

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Militant' team reports on struggles by workers, women in Indonesia
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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4 new areas join 'Militant' subscription campaign

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Into the first week of a nine-week international drive to win thousands of subscribers to the *Militant* among working people, supporters of the socialist newspaper are fanning out into working-class neighborhoods in cities big and small and readers are joining in the campaign from areas that have not been part of the effort before.

READERS ORGANIZE TO SPREAD 'MILITANT' FAR AND WIDE

They are going door to door with the paper and books on revolutionary working-class politics, with special attention to areas that are predominantly Black.

The drive runs from Oct. 13 through Dec. 16.

Since Sept. 29, more than 400 new and renewed subscriptions to the paper have been sold in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand

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South Africa strikes spread, gold miners reject deal

BY SETH GALINSKY

While more than 100,000 striking miners in South Africa continue to press their fight for higher wages, 28,000 truck drivers approved a three-year contract after a two-week strike.

Striking gold miners rejected a deal Oct. 10, negotiated by officials of the National Union of Mineworkers and three gold mining companies that fell short of workers' demands for a substantial wage hike.

The proposal included moving up the lowest paid miners to the next highest pay grade and giving an additional allowance to rock drillers.

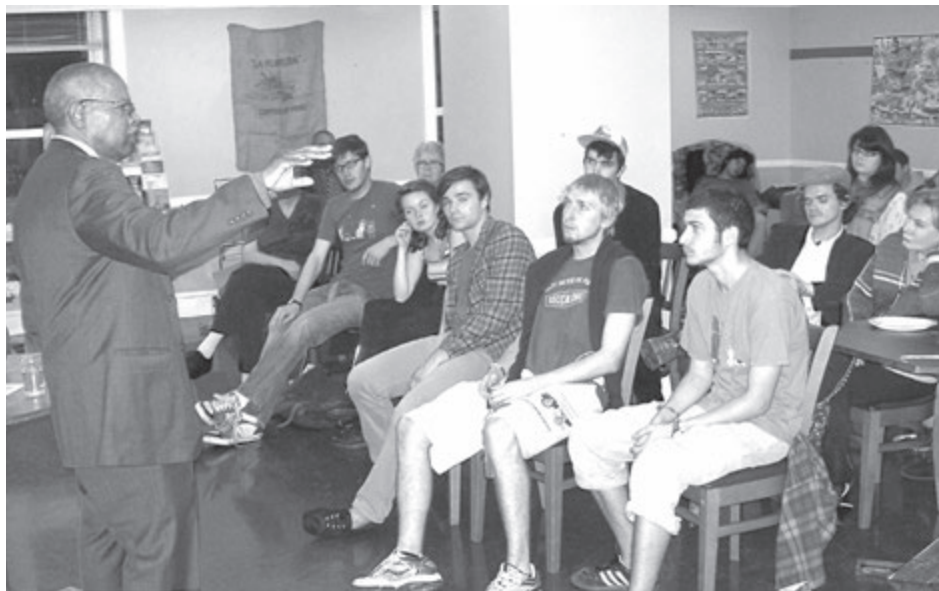
The African National Congress-led government, mining companies and NUM officials have been trying to end the strikes that since August have swept platinum, gold, chrome and coal mines across the country. They say the strikes are illegal because union contracts covering the mines have not expired.

More than 40 percent of the coun-

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'Put millions to work building what we need'

Socialist candidate talks with N. Carolina youth



Militant/Sam Manuel

James Harris, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, speaks at Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C., Oct. 11. "Democrats and Republicans represent the interests of the propertied rulers," Harris said. "Working class needs a clear and independent voice."

BY SAM MANUEL

GREENSBORO, N.C.—"The billions of 'stimulus' dollars pumped into the economy over the last few years have had no effect on unemployment," James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, told some 40 people at a meeting at Guilford College here Oct. 11.

He was responding to a question from William Dobbins, a student who asked whether the Federal Reserve's moves to "prime" the economy by

manipulation of interests rates and money supply could make a difference. The meeting was part of the

DEBATE: LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN BOSSES' TWO PARTIES

—SWP vice pres. candidate, p. 4

candidate's four-day tour of Georgia and North Carolina.

"We say workers need to fight for
Continued on page 4

Miners fight Patriot Coal plan to dump health care and pensions



United Mine Workers of America Archive/Phil Smith

Sept. 11 demonstration, Charleston, W.Va., demands Patriot Coal, a Peabody spinoff, maintain health and pension benefits company plans to drop as part of bankruptcy filing.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Patriot Coal Corp. is using bankruptcy proceedings in an attempt to cut thousands of active and retired mine workers from health benefits and pension plans and to tear up union contracts.

Patriot currently employs 2,000 union miners in West Virginia and Kentucky and is responsible for the health and pension plans of more than

10,000 retirees and 10,000 family members, mostly in West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

Peabody Energy formed Patriot as a spin-off company in 2007, leaving the new entity with ownership of union mines in West Virginia and the Midwest, as well as liability for the pension and health funds.

In order to have the case heard

Continued on page 2

As Syria civil war grinds on toilers, consequences spill over into region

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The civil war in Syria is locked in a bloody stalemate between the regime of President Bashar al-Assad and the disparate bourgeois opposition. The

19 months of fighting is bearing down hard on working people with an increasing number being killed, dislocated and forced to flee the country.

The goal of Washington and its allies is to promote—with minimal engagement and risk—the creation of a government without al-Assad that can maintain stable capitalist relations and support imperialist interests in the region. This is proving to be complex and difficult.

Consequences of the war are spilling over to neighboring countries. In addition to a growing refugee crisis,

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Uruguay gov't decriminalizes abortion

BY RÓGER CALERO

Uruguay's Chamber of Deputies Sept. 25 approved legislation to decriminalize abortions during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. This makes

INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR RIGHT TO CHOOSE

—See editorial, p. 9

Uruguay the second Latin American nation after Cuba to legalize the medical procedure.

The law—approved by a 50-49 margin—has many restrictions. It

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South Africa strikes spread

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try’s gold production has been shut down by some 50,000 gold miners, including the entire South African operation of London-based AngloGold Ashanti, the world’s third-largest gold producer.

“We keep on trying to persuade the workers to accept the current offer,” Kenneth Buda, National Union of Mineworkers coordinator at Gold Fields, told the *Militant* in a phone interview Oct. 15. “Whether or not management can offer the 16,000 rand a month [\$1,800] the workers want, there will be repercussions.

“This is an illegal strike,” Buda said. “We tell the workers it will be a different story altogether next year when the two-year contract expires and we will try by all means to meet their expectations.”

Miners have disregarded the officials’ pleas and promises. On Oct. 15, 8,500 workers at Gold Fields’ KC East mine joined the strike.

Some 21,000 miners at Anglo American Platinum (Amplats), on strike since Sept. 12, are demanding that the company negotiate with delegates selected by the strikers, not with officials of the NUM or other mine unions. The company sent text messages firing 12,000 strikers Oct. 5.

Most of the workers live in informal settlements without electricity, running water or toilets.

The Amplats strike, while centered on wage demands, is also fueled by anger over the company’s treatment of workers who are injured on the job. “Safety rules are used not to ensure safety, but as an excuse to fire workers,” Gaddafi Mdoda, an underground miner widely quoted in the South African press as

a spokesperson for the strike, told the *Militant* by phone Oct. 15. “Some who are injured never get a single payment from the company.”

Mdoda said that the police and company security have attacked the strikers, noting that miner Mtshunquleni Qakama was killed last week when cops fired rubber bullets to break up a strike gathering. “They are making it hard to meet with the workers,” he said.

Cops dispersed an Oct. 10 demonstration by hundreds of Amplats workers at the NUM regional office who said they wanted to cancel their membership in the union.

The Johannesburg *Star* reports that Amplats had been sending text messages to some workers, encouraging them to secretly report to work. Two workers who attempted to go to work were killed Oct. 11, allegedly by strike supporters.

Amplats has met with officials from the NUM and other unions in the mine to discuss the strike, but has rebuffed requests to meet with the committee selected by the striking miners.

“We are calling on the managers to engage us, to put something on the table,” Mdoda said. “We would discuss it and see what will happen next.”

Neither Amplats nor Gold Fields has responded to requests for comment.

Mine bosses, with the backing of the government, are also taking a hard line at other mines. Police and company security guards raided the Kumba Iron Ore mine in the Northern Cape Oct. 16 and arrested 40 strikers, who had ignored a court order instructing them to leave the mine premises. Some 300 workers had gone on strike there Oct. 3.

Chinese-owned Gold One fired more



Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko

Strikers outside AngloGold mine in Carletonville, South Africa, Oct. 17. Sign demands monthly wage of 18,500 rand and calls attention to silicosis, a lung disease common among miners.

than 1,400 strikers at its Ezulwini uranium mine Oct. 9.

There are some 523,000 mine workers in South Africa today, down from 839,000 in the late 1980s. The Chamber of Mines says that the workers’ wage demands are “unaffordable” and that as a result of the strikes they will close down more mines, reported *Business Day Live* Oct. 16.

A two-week strike by 28,000 truck

drivers ended Oct. 12. The drivers, who demanded a 12 percent yearly increase, agreed to a three-year deal with a 10 percent wage increase the first year, 8 percent the second and 9 percent the third.

“The members are not fully happy,” Vincent Masoga, a spokesperson for the drivers’ South African Transport and Allied Workers’ Union, told the *Militant*. “But they were willing to compromise.”

Miners fight Patriot Coal

Continued from front page

in a New York court, Patriot set up what the *Wall Street Journal* calls two “shell corporations” in the state less than six weeks before its July 9 bankruptcy filing. According to the *Journal*, the purpose of “bootstrapping,” as this is commonly called, is to have the bankruptcy request heard “in a courtroom as far as possible from employees, retirees and small trade creditors” and closer to larger creditors and their law firms.

Hundreds of union mine workers and supporters marched in Charleston, W.Va., Sept. 11, to oppose the moves to tear up the health and pension plans and union contracts and to demand a change in venue for the bankruptcy hearings.

United Mine Workers union officials have filed a petition demanding the case be heard in West Virginia, where many of the miners live. Bankruptcy Judge

Shelley Chapman in New York City is expected to rule on the UMWA petition soon.

No matter where the bankruptcy hearing is held, “we will make our voices heard and we will be asking our brothers and sisters in other unions and workplaces to be there with us,” UMWA spokesperson Phil Smith said in a phone interview Oct 17. “If Peabody gets away with this, then every single working person’s pensions are at risk. What’s to keep other companies from doing the same thing?”

If the judge doesn’t change the venue, “you’re going to see a lot of coal miners in New York,” Smith said.


More information on the mine workers fight and future demonstrations is available at www.fairnessatpatriot.org.

Peabody Energy and Patriot Coal did not return calls requesting comment.

THE MILITANT

Join the fight to Free the Cuban Five!

“By fighting for the Cuban Five, we fight for ourselves,” said Rafael Cancel Miranda, leader of the Puerto Rican independence struggle. The ‘Militant’ explains why workers should support the Cuban Five, the Cuban Revolution and Puerto Rican independence.



Bill Hackwell
Rafael Cancel Miranda speaks in support of Cuban Five, Sept. 14 in Washington, D.C.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page

and the United Kingdom, as well as more than 200 copies in the U.S. and dozens in the other countries of four books offered at reduced prices with a subscription. (See ad on page 3.)

Next week, the *Militant* will print a chart with the local goals adopted by readers and the overall goal of the campaign.

Readers in each area where the campaign is centered should take advantage of the time to discuss the opportunities to adopt quotas substantially higher than they have in recent years.

Readers in areas that have not had goals in past drives should consider joining the campaign and earning a place on the chart. So far we have four such areas—Greensboro, N.C.; Longview and Yakima, Wash.; and New Orleans.

The enormous possibilities to win new readers among working people—and hundreds of new distributors of the paper among them—flow from a contradictory development.

On one hand, at this stage of the deepening capitalist crisis with its high unemployment, the bosses and their government have the upper hand. The important but episodic resistance to their unceasing assaults on our unions, working and living conditions, and rights is limited by discouragement bred by persistent joblessness.

On the other hand, the capitalist dislocation, duration of crisis and mounting effects on workers' lives feed a growing openness to a communist explanation of where this worldwide crisis comes from and for a revolutionary road to the conquering of political power by a mass social movement of the working class and its allies.

Experiences in the subscription drive so far only confirm this assessment.

"I like doing this. You meet all kinds of different people," commented Barry Marsh after going door to door in a Toronto apartment building with *Militant* distributors from Montreal. "And it's good to go door to door two

people together. You can bounce off each other," he added.

Marsh bought the *Militant* for the first time at a Toronto conference last month in defense of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and jailed in the U.S. for more than 14 years. (See article in the Oct. 15 issue.)

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are revolutionaries who accepted assignments from the Cuban government during the 1990s to penetrate and gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups operating in southern Florida. These paramilitary outfits have a long record of violent attacks on the Cuban Revolution. In 1998, the five revolutionaries were arrested, framed up and sentenced to long prison sentences.

Over the weekend, *Militant* readers from Toronto and Montreal joined forces in Toronto, selling six subscriptions to the paper, 15 single copies and 15 books on working-class revolutionary politics going door to door in working-class areas; at a public event with Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president; and through face-to-face discussions. Fourteen of the books were bought at reduced prices with a subscription to the paper.

"I really liked talking with people close and personal. The things we said really resonate with them," Jorge Rios said after going door to door in Joliet, Ill., for the first time last week with other *Militant* readers from Chicago. Joliet was the site of a three-month strike by Caterpillar workers that ended in August at the company plant there. Rios got his first subscription to the *Militant* at a meeting on immigrant rights in Chicago a few years ago.

John Naubert wrote from Seattle that *Militant* supporters sold one subscription and three single copies of the paper at the Davis Wire plant gate in Kent,



Militant/Katy LeRougetel

***Militant* readers Barry Marsh, left, from Toronto and Michel Dugré from Montreal exchange experiences as they wrap up successful door-to-door effort with paper in Toronto, Oct. 14.**

Wash. Workers there recently waged a three-month strike, which the *Militant* covered. Ex-striker Doan Long bought the subscription, saying "You were down here on the strike, now it's my turn."

Supporters of the *Militant* from Des Moines, Iowa, and Lincoln and Omaha, Neb., joined together Oct. 13 to win new readers in Omaha's Black and working-class neighborhoods, selling six subscriptions going door to door, reported Joe Swanson from Lincoln.

In the afternoon, some of them went to a meeting of about 50 people held at the Malcolm X Foundation Center on the ongoing fight of Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa, who are serving life sentences on frame-up murder charges. This is the 42nd year of their imprisonment. Both were active in protests against the killing and harassment of Blacks by Omaha cops.

The keynote speaker was Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. Attorney General, who called "for the state of Nebraska to release the two men." In the period of questions and comments that followed, Fredy Huinil from Omaha brought to the attention of the meeting "how the fight for Poindexter and we Langa and for the Cuban Five reinforce each other."

"The arrest of the five is criminal just

as the embargo against Cuba," Clark responded.

The comments on the five piqued interest in their case as many at the meeting had not heard of their fight. Five copies of the book *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* were sold off a display table for the five. A renewal subscription to the *Militant* was also sold at the meeting.

A few days ago a prisoner in Arkansas who subscribes to the *Militant* called our office to know how he could buy a subscription and some of the books on special for his friend in Iowa, a union millwright.

This is an example we urge our growing readers behind bars to emulate, winning fellow inmates and others to read and subscribe to the paper.

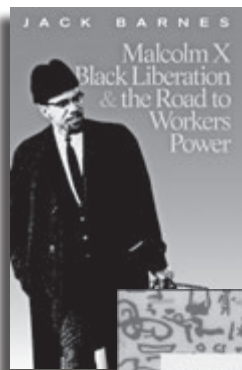
The *Militant* is looking forward to expanding its circulation in prisons. See the ad on this page for our special rates for prisoners.

Join the campaign. You can order subscription blanks and *Militant* bundles at themilitant@mac.com or (212) 244-4899.

Send me your reports, comments, quotes and photos by 9 a.m. EDT every Monday.

And send your revised local quotas by 8 a.m. EDT next Tuesday, Oct. 23.

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Why the "revolutionary conquest of state power by a politically class-conscious and organized vanguard of the working class—millions strong—is necessary."

\$10 with subscription to the *Militant* (usually \$20)



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\$10 with a subscription (usually \$20)

The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free Articles, interviews from the *Militant*

\$3 with a subscription (usually \$5)

See distributors on page 8

SWP launches \$95,000 party-building fund drive

The Socialist Workers Party is appealing to class-conscious workers, farmers and youth to help finance its work by contributing to the revolutionary party's annual fund drive.

The purpose of the party is to educate and organize the working class in order to establish a workers and farmers government, which will abolish capitalism in the U.S. and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism.

The drive runs from Oct. 20 to Dec. 23 with the goal of raising \$95,000.

Through its distribution of the *Militant* newspaper along with books on revolutionary working-class politics and its election campaigns, the party is finding the openings among workers to discuss the roots of the economic crisis, class struggle developments around the world and a fighting road forward are greater than they have been in decades.

Future issues will report on the progress in the financial goal and in winning new layers of workers and youth to support the work of the revolutionary party.

A chart tracking the progress of the drive will be featured in the *Militant* starting next week. Contributions can be sent to the SWP office nearest you (see page 8) or directly to the SWP National Office at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

—SUSAN LAMONT

Militant Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners subscriptions at reduced rates of \$6 for every six months. Six-month subscriptions are also offered free of charge for those who have no means to pay. 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.

‘Either will do what rulers tell them in foreign policy’

SWP vice pres. candidate speaks on Biden-Ryan debate

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ
AND KATY LEROUGETEL

TORONTO—“The debate between my opponents, U.S. vice president Joseph Biden and Paul Ryan, helps confirm that whether the Democratic or Republican ticket wins, it won’t make much difference for working people,” Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, said at a campaign meeting here Oct. 13. The televised debate was broadcast two days earlier.

“On Foreign Policy, Rivals Differing in Style but Often Similar in Substance,” headlined a *New York Times* article on the debate. “From Libya and Iran to Afghanistan and Syria,” *Times* reporter Mark Landler wrote, the two campaigns differed “in nuance rather than substance.”

“When Mr. Biden said that the United States could not afford another land war in the Middle East, Mr. Ryan nodded in assent,” Landler continued. “Challenged by Mr. Biden, Mr. Ryan ruled out sending ground troops to Syria.”

“Both Biden and Ryan said that Washington’s goal in Iran was to impose sanctions that would punish working people there,” DeLuca said.

“These are the most crippling sanctions in the history of sanctions, period. Period,” Biden boasted in the debate.

“They agreed that the U.S. course in the deepening civil war in Syria is to replace the Assad regime with forces that would stabilize the area and act in conformity with U.S. interests,” DeLuca said.

Biden challenged what the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney and Ryan mean when they say the U.S. government could do “so much more” in Syria. “What more would they do other than put American boots on the ground?” Biden said.

Ryan quickly retorted: “Well, we

agree with the same red line, actually, they [the Obama administration] do on chemical weapons, but not putting American troops in, other than to secure those chemical weapons,” he said. “They’re right about that.”

“The biggest shift in U.S. military policy—transferring military might and stepping up diplomatic intrigue to the East, to target China and maintain U.S. domination over the South China Sea—was not even mentioned in the debate,” DeLuca said. “Whoever wins the White

Continued on page 9



Reuters/John Gress

Bourgeois media focused on Vice President Joseph Biden’s mugging in debate with Republican Paul Ryan, as if there was a chasm between their views. But they expressed only superficial differences on carrying out U.S. rulers’ course against working people at home and abroad.

SWP presidential candidate in N. Carolina

Continued from front page

a massive, government-funded jobs program to put millions of people to work building the things we need—schools, hospitals, housing, parks, roads—everything that has been either destroyed or fallen into neglect under capitalism,” Harris said.

“What can be done about the dominance of corporate agriculture in food production and how do you propose to support small farmers?” asked one student.

“Workers have the same interests as working farmers and should reach out to them and support their fights,” responded Harris. Exploited producers on the land are squeezed by the same capitalist class that exploits workers through wage labor, he said.

Harris said we can learn from the revolution in Cuba, which “not only broke up the large plantations owned and dominated by U.S. corporations like the United Fruit Company, it also guaranteed that farmers could never lose their land.”

For the agribusiness capitalists food is a commodity from which they reap massive profits at the expense of workers and farmers, hitting toilers in the semicolonial world particularly hard, Harris explained.

“The Democratic and Republican parties represent the interests of the propertied rulers. The working class needs a clear and independent voice in this election. That’s what our campaign represents,” Harris said.

Peter Masters, a student who works at Walmart, described the conditions workers face there. He wanted to know what can be done to make unions stronger.

“Workers are willing to fight,” Harris said, noting that employees at several Walmart stores across the country have held protests and walked off the job. “But for decades the union officialdom has argued against fighting, saying we should try to get along with the bosses, that we have some common ground, that we should support one of their parties. So many workers do not see the unions as a powerful fighting instrument they can use.”

The socialist candidate pointed to the strikes by miners in South Africa as an example that demonstrates how workers are the union and can wield union power.

“We grow and learn as the result of fighting and struggle,” said Harris.

Samir Hazboun, a junior at the college who organized for Harris to come and chaired the meeting, told the *Militant* that several students signed up to form a socialist club on the campus.

Militant Labor Forum in Atlanta

Harris was joined by David Ferguson, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Georgia’s 3rd District, at the Militant Labor Forum in Atlanta Oct. 14.

“Getting out the truth about the arrest and unjust imprisonment in U.S. jails for 14 years of five Cuban revolutionaries is a central part of the campaign,” Ferguson explained. Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González were arrested in 1998 and convicted in a 2001 trial on frame-up charges, including conspiracy to commit espionage.

The defense of the Cuban Five, who were reporting to the Cuban government on the activities of Florida-based counterrevolutionary groups that have a record of carrying out deadly attacks on Cuba from U.S. territory, is part of defending the Cuban Revolution itself, Ferguson said. It is also a fight against the U.S. frame-up “justice” system, which incarcerates at a higher rate than any other country in the world—something more and more working people can identify with as the capitalist rulers’ assaults deepen along with the crisis of their system.

Ferguson described how the Cuban Revolution overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959, opening the door for workers and farmers to mobilize to transform the country and themselves in their own interests. The Cuban people’s refusal to bow to Washington and determination to maintain their revolutionary gains stands as

an example for workers worldwide—and a thorn in the side of the imperialist exploiters who remain as determined as ever to punish them.

Ferguson also spoke about campaigning among workers in the southern Alabama fishing town of Bayou LaBatre. He said the local government received millions of dollars to build “affordable” housing for those who lost their homes following Hurricane Katrina.

“Now the city government has jacked up the prices and put the homes back on the market. These workers have held rallies to fight this,” Ferguson said. “We went there to give support to their efforts.”

“I want to thank James Harris for bringing the politics of the workers and for his experience in national and international politics,” Balthasar Moreno, who was introduced to the SWP when he got a subscription to the *Militant* at a demonstration in support of immigrant rights last year, said in a message to the meeting. “We will continue spreading the newspaper and will unite to support it. I have two or three others in mind who should subscribe. It is my pleasure to support the Socialist Workers Party.”

“Thank you all so much for coming. It is great to meet people who have the same thought pattern as I do,” Nichele Fulmore, a Teamster UPS truck driver in Lumberton, wrote to the forum. Harris met with Fulmore there during the tour. “We must educate others to help them understand that the only way our situation is going to change is if we change it. Stop waiting on a politician who is controlled by a capitalist to do it for you,” Fulmore wrote.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Socialist Workers Party 2012 Working Class, Labor, and Socialist Campaign. Speaker: James Harris, SWP candidate for U.S. president. Sun., Oct. 28. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

IOWA

Des Moines

It’s What Workers and Farmers Do That Matters, Not Elections. Speakers: Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president; David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress. Sat., Oct. 27. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Social to follow. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Maurice Bishop and the Grenada Revolution (1979-83): Living Lessons for Working People in the U.S., Caribbean and the World. Speakers: Shirelynn George, participant in Grenada Revolution; Steve Clark, Socialist Workers Party, author of “The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop.” Fri., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor. Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Diasporic Consciousness, Black Identity, and the Present Memory of Cuban Racism: A Symposium on the Centennial of the 1912 Uprising and Massacre of the Independent Party of Color. Chair: Dr. Geoffroy de Laforcade, Norfolk State University. Speakers: Dr. Tomás Fernández Robaina, Cuban National Archives; Roberto Zurbano, Cuban author, Casa de las Américas; Gloria Rolando, Cuban filmmaker, Cuban National Film Institute. Featuring the documentary film “1912: Breaking the Silence” by Gloria Rolando. Sat., Nov. 3. 12:30-5:00 p.m. Donation: \$10. *The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center*, 3940 Broadway. Tel.: (212) 568-1341.

Literature on SWP presidential campaign



Campaign flyer: \$2.50 for 25
Buttons: \$1 each
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— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Illinois Walmart workers return to work, win back pay

ELWOOD, Ill.—Some three dozen workers at Walmart’s massive warehouse here returned to work Oct. 6 after picketing the company for three weeks.

“We stood up for what was right,” Chelsea Stevenson, a freight hauler at the warehouse, told the *Militant* in a phone interview. “We got back pay and got our jobs back. The atmosphere is different now. The bosses are asking, ‘Do you need anything—a fan? shin guards?’”

The action began when 14 Walmart employees were fired or suspended Sept. 15 after presenting Walmart staffing agency RoadLink Workforce Solutions with a petition demanding regular hours, higher wages and safer job conditions, Leah Fried, an organizer with Warehouse Workers for Justice, told the *Courier News*. Others then walked off the job in solidarity.

Two days earlier, a group of workers at the 3.4-million-square-foot facility had filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court against RoadLink for allegedly not paying overtime wages and taking retaliatory measures against some employees.

Workers who were fired, suspended and had walked out picketed the distribution center for three weeks, calling their protest an unfair labor practice strike. Together with Warehouse Workers for Justice, a group founded by the United Electrical Workers, they organized informational pickets at several Walmart stores in the area. In a phone interview with WBEZ Radio, Walmart worker Phillip Bailey said he was originally fired by RoadLink for being a plaintiff in that suit. He returned to work last weekend, he said, after receiving a letter Oct. 4 from RoadLink calling him back and promising back wages.

Bailey said this is a victory for all Walmart warehouse laborers. “[It’s] going to be a long way before we really start to impact their practices, but they’ll certainly be a lot more careful.”

On Oct. 1 several hundred supporters, including representatives from unions and religious organizations, along with some Walmart workers, rallied outside the warehouse. Seventeen people were arrested in a civil disobedience protest as part of the action. Walmart closed the warehouse that day in response to the demonstration.

—Betsy Farley

Autoworkers in Paris march against layoffs

PARIS—A thousand workers, mostly autoworkers, demonstrated in front of the Motor Show here Oct. 9 against massive layoffs in the auto industry. Nearly half of the demonstrators came from the Aulnay plant near Paris, which Peugeot has announced will close by 2014.

Other Peugeot workers from Poissy, Sochaux, Mulhouse, Saint-Ouen and the Sevelnord plant near Valenciennes joined in the action. Workers at several Renault plants, the Goodyear plant in Amiens, the Ford plant near Bordeaux and others, including a delegation from the IG Metall union at General Motors/Opel in Germany where an assembly plant in Bochum is threatened with being shut down, also participated.

“Even if they do go ahead with the layoffs, they should at least propose something fair to limit the hardships for the workers,” explained Faiza Hammy,

a 28-year-old temporary worker on the assembly line at Poissy, who went on strike for several hours in order to participate in the action.

During previous years of the Paris Motor Show, autoworkers had been allowed in to demonstrate peacefully. This year, however, unionists were prevented from entering by lines of Republican Security Companies (CRS) riot police decked out in full battle gear, who repeatedly fired tear gas canisters at the demonstrating workers. The CRS are a paramilitary police force under the authority of the Ministry of Interior.

“If the government really was on workers’ side, it would send the CRS at Medef [French bosses’ association] and the management of Renault and Peugeot,” stated Jean-Pierre Mercier, the main General Confederation of Labor (CGT) leader at Aulnay, addressing the demonstrators.

The current Socialist Party government of François Hollande was elected in May with the support of the CGT officialdom.

The Motor Show involved only auto unions at the CGT; there was no participation from other CGT unions.

Housing market bubble balloons in Canada

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL—A huge financial bubble has been growing in the Canadian housing market since the outbreak of the financial crisis in 2008.

According to a Feb. 28 article in *Maclean’s* magazine, homes in Canada are worth \$3 trillion, nearly twice the country’s gross domestic product. Prices have doubled since 2002 and risen by 13 percent since 2008.

Home ownership stands at a record high of 64 percent. The average family debt load is \$1.53 for every dollar of income, nearly the level it was in the U.S. before the housing market crashed. As of last year, Canadians had borrowed \$220 billion in mortgage loans. Per capita, this is three times higher than it was in the U.S. at its peak.

The construction industry, includ-



Militant/Derek Jeffers

Autoworkers protest Oct. 9 in front of Paris Motor Show against layoffs in French auto industry.

Later that day, a CGT demonstration marched elsewhere in Paris “in defense of industry and jobs,” in which participants in the Motor Show protest took part. According to the union, 90,000 workers marched in 10 cities across France.

Repeated protests by workers at the

Aulnay plant have succeeded in obtaining the promise of a meeting Oct. 25 between the unions, the Peugeot bosses and the Hollande government to examine the planned 8,000 job cuts, which would affect several Peugeot factories in France.

—Derek Jeffers

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



October 30, 1987

The overthrow of the government of President Thomas Sankara in the West African country of Burkina Faso is a crime against the workers and peasants of that country. It deals a grave blow to the democratic anti-imperialist revolution that began on Aug. 4, 1983, headed by the 37-year-old leader.

It also undermines the fight against imperialist oppression throughout Africa. And it has increased the danger of imperialist intervention by Burkina Faso’s former colonial ruler, France.

According to a United Press International report from Ivory Coast, troops loyal to Captain Blaise Compaoré, minister of state and justice, carried out an armed assault on the presidential palace and residence on October 15. An Associated Press dispatch reported that an anonymous official said Sankara and 12 of his aides were executed.



October 29, 1962

The U.S. press is trying to deceive the American people into believing that the entire “free world” is supporting President Kennedy’s drive toward war against Cuba. But behind the formal support extracted by U.S. diplomats from governments militarily allied with the U.S., it is clear that the whole world is shaken by fear of the consequences of Kennedy’s criminal act. Even in those countries allied to the U.S. there is deep and growing opposition to Kennedy’s [blockade proclamation].

If Kennedy expected to panic the Cubans into retreat from their revolutionary position or into surrendering any of their sovereignty, he was dead wrong. The Cubans maintain that they have armed as best they could to repel an expected U.S. invasion—an invasion which the whole world knows is being prepared and which the U.S. government hardly bothers to deny.



October 30, 1937

The appeal of Haywood Patterson, leading defendant in the six and a half year old Scottsboro case, was rejected by a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court.

Patterson, one of the nine young Negroes framed-up by the Alabama reactionaries and Negro-haters on the charge of rape, has been convicted four times, has been condemned three times to die, and is now under sentence to serve seventy-five years.

His appeal against the decision of the lower courts, whipped up to a frenzy of Negro-baiting, was based on having been deprived of the constitutional guarantee of due process of law, because he was refused permission to be tried in a Federal instead of a State court and because the jury was instructed by the judge to find him guilty even if he had not committed rape but had only “conspired” to do so.

Indonesia: groups fight for women's right to abortion

BY LINDA HARRIS
AND PATRICK BROWN

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia—"Women die because of unsafe abortions," said Setiyani Martha Dewi, a worker with Samsara, an organization based here that campaigns for the right of women to safe abortions.

The fight for access to safe abortion is a pressing question for women in Indonesia, representatives of women's rights groups told *Militant* reporters during a Sept. 16-24 visit to the country. In addition to Dewi, the *Militant* spoke with leaders of the Women's Health Foundation and Kalyanamitra, both based in Jakarta.

There are some 230 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births every year in Indonesia, the highest rate in Southeast Asia. According to official figures, 11 percent of the deaths result from unsafe abortions, but the real figure is assumed to be much higher because women are afraid to report abortion complications.

Militant reporters spoke with young counselors and volunteer workers at Samsara's office here, a city of some 400,000 people in central Java. The office is set up in the home of Inna Hudaya, founder of the organization.

The hotline Samsara runs has received more than 1,000 calls and emails since June this year. It's mostly young unmarried women who contact them, Dewi said. "We provide information about access to safe abortion, either through Indonesia Planned Parenthood Association or through medical abortion." Counselors explain how to obtain Misoprostol, a medical abortion option

in the first nine weeks of pregnancy. "We tell them that they are not alone and that millions of women around the world are experiencing this," said Tia Setiyani, who has worked as a Samsara volunteer for five months. "When men call the service, asking about abortion for their partner," she continued, "we always say we must talk to the woman. It is about a woman's right to control her body."

"To win support, of course we need some women's actions, but it is important to show that men can support abortion rights too," Dewi added. Syaiful Huda, another of Samsara's four counselors, is male.

In September 2009 a new health law was introduced that decriminalized abortion for up to six weeks strictly in cases of medical emergency or rape. Under these circumstances, the law requires the consent of the husband, or in the case of an unmarried woman of her parents.

"We cannot rely on the law, it is not pro-women's rights," said Dewi.

"The demand is very high. Some 2 million women per year seek abortions in Indonesia," Herna Lestari told the *Militant* in Jakarta. Lestari is the treasurer of the Women's Health Foundation, which was founded in 2001 to fight for change in the abortion law.

Schools do not provide sex education, Lestari said. Abortion, contraceptives and even pap smear tests are not available to unmarried women. They are mostly forced to go to illegal clinics or to traditional healers and then face the risk of life-threatening complications.

"Abortion is still in the criminal code



Militant/Baskaran Appu

Militant worker correspondents talk with women's rights advocates at Women's Health Foundation in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sept. 19. From left, Hegel Terome and Ika, Kalyanamitra members; Herna Lestari, foundation's treasurer, and Yayasan, a foundation member.

from the Dutch [colonial] era, although police commonly close their eyes to it," Lestari said. "It is very rare that a doctor is prosecuted or put in jail. Rather, an initial arrest is reported, then it vanishes from the media. The police are paid off."

There has been some "progress on abortion rights," said Rena Herdiyani, director of Kalyanamitra, which was founded in 1985 under the Suharto regime to fight for women's rights.

"Although the health law was introduced many doctors still consider that abortion is illegal," she said, speaking at the Kalyanamitra office in Jakarta. The procedure is not taught in medical schools and all doctors take an oath not to perform abortions when they register.

"An abortion at an illegal clinic is very expensive. It can cost up to 5 million rupiah," Herdiyani said. Equivalent to \$500, it amounts to roughly five months average wages in Indonesia.

"Defenders of women's rights fre-

quently face an organized backlash from right-wing groups," Herdiyani continued. "There is always a counter protest by Islamic groups when we organize an action. They accuse us of promoting western values against Islam."

Kalyanamitra works together with Rahima, a center for education and information on Islam and women's rights issues. Rahima organizes classes for Muslim women and students on reproductive health and women's rights.

"Many people still do not support abortion rights, but the youth are more open," Herdiyani said.

According to Lestari, many "women are still under the influence of old religious teachings that abortion is a sin." But, she added, "there is a growing awareness among young women of their rights. They view the government as unfair—making contraception available only for married women, and no access to sex education for young people."

Woman's Evolution

From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family
by Evelyn Reed

An examination of prehistory from cannibalism to culture that uncovers the world of the ancient matriarchy. Reed reveals women's leading and still largely unknown contributions to the development of civilization, and offers fresh insights on the struggle against women's oppression and for the liberation of humanity. \$32

Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State

by Frederick Engels

How the emergence of class-divided society gave rise to repressive state bodies and family structures that protect the property of the ruling layers and enable them to pass along wealth and privilege. Engels discusses the consequences for working people of these class institutions—from their original forms to their modern versions. \$18

Available in Indonesian (see below): Boxed set of *Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* (left) and *Woman's Evolution*. \$35



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Uruguay gov't passes law legalizing abortion

Continued from front page

requires a woman seeking an abortion to go before a panel of at least three "professionals," one of whom is opposed. She must explain the circumstances of her decision, listen to advice about "alternatives," and then wait five more days "to reflect" on her decision before returning to the board. She must also have lived in the country for at least one year.

"The aim of the bill is to reduce the number of abortions in the country," Independent Party Deputy Ivan Posada, who authored the measure and cast the tie-breaking vote, told the Associated Press.

The approved bill is a more restrictive version of one passed by the Senate last December and a version approved in 2008 by the legislature, which was vetoed by then president Tabaré Vazquez. President José Mujica had said he would not veto the new bill.

According to recent surveys, 52 percent of Uruguayans support legalization.

"It is an advance compared to the current situation, but it is not what we're demanding, which is full abortion rights for women," Gustavo Guerrero, a leader of the Federation of University Students of Uruguay (FEUU), said in a phone interview.

The federation is part of a coalition that includes women, labor and student

organizations, among others, that campaign for women's right to abortion.

For a short period in the beginning of the 1930s abortion was legal, explained Guerrero, until it was criminalized again in 1938.

This tradition, as well as subsequent gains made by women, including the relatively large percentage who are part of the workforce, all contribute to the support for women's right to choose abortion that exists today.

"This is not the law we wanted," Marta Aguiñ, a leader of Mujer y Salud (Women and Health), a women's rights organization, said in a phone interview.

"We don't need anyone to tell us what to do," she stressed, referring to women being forced to see a panel before having an abortion. "We are capable of making our own decisions."

Aguiñ said the long waiting periods between interviews with the panel combined with the lack of readily available services will result in many not being able to receive the procedure within the 12-week period, and force women to resort to illegal abortions.

According to official figures, some 30,000 abortions are done each year in Uruguay. Women's rights organizations estimate the real figure could be double that. In 2001, complications from illegal abortions was the cause of 28 percent of maternal deaths in Uruguay.

Some 4 million women in Latin

America have abortions every year, according to the World Health Organization. About 4,000 die as a result of unsafe illegal abortions.

In Argentina some 500,000 abortions are performed annually. The city legislature of Buenos Aires, the country's capital, approved a measure Sept. 28 allowing abortions for women who have been victims of sexual assault.



pathfinderpress.com

by Pat Grogan, Evelyn Reed

Why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for women's emancipation, but to forging a united, fighting labor movement.

‘It’s our right to join union’

‘Militant’ talks with Indonesian workers about their struggles

Last week’s issue reported on the Oct. 3 national strike in Indonesia, which involved hundreds of thousands of workers and represented the first nationwide protest strike for more than half a century.

Below we feature reporters’ notebook entries by two members of a Militant reporting team to the country that took place Sept. 16–24, leading up to the one-day workers’ action.

The reporting team of three worker-correspondents from Australia and New Zealand was hosted by Kalyanamitra, a Jakarta-based organization that campaigns for women’s rights. They interviewed unionists, farmers, students and women’s rights fighters in both Jakarta, Indonesia’s capital, and Yogyakarta.

**BY PATRICK BROWN
AND BASKARAN APPU**

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Sunday, Sept. 16—We take part in a union rally that builds participation in the Oct. 3 national strike. Held in a public park in Bekasi, an industrial area of Jakarta, the action has been called by the Congress of Indonesian Unions Alliance (KASBI).

On our way to the rally, our translator Ken Ndaru explains the importance of the central demand of the coming strike: to end “outsourcing”—the growing use by employers of short-term contract labor. Such workers, he says, “are not protected under the country’s labor laws, and are also not entitled to union coverage. It’s happening across the country, in textile especially.”

Most of the roughly 500 workers appear to be in their teens or twenties.

“We need a living wage, not just a minimum wage,” Neneng Hasanah told Militant reporters. The official mini-

mum wage is around 1,500 million rupiah per month (US\$156).

She works as a sewing machinist at PT Dada (Dada Ltd.) Indonesia, a garment factory close to Bandung that manufactures clothes under the Adidas brand.

Ndaru tells us that he served two years in jail under the military-based regime of Suharto for involvement in protests against the regime. He was released after the dictator’s resignation in 1998.



Monday, Sept. 17—Day two finds us in Muara Baru, Jakarta’s central fishing port. In a close-packed area of workers’ housing, we meet Mini and Lasuti, two leaders of a women’s group initiated by Kalyanamitra in 2006.

They tell us that many women work in the nearby fish market and canning factories, as well as a local shoe factory, where Mini worked until they stopped employing married women. Although there is still no union there, she says, women often take the lead in struggles over benefits and working conditions. Workers at the shoe factory work a 12-hour day but are only paid for eight hours. They receive 30,000 rupiahs (US\$3) a day.

At the fish factory, says Mini, workers standing for long shifts risk getting cut with knives. The company pays for the treatment, she says, “but if you can’t work after that, you get laid off.”

Lasuti says she has not had a job since the closure of a ballpoint pen factory where she was working. She makes and sells cookies to make ends meet.

The women organize regular meetings on a wide range of issues, from sanitation problems to incidents of domestic violence. “Kalyanamitra has made a big difference to us,” Mini says. “We are staging a protest about drinking water,” she adds. Since the official water supply stopped, they get water from a vendor who taps into a fire hydrant. Twenty liters, the minimum for a family’s daily needs, goes for 20,000 rupiah, or US\$2.



Wednesday, Sept. 19—“The monsoon flood waters can reach up to here,” says Rizki, pointing to a mark well above the level of the doorway. He and two other members of the Indonesian Patriotic Youth Movement, meet with us at his apartment in Matraman, East Jakarta. They talk about their activities organizing at a local Islamic university.

The annual floods, caused when the torrential rains are too much for the inadequate flood channels that cut through Jakarta, are among many problems working people confront in the capital city of 9 million people. According to the *Jakarta Globe*, Health Minister Nafsiah Mboi admitted Sept. 11 that 55 percent of Indonesians do not have access to sanitation, while 43 percent can’t get clean water.



Militant/Baskaran Appu

Sept. 16 rally in Jakarta, Indonesia, prior to Oct. 3 national strike that called for end to growing use of short-term contract workers who are blocked from union membership by bosses.

Getting around the giant city is a challenge for residents and visitors alike. The *Jakarta Post* reports that the average speed of traffic is under nine miles per hour. The many motorbikes surely do better than that, as they weave in and out of the traffic.

In contrast to the aging buses, the cars—Toyota and other brands manufactured in Indonesia—are mostly modern, reflecting the affluence of a growing middle-class layer who have benefited from increased capitalist investment in recent years. In the year to July, foreign investment applications totaled US\$20 billion.

From the point of view of the capitalists, the country’s inadequate infrastructure is one barrier to further investment in this nation, made up of 13,500 islands and where some 750 dialects are spoken. The July 20 *Wall Street Journal* wrote that the government “has consistently failed to build the new roads, ports, bridges and other infrastructure it needs to resolve bottlenecks.”

During our visit, the *Post* runs an interview with C.K. Song, president of the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Indonesia. He said that the country attracts foreign capitalists because of its “cheap labor and vast natural resources,” and what he described as “stab[ility] in terms of political, social and financial issues.” He adds that with

rising costs in China, “labor-intensive businesses [have] returned to Indonesia.

But, he says, “Labor unrest and strikes make us worried.”



YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia, Friday, Sept. 21—The global capitalist economic crisis has yet to hit working people here with its full force, as it has in much of the world. The economy grew at 6.5 percent last year, reported the July 17 *Journal*.

Mahendra, a full-time worker for KASBI here, contrasts the recent situation with the job losses suffered by workers during the capitalist economic crisis that cascaded through many Asian countries in 1997.

“We see new factories in places like Bekasi and [the city of] Surabaya,” he says. “They have big industrial areas.” He says that although Yogyakarta—a city of some 400,000 in Central Java—hasn’t yet seen that kind of development, that may be about to change, as the government fosters the processing of the rich iron sands along Java’s southern coast.

Workers from the Carrefours department store and Ready Mix concrete join our discussion. Rina, a young Carrefours worker, says, “It is our right to join the union and to fight for broader workers rights.”



Militant/Baskaran Appu

Mahendra, center, member of Congress of Indonesian Unions Alliance (KASBI), talks with Militant worker correspondents in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Sept. 21.

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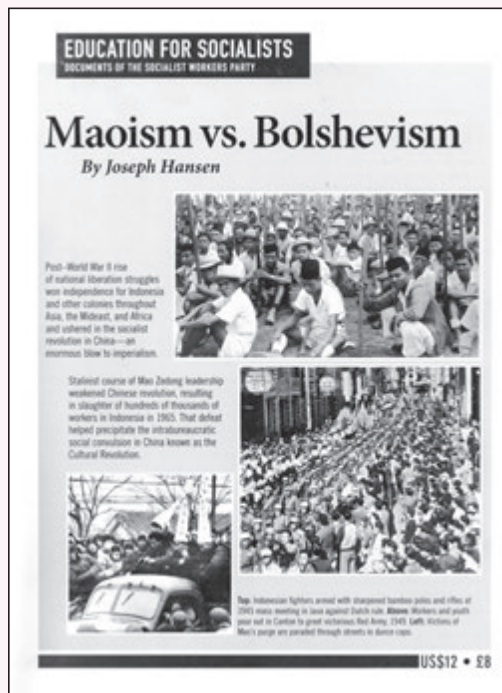
Three Militant worker correspondents from Australia and New Zealand just returned from a one-week reporting trip to Indonesia where they talked to workers, met with participants in the fight for women’s rights, interviewed farmers and students and introduced new readers to the paper, as well as books by Pathfinder Press.

Militant correspondent Martín Koppel will be sending in articles from Sri Lanka, where he is reporting on the Sixth Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba. Some 227 delegates from 22 countries in the region are expected to attend the Oct. 20–21 event in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Contributions from our readers help to make these trips possible.

Contributions of any amount can be sent to the Militant, 306 W. 37th St, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018 earmarked: Travel Fund.

Recommended reading



Following the Chinese Revolution of 1949, many workers and youth—inspired by that historic blow to imperialism—were diverted from a revolutionary course as they followed the Mao Zedong leadership. In this book Joseph Hansen develops the communist alternative to Mao’s Stalinist, class-collaborationist course, which in 1965 paved the way for a CIA-backed coup in Indonesia, in which more than half a million workers, peasants, and youths paid with their lives. Indonesian workers, peasants and youth who are today beginning to return to political life no longer confront this massive counterrevolutionary obstacle. \$12

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Class-struggle union fought for one-page contracts

Below is an excerpt from *Teamster Power* by Farrell Dobbs. The Spanish-language translation, *Poder Teamster*, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October.

The book is the second in a four-part series that tells how Minneapolis Teamsters Local 574, later 544, used the power won through three strikes in 1934 to extend the union throughout the Upper Midwest, helping pave the way for the massive labor upsurge for industrial unions that swept the U.S. in the mid-1930s.

The text below describes the "model contract" that the class-struggle leadership of the Teamster struggles championed.

Dobbs was a central leader of these battles. He later served as national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party from 1953 to 1972. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

This trend was reflected in a unanimous executive board recommendation that the membership approve a "model contract" intended as a guide for the union staff in negotiations with the bosses. As officially adopted, it contained the following key points:

1. Contracts with employers to be



Teamsters Local 574 leader announces settlement of May 1934 Minneapolis truck drivers strike. Union leadership charted class-struggle course to mobilize ranks against bosses.

limited to a term of one year.

2. Demands concerning wages and working conditions to be decided in consultation with the union members involved in each particular case.

3. Premium pay to be received for overtime, with the added provision that there be no overtime until all employees on the job worked their full quota of regular hours.

4. If the work week should be reduced by legislative act, rates of pay to be increased in the proportion necessary to guarantee that there would be no reduction in total weekly pay. (This demand was connected with the general union struggle for a shorter work week to reduce unemployment.)

5. Disputes over seniority standing to be settled by the union. The employer to have no voice in the matter.

6. Back pay owed to workers because of contract violations by the employer to be computed at two times the regular wage rate.

7. Formal recognition to be required from the employer of the union's right to operate its job steward system.

8. The union to retain the right to strike over employer violations of the working agreement.

9. No boss to order his employees to go through a picket line of a striking

union.

None of these provisions represented mere bargaining points to be used for horse-trading in negotiations with employers. Each and every one constituted a matter of basic policy. All were enforced accordingly in actual practice. As staff director, it was my job to see that this was the case. ...

There was a very substantial and rapidly growing union membership. Contracts had to be negotiated with a large number of employers, and they had to be enforced. New patterns of expanded organizational activity also had to be developed if the full potential of favorable objective conditions was to be realized.

To attain these various ends, staff operations were divided into three broad categories. Some teams were assigned to field work, looking toward expansion of the union power. Others were given the task of handling negotiations with the bosses. Still others got the job of settling grievances arising from employer violations of existing contracts.

Standard procedures were codified for the handling of grievances, as had been done in the case of contract negotiations. A suitable form was devised for the recording of all grievances in writing, both to assure that the necessary

information was provided by the workers involved and to make certain that their complaints did not get lost in the shuffle. It was union policy to assume that the worker was always right. If a boss claimed that a grievance had been filed unjustly, the burden of proof was upon him. In every instance the grievance report had to be returned to me, as staff director, with a written account of the disposition of the case.

PRINTERS SIGN CONTRACT WITH DRIVERS UNION

WORKING AGREEMENT
The Printing Industry and the General Drivers and Helpers Union, Local No. 544, agree to be bound by the following terms and provisions covering wages and working conditions:

ARTICLE I
The employer agrees to hire only members of the Union or those who agree to become members within fifteen (15) days, providing, however, that such employee will make immediate application for membership in Local No. 544.

ARTICLE II
The employer agrees not to enter into any agreement or contract with his employees, individually or collectively, which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this agreement.

ARTICLE III
The present scheduled work hours shall be maintained in each establishment except that additional hours may be worked up to forty-four (44) hours per week in case of unusual circumstances. All hours worked in excess of the forty-four (44) hours per week shall be paid for on the basis of time and one-half except that double time shall be paid for Sundays and the following legal holidays: New Year's, Decoration day, Fourth of July, Labor day, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day. There shall be no split shifts.

ARTICLE IV
No member of the Union shall suffer a reduction in wages in consequence of this agreement.

ARTICLE V
Employees who have been in the service of the company for a period of one year or longer shall receive a minimum of one week's vacation with full pay at the rates set forth herein.

ARTICLE VI
In reducing the number of employees for lack of work or other legitimate reason, seniority shall prevail. No employee to be dismissed without sufficient cause.

ARTICLE VII
The following shall be the minimum rates of pay:
Drivers.....\$30 per week
Receiving Clerks.....65¢ per hour
Shipping Clerks.....65¢ per hour
Warehouse Men.....55¢ per hour
This agreement shall be in full force and effect from February 5, 1937 and shall continue to be in effect for one year.

Teamsters Local 544's contracts were short, clearly written and never included no-strike clauses. The one above was published in labor paper *Northwest Organizer* Feb. 18, 1937.

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

Poder Teamster (Teamster Power) by Farrell Dobbs
The 1930s strikes, organizing drives and political campaigns that transformed the Teamsters union in much of the Midwest into a fighting industrial union movement.
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A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice The Mark Curtis Story by Naomi Craine
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Fight for women’s right to abortion!

The fight to defend women’s right to choose abortion is an important struggle for the working class worldwide. The new law in Uruguay is a small step forward in this global battle.

As the working class grows throughout the colonial and semi-colonial world, drawn into the world by the inexorable expansion of the tentacles of capitalist production and trade, battles for workers’ rights, women’s rights and the right to abortion have grown.

Since World War II, women in the U.S. have joined the workforce in ever greater numbers. This trend continues today, here and increasingly across the globe, boosting women’s self-confidence and expectations, and transforming attitudes of their male coworkers.

Out of these social changes, a movement of women who refused to accept second-class status emerged, demanding reproductive freedom alongside the right to equal pay and job opportunities. Their fight rose on the shoulders of the massive proletarian battle to overthrow Jim Crow segregation and the broad street protests against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

To the bosses, these gains are a threat, cutting into the profits they gain from women’s oppression. The struggle for women’s emancipation also runs counter to unrelenting efforts by the capitalists rulers to foist maximum burden for care of children and the elderly on the family, which always falls heaviest on women.

The victory codified in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision registered a deep-going shift in social attitudes. Since then, opponents of women’s rights have conducted an offensive to impose more and more legal restrictions on women’s access to abortion.

It is in this context that president Barack Obama in 2009 called for “common grounds” with opponents of women’s rights to “reduce the number of women seeking abortions.”

In 87 percent of U.S. counties there is no abortion provider available. Thirty-five states force women to undergo “counseling”—humiliating, anti-scientific badgering sessions—prior to having an abortion. And 10 states require women to get an ultrasound and be lectured about the result, including some that require an invasive vaginal procedure.

Many of these assaults—here and around the world—are conducted under religious cloak. The propertied rulers in 68 countries, containing more than a quarter of the world’s population, bar abortion completely or restrict it to instances ruled necessary to save a woman’s life.

The vast majority of these regimes are strongly influenced by relations with Islamic or Catholic church hierarchies, from the Middle East to Latin America.

But antiquated anti-women strictures stand more and more at odds with the attitudes and desires of women worldwide, regardless of their faith. In the U.S., for example, some 62 percent of Catholic women support a woman’s right to choose abortion, the same percentage as the population as a whole.

In Indonesia, activists in Samsara, an organization that campaigns for the right of women to safe abortions, report that their new hotline has received more than 1,000 calls since June, mostly from young, unmarried women.

Defending a woman’s right to abortion is of decisive importance to the working class. Without the right to decide when or whether to bear a child, women cannot participate as equals in economic, social and political life. And without the fight for women’s emancipation, the solidarity the working class needs to fight the bosses—and to wage a victorious revolutionary struggle to take political power out of their hands—is impossible.

SWP candidate on Biden-Ryan debate

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House will drive forward along these lines.”

And neither camp raised their shared hatred for the Cuban Revolution and continuing efforts by Cuban workers and peasants to defend and advance it.

“Prior to the debate, it was Ryan who backtracked from a position against the U.S. embargo on Cuba, which he had called ‘failed policy,’” DeLuca pointed out. “Ryan is from Wisconsin, and advocated opening up trade with Cuba to benefit farmers there.

“After he was nominated for vice president, Ryan suddenly became ‘educated’ by fellow Republicans from Florida,” DeLuca added, “who he said taught him about the ‘Castro brothers.’

“Obama just sent Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta to Latin America to deepen military ties in what he called ‘the family of the Americas,’” she said.

“One of the U.S. rulers’ biggest challenges for more than 50 years has been the example of the Cuban Revolution, which shows how workers and farmers in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere can fight to overthrow capitalism and replace it with working people in power,” DeLuca said. “Through their revolution, workers and farmers in Cuba gained the power and the self-confidence to make the material and cultural needs of humanity, not private profit, the priority. This is the example the U.S. rulers and both their parties fear.”

“The bottom line on the foreign policy of the two capitalist parties,” she said, “is that regardless of what they say now, they would both jump to do whatever the propertied class tells them to.”

No answer on jobs

“Biden and Ryan didn’t show any deeper differences on domestic policy either,” DeLuca said.

“Neither put forward any proposal to get workers jobs now, when millions are out of work,” she said. “We call for a massive public works program.

“Another example is on Medicare,” continued DeLuca. “They both propose ‘two-tier’ plans, chipping away at coverage for current retirees and hitting younger workers even harder.

“We know what plans like this mean on the job, how they divide workers working next to each other,

one with wages slashed to half of the other and no benefits,” she added.

“Most of the commentary in the big business press focused on Biden’s smile—or smirk depending on the party bias of the publication,” DeLuca said.

Two people in the audience asked DeLuca to comment on the exchange in the debate on a woman’s right to choose abortion. “I appreciated Biden’s support for a woman’s right to choose, despite his personal views,” one said.

The debate moderator, ABC reporter Martha Raddatz, asked the candidates, who are both Catholics, “to tell me what role your religion has played in your own personal view on abortion.”

“I’m pro-life,” Ryan said, “not simply because of my Catholic faith ... but it’s also because of reason and science.”

“I understand this is a difficult issue, and I respect people who don’t agree with me on this,” Ryan said, “but the policy of a Romney administration will be to oppose abortions with the exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother.”

Biden said he too accepted the church’s position on abortion. “Life begins at conception in the church’s judgment,” he said. “I accept it in my personal life.”

But then he added, “I just refuse to impose that on others, unlike my friend here. ... I do not believe that we have a right to tell other people that women, they can’t control their body.”

“Democrats say they support women’s rights, but you have to look at the record,” DeLuca answered. “Under Obama there have been four more years of chipping away at abortion access. Mississippi is on the verge of losing its last abortion clinic.”

You can vote for a Republican or Democrat based on hope they might stick the knife in slower on one or another issue, but you’re still voting to get stabbed.

“Abortion rights were won by the mobilization of millions, not by politicians nor the Supreme Court,” DeLuca said. “And that’s how they will be defended.”

“Our campaign is about winning people to a revolutionary, fighting perspective,” DeLuca ended. “And you don’t have to be registered to vote in the U.S. to be a part of this.”

Civil war in Syria

Continued from front page

military clashes recently took place on the border between Syria and Turkey.

The rebel-controlled Damascus suburb of Douma is a good illustration of the grinding character of the war. “The regime forces enter, we defend and they get out,” Abu Fawz, a member of the Free Syrian Army, told the *Financial Times* Oct. 1. “Then it starts all over again.” The repeated shelling by the government has destroyed much of this working-class neighborhood.

The battle over Aleppo, Syria’s biggest city, has raged for two months without any major developments.

The death toll nationwide has passed 33,000, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The number of displaced people within Syria is 1.5 million. The United Nations says 340,000 are refugees, mainly in neighboring countries.

There are shortages of medicine, food and fuel. Electricity outages are widespread.

The al-Assad regime bases its power on a narrow layer of capitalist families, mostly Arabs of the Alawite faith, a branch of Shiite Islam, that comprises 11 percent of the population. The country is 90 percent Arab and 9 percent Kurdish, an oppressed nationality. Three-quarters of Syrians are Sunni Muslims and 12 percent are Christians.

Its main ally in the region is the regime in Tehran and it has supported Iranian-backed groups Hamas and Hezbollah in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. It also has close ties with Moscow.

Opposition deeply divided

The bourgeois opposition is deeply divided—along political, ethnic and sectarian lines, and between the politicians in exile and fighters on the ground in Syria.

The regimes in Saudi Arabia and Qatar are their main backers. They provide money and small arms, but not heavy weaponry, largely because of opposition from the U.S.

Both President Barack Obama and his Republican challenger Mitt Romney say they oppose U.S. military intervention. The Obama administration has called for al-Assad to step down, but doesn’t provide heavy weaponry to the opposition, for fear of arms falling into the “wrong hands.” Washington’s intervention now is mainly in the form of covert operations by special forces.

According to an Oct. 15 article in the *New York Times*, U.S. officials and Middle Eastern diplomats say that most of the arms shipped by the Saudi and Qatar governments end up with Islamist groups and not “the more secular opposition groups the West wants to bolster.”

The regime in Iran resumed shipments of military equipment to Damascus in July. These have been carried out over Iraqi airspace, much to Washington’s irritation.

The effects of the civil war spreading in the region were highlighted recently by tensions along the Syrian-Turkish border. After Syrian shelling killed five people in the Turkish border town of Akcakale Oct. 3, cross-border fire took place for five consecutive days. On Oct. 4, Turkey’s parliament voted to authorize deployment of troops in Syria.

The border areas are inhabited mainly by Kurds, an oppressed nationality of some 30 million in parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria.

As Syrian regime troops redeployed to the capital Damascus, in response to heavy fighting with rebel groups, Kurdish forces moved in and now claim they control several towns. Kurds in Syria have a history of organized opposition to al-Assad, but have not joined the main opposition forces, which are backed by the Turkish government, one of their oppressors. The strongest group in Syria, the Democratic Union Party (PYD), is linked to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), an organization in Turkey designated as a “terrorist” organization by the U.S. and European Union.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a national address July 31 that Ankara would “never tolerate initiatives that would threaten Turkey’s security” and would “intervene” in Syria should the PKK set up camp there. Following this, the Turkish military began diverting troops, tanks and antiaircraft missiles to that section of the border.