upper Midwest, know they can count on support from politicians of both parties. In North Dakota they adopted company-backed laws to deny unemployment compensation to workers, a cold-blooded move to starve them into submission and, they hope, foster divisions among those who don't receive benefits and those who get them in Minnesota. And the bosses are assured of continued backing from the cops and courts, for injunctions and strict enforcement to limit picketing, allowing scabs to work.

The dictatorship of capital and the worldwide unsolvable crisis of that system is what working people confront. This is the source of unfolding social crises, rising unemployment, attacks on unions and wages, lockouts from the Upper Midwest to New Zealand, austerity measures and layoffs from Alabama's Jefferson County to Greece, cop brutality, intensifying

interstate conflicts and spreading war.

The problem is not "greedy" bankers or "fat cats." It cannot be touched by raising taxes on the wealthy, revenue extracted from the capitalists' surplus to be used by *their* government to balance *their* budgets, pay the bondholders—including themselves—fight *their* wars, and whatever else they decide.

Pointing blame at greedy banks with demagogic appeals to "tax the rich" serves to obfuscate the real problem and the class enemy. It is advanced today by supporters of the Democratic Party, aimed at bringing into office the very same politicians who are advancing an assault on working people on a scale not seen for many decades.

We are only at the opening stages of the crisis that in coming decades will look much more like the Great Depression of the 1930s when shacks built in parks and other locations became shelter for hundreds of thousands of desperate workers forced onto the streets. These makeshift communities, called Hooverilles, were brutally attacked by cops and the U.S. military.

The only force that can stay this catastrophe will grow out of working-class resistance. Combatants in these struggles come to see more clearly that what they face is not just one ruthless boss, some "bad apple" cops, a few corrupt politicians, but the rule of a conscious social class, intent on using all its resources to hang on to its profits and power.

Above all, this is what the Socialist Workers Party explains as it participates in these fights. This is what is decisive for workers to be able to size up the relationship of class forces and chart the road forward.

Ohio votes reject antilabor law, 'Obamacare'

Continued from page 4

lican politicians face in appealing to working people hit hard by the capitalist economic crisis. This reality reflects a real crisis for Republicans, particularly when you consider the fact that the Obama administration and other Democratic politicians have likewise done nothing to alleviate effects of the crisis, while protecting interests of capitalist owners, banks and bondholders and imposing budget cuts and other antilabor measures.

Democratic politicians have proposed restrictions on unions like those in Ohio and Wisconsin in both New York and California.

Distrust 'big government'

The even larger rejection of "Obamacare" underscores the fact that many workers have a healthy distrust of "big government" and resent being treated with contempt by government bureaucrats when seeking unemployment compensation, government-funded health care, and other aid—or just want to renew their driver's license.

After passage of the antilabor law, unions and other groups launched a campaign to put the measure to a vote, gathering just short of 1 million signatures—the most ever for a referendum in the history of the state—in a successful effort to overturn it.

Within days of the defeat, both Republican and Democratic politicians predicted that attacks on state workers and their unions would continue.

On election night Governor Kasich told the press

that his law was just "too much too soon." He said that the result of the election would be deeper cuts by state and local governments. "Let me be clear, there is no bailout coming," he added.

Republican state House Speaker William Batchelder told the press "to expect pieces of the 300-page law to reemerge early next year," according to the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*.

Two days after the vote, a coalition was formed to launch a campaign to make Ohio a "right to work" state. Bryan Williams, director of government affairs for the Ohio Association of Building Contractors, called the effort "long overdue."

In an editorial on the defeat of the law, the liberal *Plain Dealer* urged the legislature to focus on "needed changes in merit pay, mandatory benefit contributions and imbalanced seniority restrictions in layoffs."

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland said getting rid of some sections of the law would open the door to workers making sacrifices. When he was governor, Strickland explained, public workers' unions agreed to take 20 days off work without pay and a pay freeze to "help him balance the budget."

Some top labor officials echoed the sentiment that in "tough times" workers must give up hard-fought gains.

"There has always been room to talk," Bill Leibensperger, vice president of the Ohio Education Association, told the *Columbus Dispatch*.

Sugar workers

Continued from front page

joined by union members from the North Dakota Education Association and the North Dakota Public Employee Association.

Earlier in the week, the legislature's Delayed Bills Committee rejected a bill that would have provided unemployment compensation for more than 400 workers locked out by American Crystal in Drayton and Hillsboro, both small towns in eastern North Dakota.

Locked-out workers at American Crystal's three plants in northern Minnesota and two smaller processing plants in Chaska, Minn., and Mason City, Iowa, do receive unemployment compensation.

American Crystal spokesman Brian Ingulsrud told Associated Press November 9 that he doesn't support changing the North Dakota law. The company did not return calls from the *Militant*.

Workers for American Crystal, represented by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union, rejected the company's concession contract proposal by 96 percent on July 30. Two days later bosses locked out 1,300 workers at its seven facilities. American Crystal has been running its factories with nearly 1,000 scabs ever since.

On November 1 the union membership voted down a slightly different company offer by 90 percent.

In his speech to the 62nd Legislative Assembly November 7, North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple did not say one word about the locked-out workers, but sang praises of how North Dakota is the "best economy in the nation," where "progress can be seen in all our major cities, in our small towns, and on our farms."

In Hillsboro and Drayton, towns of 1,500 and 700, many of the locked-out workers are falling behind on mortgage payments and are seeking assistance for heating bills, rent, food and medical assistance.

During a visit to the Hillsboro union hall, Jeanie Covert, who has worked for American Crystal for four years, said, "Many of us have had to sell furniture and other personal items to get by. You should see the number of listings on Craigslist from Hillsboro."

Many businesses in the two towns are also hurting from the cutoff in income from the main employer in the area.

Cold shoulder from politicians

Sugar workers have gotten the cold shoulder from elected politicians, said Jerry Burdeski, who is locked out from the plant in Moorhead, Minn. "The politicians have been horrendous, especially [Democratic Minnesota Senator] Al Franken, who goes around saying he is pro-labor. He should be ashamed of himself. He has been mostly silent and doesn't deserve reelection."

Doyle Heden, who recently retired after 21 years at the plant, dismissed the politicians who claim to be not taking sides. "By not doing anything they are siding with Crystal Sugar," he told the *Militant*. "That's how a lot of us see it."

After 21 years at American Crystal Heden receives a monthly pension of \$436. The company has misjudged the workers, he said. "When they locked us out, they thought we would back down or vanish into society. We aren't going anywhere." Heden then explained he was going to Menards to pick up some supplies to help winterize the picket shack in front of the Hillsboro plant.

"American Crystal thought it could pour boiling water on us, and make us melt away," said Jeanie Covert, who was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 30 years before getting hired at American Crystal. "I've never seen the amount of solidarity generated by the lockout, from within the union and from other unions. We didn't realize what we have."

Correction

The subhead of the lead article in the November 21 issue, "Sugar workers reject contract for 3rd time," was inaccurate. On November 1 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union rejected American Crystal Sugar's concession contract offer for the second time.

LETTERS

Occupy Wall Street I

With the "Occupy" actions spreading across the country and the globe, we are seeing the slogan of "tax the rich" become very popular. Can the *Militant* explain why this does not advance the working class movement?

Andy Winger
Chicago

question. The *Militant* will return to both the "tax the rich" and "flat tax" demagogic appeals coming from the two capitalist parties, and a working-class approach to the question of taxes in a subsequent issue.

Occupy Wall Street II

I do not agree with the criticism from a reader in the October 31 issue about the *Militant* paying too much attention to strikes and other

workers' struggles. What is interesting is the mutual support of strikers and the Occupy movement.

Jim Lambrecht
Davenport, Florida.

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.