

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

‘Cuban Revolution belongs to the people’ — Gen. Teté Puebla
— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 14 APRIL 15, 2013

Washington deepens crisis on Korean Peninsula

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Washington’s unrelenting provocations and threats against North Korea are creating an increasingly dangerous and unpredictable situation on the Korean Peninsula.

With one after another round of crippling economic sanctions and its bellicose display of nuclear military capability, Washington is leaving the government of North Korea, which has stood up to U.S. imperialism for six decades, few options. And contrary to its pretensions, the Barack Obama administration has no control over the possible consequences of this course.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries are conducting large-scale military drills on the North Korean border from March 1 to April 30, involving as many as 200,000 South Korean sol-

Continued on page 7

Oppose gov’t attacks on women’s right to abortion

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Recent passage of further restrictions on abortion in North Dakota and Arkansas is the latest blow in the decades-long assault on women’s rights in this country — a key front in the

COMMENTARY

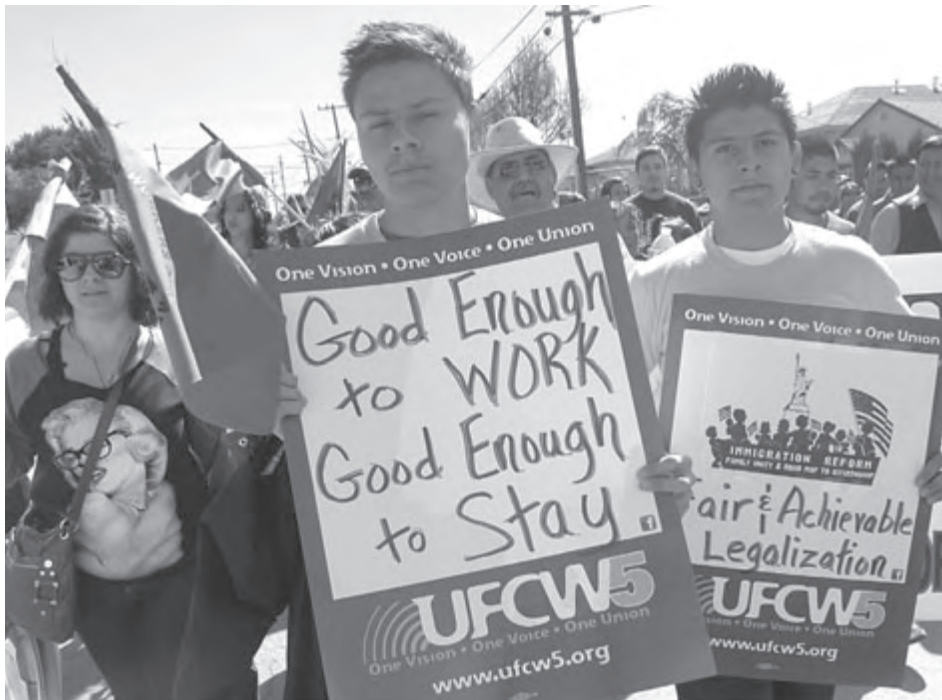
propertied rulers’ offensive against the working class.

The 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling was a major victory for women in this country and for all working people.

Without the right to decide when and 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 workers need to

Continued on page 8

Farmworkers demand legalization as Congress debates ‘immigration reform’



Militant/Eric Simpson

March 24 protest in Salinas, Calif., demanding legalization of undocumented immigrants was organized by United Farm Workers and backed by Teamsters, UFCW and other unions.

BY ELLIE GARCÍA
AND JESUS LANDEROS

COACHELLA, Calif. — About 200 people demonstrated here for legalization of undocumented immigrants March 23. The action was one of seven in California and Washington over the weekend organized by the United Farm Workers to commemorate the birthday of union founder Cesar Chavez, who died in 1993.

The actions take place as Congress is embroiled in debates on “immigration reform” proposals, which many see as an opportunity to press

for more rights and legalization for millions of undocumented than the Republican and Democratic politicians have in mind.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS FIGHT IS KEY FOR LABOR

—SWP campaign statement, p. 7

The United Farm Workers is one of dozens of unions, immigrant rights groups, and civil rights organizations that have endorsed the April 10 march

Continued on page 4

W.Va.: 1,000s protest Patriot’s attack on mine union, retirees

UMWA calls next action for April 16 in St. Louis



Militant/Linda Joyce

March in Charleston, W.Va., April 1 to protest slashing of medical benefits and pensions and tearing up of union contracts by Patriot Coal as part of company’s bankruptcy filing.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Some 6,000-7,000 coal miners, their families, and other workers poured into the Civic Center here April 1 in the largest mobilization of miners in many years. The action was the latest in a series of demonstrations organized by the United Mine Workers of America since August 2012 to fight

Patriot Coal’s attempt to use bankruptcy to gut union contracts, pensions and health care.

“Corporate greed has taken over this country. This is a death sentence for retirees,” said Benny Parker, a member of the UMWA from Mannington, who retired in 2007 from Patriot’s Federal No. 2 Mine.

Continued on page 3

Cyprus crisis: As stronger capitalists squeeze weaker, workers feel grind

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“Things are getting very difficult.” Maria Kiprianou, a sales clerk at a large bookstore in Nicosia, Cyprus, said in a phone interview. “It all started with the banks, but we can already see that workers’ rights are being torn up.”

The financial instability unfolding in Cyprus and elsewhere is a symptom, not a cause, of a deeper economic crisis rooted in a worldwide slowdown of production and trade endemic to the normal workings of capitalism.

Cyprus banks reopened March 28 after a nearly two-week shutdown as European financial “experts” cobbled together a scheme to stave off collapse

Continued on page 7

Fighting miners, hotel workers, Machinists sign up for ‘Militant’

BY LOUIS MARTIN

“This paper needs to get around more,” coal miner Connie Jewell said as he signed up for a subscription to the *Militant* at the April 1 United Mine Workers union demonstration of more than 6,000 in Charleston, W.Va.

The action was called to protest moves by Patriot Coal to cut thou-

Continued on page 3

Also Inside:

Lynne Stewart fights for ‘compassionate release’ 2

Detroit ‘manager’ hired to impose cuts, go after unions 5

Wash. Machinists strike at bakery equipment factory 5

Supreme Court hears suits on equal rights for gays 8

Framed-up lawyer Lynne Stewart fights for ‘compassionate release’

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK—Supporters of jailed attorney Lynne Stewart have launched a campaign to win compassionate release for her based on being diagnosed with cancer, which has spread to both lungs and her back. Stewart is a criminal defense attorney who often took cases other lawyers shunned for political and career reasons and defended working people who could not afford typical lawyers’ fees.

More than 3,000 people have signed an online petition, which will be turned into prison authorities along with formal requests for compassionate release. “The sinister meaning of the relentless persecution of Lynne Stewart is unmistakably clear. Given her age and precarious health, the 10-year sentence she is serving is a virtual death sentence,” the petition reads.

Stewart, 73, has been in jail since November 2009 on trumped-up charges, including “conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist activity.”

The charges stem from Stewart’s defense of Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, a Muslim cleric convicted in 1995 of “seditious conspiracy” for alleged links to a plot to bomb the United Nations and assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Stewart was found guilty in February 2005 of violating Special Administrative Measures the government imposed on Abdel-Rahman to strictly limit his communication with the outside world.

Stewart was convicted for violating the measures because she gave in-

formation to a Reuters reporter about Abdel-Rahman’s opposition to a ceasefire between the Islamic Group and the Egyptian government.

Judge John Koeltl initially imposed a sentence of 28 months on Stewart.

“I don’t think anybody would say that going to jail for two years is something you look forward to, but as my clients have said to me, I can do that standing on my head,” Stewart said in a speech to supporters after the sentencing.

When Stewart appealed her conviction, the government cross-appealed her sentence, arguing her statement showed she lacked remorse. On Dec. 23, 2009, the Court of Appeals denied Stewart’s appeal and instructed Koeltl to resentence her with “terrorism enhancements.” On July 15, 2010, Koeltl gave her 10 years.

Stewart was scheduled for a hysterectomy. “It took her 18 months to get the surgery after she was sent to prison,” Ralph Poynter, Stewart’s husband and a leader of her defense effort, told the *Militant* in a March 28 phone interview.

Stewart is shackled and cuffed every time she is sent to the hospital. “They even shackle her to the bed when she has an operation,” Poynter said.

She was worried after one operation that she would run a risk of infection in her prison cell. But when Stewart got back “she saw the cell was clean and the other inmates told her ‘we’ve got your back. We’re changing your sheets twice a day.’”

Stewart has been helping other prisoners obtain legal counsel. “She was



Above, Lynne Stewart with media April 9, 2002. Her husband Ralph Poynter, second from left, is leading campaign to win release for Stewart, who is being treated for cancer. Inset, Stewart in prison in 2012, with son (center), daughter-in-law (front left), and grandchildren.

sanctioned for having another prisoner’s papers on her,” Poynter said. “No telephone calls, no commissary, no visits for a month. But the prisoners rose up. So the staff told her to try to be more circumspect.”

On Feb. 21, Stewart filed an appeal asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn her conviction, arguing that public statements conveying opinions of Abdel Rahman were protected by the First Amendment. The appeal adds that increasing Stewart’s sentence because she exercised her right to free speech has a “chilling effect” on others. U.S.

prosecutors have until April 26 to reply, Stewart’s counsel, Jill Shellow, told the *Militant*.

Under the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act, the Bureau of Prisons must petition the court to request compassionate release. “The warden said more or less when she has a year left to live” prison authorities will consider it, Poynter said. “They’re misreading the statutes, saying they’ll let prisoners go only when they’re ready to die.”

For more information on how to support Stewart’s fight, go to lynnestewart.org.

Bosses’ bribes donated to further work of ending capitalism

“Thank you for the opportunity to be able to convert a tiny portion of Walmart’s bloody bonuses into funds for ultimately ending capital accumulation forever,” Morrie Dietrich wrote in a note he sent in with a check for \$140 as a blood money contribution to the Socialist Workers Party Capital Fund. Dietrich works greeting and providing customer services at Walmart in Des Moines. He said it’s mainly a safety bonus and paid out depending on the reported injury rate.

“Blood money” refers to company bonuses and other boss bribes to get workers to accept wage cuts, speedup, hazardous working conditions and concession contracts. Donations go to long-range work of the party, financed by the Capital Fund.

Eric Simpson in San Francisco works at United Airlines and contributed \$60. “This check showed up the same day IAM members were mailing in our ballots for or against a tentative contract,” he wrote. “Thirty thousand workers are voting. I don’t think the bribe will affect their decision, however. Vote No!” He added that the bribe was originally for \$100, but the federal government took 40 percent for themselves.

“Enclosed is blood money for the Capital Fund,” wrote Leslie Dork, who works as a nurse in Albuquerque, sending in \$1,200. “I think it’s supposed to make me feel better about having nine personal days taken away.”

To make a contribution, contact *Militant* distributors on page 6.

—EMMA JOHNSON

Postal workers say: Don’t end Sat. delivery!

Postal workers across the U.S. are fighting cuts affecting their jobs and services working people depend on, particularly women, the elderly and those in rural areas and low-income neighborhoods. The *‘Militant’* reports on and backs this fight. Don’t miss an issue!



Dan Fein

New York postal workers protest March 24.

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

Workers sign up for 'Militant'

Continued from front page

sands of miners off health and pension plans and tear up union contracts. (See article on front page.)

Jewell was one of 27 participants who bought *Militant* subscriptions at the action. In addition, 46 single copies were sold, showing the interest by coal miners and their supporters in a socialist newsweekly that tells the truth about and backs the struggles of working people.

Two books on revolutionary working-class politics were also sold on the buses going to the event, including *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, one of eight books offered at reduced prices with a subscription to the *Militant*. (See ad below.)

Militant distributors from Seattle had a similar experience when they brought solidarity to the picket lines of members of International Association of Machinists Local 79 on strike against the Belshaw Adamatic Bakery Group in Auburn, Wash., selling seven subscriptions in two visits. The plant manufactures donut equipment. (See article on page 5.)

"It's important to have a paper like this to see what is happening all over to working people," said Josephine Ulrich, a shop steward who has worked 25 years at the plant. "I want to show it around. This is what unionization and solidarity is all about."

On March 30 *Militant* supporters sold the paper door to door in Seattle and Kent, Wash., reported Edwin Fruit. They talked with working people about the impact of the bosses' productivity drive, the bank crisis in Cyprus, the cuts in postal service and other political developments of interest to workers.

"I very much liked the fact that the *Militant* talked about what was happening to us, but I also wanted to support the paper. I also found the international news to be very interesting," said Brigitte Malenfant when asked why she had decided to renew her subscription.

Malenfant is one of 180 hotel workers who have been on strike since Oct. 28 against the Hôtel des Seigneurs in Saint-Hyacinthe, about 30 miles northeast of Montreal. They are fighting for wage parity with hotel workers in Montreal.

Join the ongoing international effort to increase the circulation of the *Militant* among working people. You can call the distributors in your region (see directory on page 6) or order a bundle at themilitant@mac.com or (212) 244-4899.



Militant/Linda Joyce

Dan Fein, right, sells subscription to coal miner at April 1 march in Charleston, W.Va.

Thousands join miners' demonstration in W.Va.

Continued from front page

Many retired miners have black lung and other debilitating work injuries from decades in the mines and depend on what they thought were lifetime benefits set down in UMWA contracts since the 1940s.

More than 50 busloads of miners came from seven states. Hundreds drove up from southern West Virginia. The rally included both working and retired coal miners as well as union delegations, including from the United Steelworkers, United Auto Workers, Communications Workers of America, Ironworkers and the American Federation of Teachers.

Terry Steele, a retired miner from UMWA Local 1440, came to the rally from Matewan. He used to work at the Zeigler Old Ben Mine owned by Horizon. "In 2002 they filed for bank-

ruptcy, just like Patriot's doing. They got out of all their responsibilities," he said.

In 2007 Peabody Energy spun off most of its union mines to form Patriot Coal Corp. A year later Patriot bought Magnum Coal Co., an Arch Coal spinoff. More than 90 percent of "Patriot" retirees today never actually worked for Patriot.

As part of its bankruptcy proceedings, Patriot Coal on March 14 asked a judge to sanction its plan to tear up union contracts and end benefits covering 10,000 retirees and their 13,000 dependents. Patriot's bankruptcy takes place in the context of a recent contraction in domestic demand for coal, fueled in large part by falling natural gas prices.

There are no union mines left in Mingo County, W.Va., or Pike County,

Ky., Steele said.

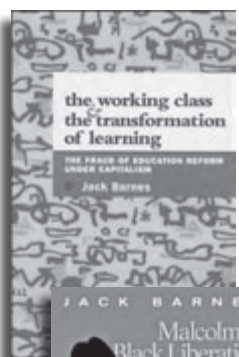
Both the number of coal miners and the proportion who are members of the UMWA has declined dramatically over recent decades. Only about one-quarter of working miners are members of the UMWA today, down from 43 percent in 1994. Today there are about 82,000 active miners in the U.S., down from some 89,000 in January of last year and from 175,000 30 years ago.

"The younger generation, a lot of us, were raised off the union," said Jeff Samek, 29, a faceman at the Alpha Natural Resources Carmichaels Mine in Southwest Pennsylvania. "If Patriot does this every company will try it."

Speakers at the rally included Democratic politicians from West Virginia, including Sen. Joe

Continued on page 9

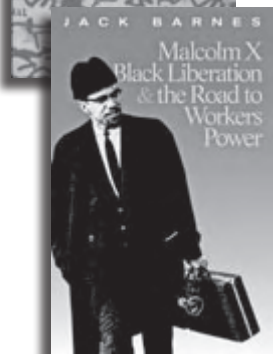
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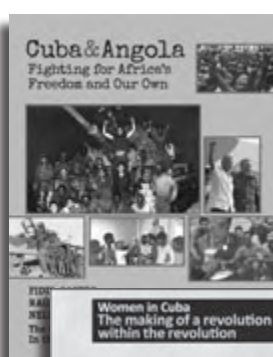
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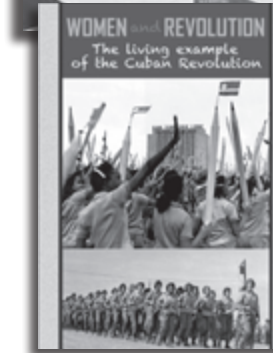


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—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

U.S. Hands Off Korea! Lift the Sanctions! Korea Is One! Speaker: Diana Newberry, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 5, 7:30 p.m. 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

CANADA

Montreal

The Cuban Five: Why They Should Be Free. Speaker: Michel Dugré, editor of French translation of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* and participant in recent Havana book fair. Fri., April 12, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

UNITED KINGDOM

London

The World Capitalist Crisis and the Cuban Revolution Today. Speakers: Olöf Andra Proppé and Jonathan Silberman, Communist League. Sat., April 13. Reception, 5 p.m.; program, 6 p.m. First floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road, E2 6DG. Tel.: (020) 7613-2466.

—CALENDAR—

CANADA

Toronto

Justice Denied — Steelworkers and Friends of Cuban Five Invite You to an Evening with Adriana Pérez, Wife of Gerardo Hernández. Sat., April 20, 6:30 p.m. Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St. Tel.: (416) 431-5498 or (416) 654-7105.

See distributors
on page 6

UFW actions in California

Continued from front page
in Washington, D.C., to demand citizenship for undocumented workers. Demonstrations will take place in other cities that day and the weekend before.

In New York, Chicago and other cities, there will also be demonstrations for legalizing immigrants on May 1.

"Many people live and work here who don't have papers," Eloy Magaña Gomez, one of the marchers, told the *Militant*. "We're all human beings. They work here. They need to be here."

In February, Magaña Gomez and 53 other farmworkers won a fight to recertify the UFW at RBI Packing, a lemon orchard in Blythe. Sun World, the previous owner had a contract with the UFW but sold the company to RBI, he said. "We won the recertification of the union 100 percent."

"With the union we are comfortable. We have medical insurance, a pension, the boss offers you water and gives you bathroom breaks. The boss can't yell at you, he has to treat you with respect," Magaña Gomez said.

Magaña Gomez was part of the fight to organize the strawberry pickers in Salinas and Watsonville in 1994 and 1995. "We didn't win but the struggle was important because of what we got out of it and it helped later on."

"At one time Coachella was one of the areas where the UFW had a number of contracts. Now we have one in Blythe and one in Coachella. We're trying to organize here again," Hilario Torres, a UFW organizer, told the *Militant*.

The Coachella Valley was the scene of big battles to organize the farmworkers' union in the mid-1970s.

"We're at a really critical time," UFW President Arturo Rodriguez told the rally. "We have to talk to our family members about immigration reform."

The next day about 300 joined the march in Oxnard and some 2,000, mostly field workers and their families, in Salinas. The Salinas march included contingents from Teamsters Local 890, the United Food and Commercial Workers, and the Service Employees International Union.

"Without legal status, farmworkers

can't collect unemployment during a winter layoff," field worker Oswaldo Cisneros, who was part of the Salinas march, told the *Militant*. "Without unemployment insurance workers need to save up all year or find another job, which is becoming harder. We need immigration reform that allows workers to work in the United States for many years."

'Long, hard' road to citizenship

Democratic and Republican party senators say they are close to introducing a bipartisan immigration bill in Congress. According to the March 30 *Washington Post*, the bill will "feature a 13-year path to citizenship," more visas for "highly skilled tech workers," and increased "border control and workplace security" through expansion of programs like the government's E-verify database system that make it harder for immigrants without papers to work.

Undocumented immigrants "will have a path to citizenship," Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham told CNN. "But it will be earned, it will be long, it will be hard."

Leaders of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO trade union federation have reportedly reached an agreement on an expanded "guest worker" program that would give temporary work visas to up to 200,000 foreign-born workers a year. The new "W" visa program — for some construction, restaurant and hotel workers — would start with 20,000 visas in 2015. This would be in addition to the already existing H-2A program for farmworkers.

More than 65,000 immigrants received H-2A visas last year. Guest worker programs have been widely criticized, the *New York Times* notes, because workers "are shackled to employers and thus acutely vulnerable to

Wash. farmworkers march for immigrant rights



Militant/Clay Dennison

YAKIMA, Wash. — More than 200 people marched here March 23, one of several demonstrations in Washington and California to commemorate the legacy of United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez, who was born March 31, 1927, and died in 1993. The march was billed as a "national day of action for a fair immigration process."

Yakima is an agricultural center for thousands of farmworkers who pick or pack apples, cherries, pears and other fruits.

"Separating families is inhumane," said Yesica Arciga, 26, who works at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. "I see a lot of families at the clinic who have been affected by deportations. We also have lots of kids in foster homes here in Yakima. My own husband was deported."

"This is a question of social justice," she said. "We are all human and should be treated not according to where we come from or the color of our skin."

— CLAY DENNISON

exploitation." H-2A visas are granted for a specific boss and workers are subject to immediate deportation if they quit or are fired.

Few details have been released on the proposed "W" program. While the *Times* and other papers report that workers would be allowed to change jobs, it's not clear what their status would be between jobs.

At the same time, associations of capitalist farmers are pushing to "reduce the wages currently paid H-2A workers and put in place a wage

for new agricultural visa holders lower than what current farmworkers make," UFW Communications Director Maria Machuca told the *Militant*. "It would be a grievous mistake to allow agribusiness to use the debate over immigration reform to further reduce wages of the poorest workers in the country."

Ellie García is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for School Board District 2 in Los Angeles. Eric Simpson contributed to this article from Salinas.

Philadelphia trial of doctor targets abortion rights

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — The trial of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, director of the now closed Women's Medical Society clinic, began March 18. Gosnell is charged with third-degree murder in the death of a patient and seven charges of first-degree murder for "infanticide."

The prosecution is seeking the death penalty and using the case as a foil against women's right to choose abortion.

The widely publicized trial is being held while several state legislatures — including Pennsylvania — are passing or considering laws that would place further restrictions on a woman's right to choose abortion, including sharply cutting the number of weeks during which the abortion procedure would be legal.

Karnamaya Mongar, a 41-year-old Bhutanese immigrant, died in Gosnell's care after having a reaction to pain medication and being transported to a nearby hospital. Her death was originally listed as accidental by the city medical examiner, but, under prodding from the district attorney, was changed to homicide months later.

The prosecution argues that the seven fetuses were older than the 24-week limit set by state law limiting abortions, and that they were delivered live and then had their spinal cords cut.

Gosnell's clinic was sued at least 15 times for malpractice by patients, some of whom will be testifying against him about conditions at Women's Medical Society. The clinic was ordered closed by the state in 2010 and Gosnell's medical license was revoked.

Nine clinic workers were arrested and jailed, eight of whom pled guilty — three for third-degree murder, others for practicing without a medical license.

"Leaders with anti-abortion views are exploiting this case in an effort to further restrict access to safe abortion care," Jennifer Boulanger, director of communications for the Philadelphia Women's Center, a family planning clinic, told the *Militant*.

"One of Gosnell's former patients testified to the Pennsylvania Senate Health and Welfare Committee that she heard Gosnell was the cheapest provider," said Boulanger, who called for repeal of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits use of Medicaid funds for abortion.

The gutted clinic can be viewed today through graffitied windows in a majority Black, working-class area adjacent to the University of Pennsylvania. Half a block away is the huge Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, which is affiliated with the university.

The case has sparked discussion in neighborhoods throughout the city, with a wide range of opinions being ex-

pressed on the case.

"There are those who want to use this trial to disenfranchise women of their rights," said Iren Snavey, a former restaurant worker who lives across from the clinic. "I support all women's right to choose," he said.

"I don't think the doctor's race is the question," said Jackie Brown, a city worker who is African-American, in reference to defense arguments that the prosecution is going after Gosnell because he and many of his clientele are Black. "Who was supposed to be inspecting this clinic?" Gosnell should lose his license, but not face the death penalty, she said.

"When I came to this country I thought the U.S. was technologically advanced but socially backward, like with the issue of abortion," said Clark Ho, 24, a Drexel University graduate from Hong Kong and London who has lived near the clinic for three years. "In London, abortion is covered by nationalized health care."

"Today, there are just 13 free-standing providers of surgical abortion care in Pennsylvania, down from 22 two years ago," Kate Michelman, president emerita of NARAL Pro-Choice America and Carol Tracy, executive director of the Women's Law Project, pointed out in an opinion piece in the March 25 *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible? A necessary debate

by Mary-Alice Waters



"To think that a socialist revolution in the U.S. is not possible you would have to believe not only that the ruling families of the imperialist countries and their economic

wizards have found a way to 'manage' capitalism. You would also have to close your eyes to the spreading imperialist wars, civil wars, and economic, financial, and social crises we are in the midst of." —\$7

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ON THE PICKET LINE

Restaurant workers at Minn. hotel win union

MINNEAPOLIS — Workers at Hotel Ivy's restaurant Porter & Frye here voted March 12 to join UNITE HERE Local 17, with 13 in favor and seven against.

"I'm in the union, I'm full with it," bartender Josh Brehmer told the *Militant* after the vote.

Shortly after the hotel opened in 2008 some 50 workers won representation by Local 17. But 20 workers in the restaurant were excluded based on an agreement between union officials and the hotel owner that the restaurant was to be spun off and run independently of the hotel. This spin-off never happened. The restaurant was a nonunion operation within a union shop.

After the vote, workers got together for an informal celebration at an Irish pub.

"Our manager is supposed to respect us, but he was forcing us to do dumb things. He was forcing us to vote against the union," Sefi Hando told the *Militant* at the celebration. "When we were in the mandatory meeting with the company, they said 'we have no money' for you guys."

Sage Hospitality, the company managing the hotel, held mandatory meetings one on one with every worker asking them if they supported the union.

Workers in the restaurant are both U.S.- and foreign-born, including from Bosnia, Ecuador, Mexico, Tibet and Ethiopia.

— Cameron Slick, Hotel Ivy worker, member of UNITE HERE Local 17

Wash. Machinists strike at bakery equipment factory

AUBURN, Wash. — Since March 25, members of Machinists Local 79 have been walking the picket line here in front of the Belshaw Adamatic Bakery plant, which manufactures bakery equipment.

The 62 workers at the factory voted unanimously to go on strike over a contract dispute involving questions of wages, pensions, health care benefits and speedup. They have twice voted down company proposals since the previous agreement expired in October.

"The company's wage raise offer of 25 cents a year for the first two years and 50 cents for the third year is offset by raises in medical deductibles," said Clifton LaPlant, chief shop stew-

ard, who has worked 35 years at the plant. LaPlant said the company has trimmed half its workforce as it squeezes more work from less employees.

The company has listed job openings for manufacturing positions on the WorkSource Washington website in search of replacement workers.

"The CEO wants to break the union," said David Schonians, who has worked at the plant for nine years. "He doesn't like the union because with it he can't do anything he wants. We can't go backwards anymore."

"We are doing this for the people coming up behind us," said Josephine Ulrich, with 25 years at the plant.

The company has not responded to phone calls for comments. Picket lines are up from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. six days a week.

— Edwin Fruit



Militant/Edwin Fruit

Machinists Local 79 members picket Belshaw Adamatic Bakery plant in Auburn, Wash., March 27. Workers walked out after unanimously rejecting company concession demands.

Detroit 'manager' hired to impose austerity, go after unions

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A state-appointed "emergency financial manager" began running the city of Detroit March 25, with broad powers above those of elected city officials to balance the city's budget on the backs of working people.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, named Kevyn Orr, a high-profile bankruptcy lawyer, to the post. Orr, an African-American and a Democrat, worked for Chrysler during its 2009 bankruptcy proceedings. He'll be paid an annual \$275,000 salary by the state. Under the state's emergency manager law, Orr is authorized to slash city expenses; impose changes on city workers' union contracts; cut down, merge or eliminate departments; and privatize city assets, such as the water and sewage departments. He can also recommend bankruptcy, which would involve tearing up all city labor contracts in what would be the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. history.

Working people in Detroit have been particularly hard hit by the capitalist economic crisis. Official unemployment in the city stands at nearly 19 percent, as many autoworkers' jobs were perma-

nently eliminated. Its population, currently 700,000, has declined 25 percent since 2000. With many moving out of town or losing their homes through foreclosures, about one-quarter of the city's housing units are vacant, according to Detroit Future City.

To finance its day-to-day operations, the city has been selling bonds, which Moody's Investors Service now rates as worthless. With a long-term debt of \$14 billion and a \$6 billion short-term debt, one of Orr's top priorities is to cut funds owed for workers' pensions and retirees' health-care costs to maintain payments to the propertied holders of municipal bonds. The city has also instituted mandatory unpaid days off for many city workers. "Bring it on," Sandy Baruah, president of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, told the media. An emergency manager "sends a positive message to business that Detroit is fixing its problems." Democratic Mayor David Bing said he accepted Orr's appointment and respected his authority to make changes.

"For one individual to be able to wipe out the duties of our duly-elected officials, that's more or less a dictatorship,

and it's against everything that America is supposed to be about," Rev. Wendell Anthony, president of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told the *New York Times*.

On March 25 a lawsuit was filed in federal court challenging Michigan's emergency manager law. Among its more than 20 plaintiffs are the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 25; Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit; New York's Center for Constitutional Rights; National Action Network; and Rainbow PUSH Coalition. The law "disenfranchises citizens from their right to a democratically elected form of local government and their right to elect local officials who possess general legislative power," the lawsuit says.

Meanwhile, in Stockton, Calif., tens of millions of dollars have been slashed from city services, including for senior centers and libraries. Ten public unions have agreed to temporary wage and benefit cuts, with pensions and retiree health care costs still on the chopping block. The city of 300,000 filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 15, 1988

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 1,000 union members and their supporters rallied at the Capitol March 23 to protest the union-busting tactics of Eastern Airlines' management.

The rally was one of a series of actions organized around the country.

The contract of the International Association of Machinists expired on Dec. 31, 1987, and the union is attempting to negotiate a new one. The company has proposed wage cuts of as much as 50 percent, slashing benefits, and a new hire wage of \$5 an hour.

Mary Jane Barry, president of the Transport Workers Union local that organizes Eastern flight attendants, told of harassment, discipline, and firings of workers.

"We have to stop Frank Lorenzo," she said, referring to the chairman of Texas Air, Eastern's parent company. "Our success will be labor's success."



April 15, 1963

A new wave of anti-segregation demonstrations is sweeping the South. The most spectacular of these are taking place in one of the most heavily industrialized and unionized cities in the country—Birmingham, Ala. The demonstrations, which police have attacked with trained dogs, are under the leadership of veteran rights fighter Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, which he heads. So far over a hundred demonstrators have been arrested in ten days of sit-ins and protest marches.

The United States Justice Department, headed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy, has been urging Negroes to call a moratorium on the Birmingham demonstrations until a new city administration takes office. Shuttlesworth rejected the advice declaring: "We have had all the moratoriums we want. We are in this to the end."

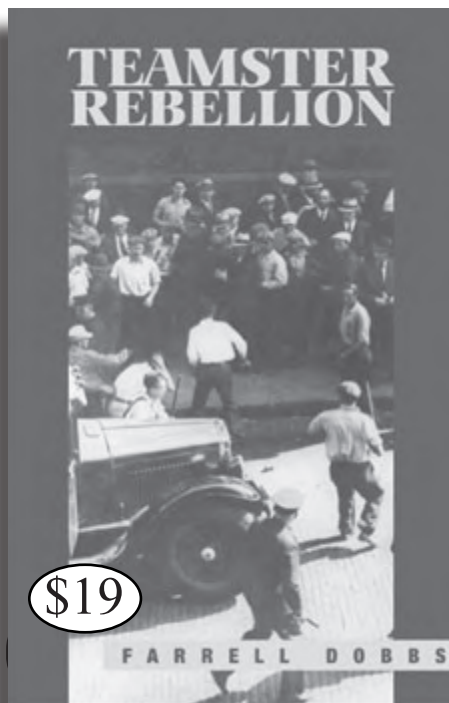


April 16, 1938

A swiftly-spreading strike of more than 150,000 workers in the airplane, automobile, and motor factories around Paris was the immediate response of the French working class to the formation of the cabinet of Edouard Daladier.

Sit-down strikers in the Citroen plants were joined in rapid succession by the 35,000 workers in the Renault factories. Without awaiting orders from their unions or parties, workers in one plant after another joined in the movement for defense of the workers' livelihood from the open capitalist offensive.

The French proletariat approaches this test of strength with admirable spirit but also with dangerous weaknesses. Strikes and even armed struggles can yield no solution to the vital problems of the working masses unless they are backed up by an audacious and determined plan for the organization of the proletarian revolution.



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Gen. Teté Puebla: ‘Cuban Revolution belongs to the people’

Below is an excerpt from Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in Cuba's Revolutionary War 1956-1958, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. In a series of interviews, Cuban Brig. Gen. Teté Puebla — who joined the Rebel Army led by Fidel Castro in 1956 — tells her story of participation in the revolutionary movement that toppled the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and editor of the book, took part in the interviews. Copyright © 2003 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

WATERS: The U.S. rulers know perfectly well what they would confront if they invaded Cuba.

PUEBLA: That's why they haven't attacked us.

There are counterrevolutionary organizations the U.S. is sponsoring here that want to stir up riots, and engage in other activities. The government doesn't intervene because every block has its Rapid Response Detachment.¹ These groups are under surveillance, and everyone is ready to respond.

They can't do anything because the revolution is ours, it's the people's. It doesn't belong to a little group that



Reuters/Enrique de la Osa

Throngs of Cuban working people join military parade in Havana April 16, 2011, marking 50th anniversary of Cuban victory over U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at Bay of Pigs. In Cuba there's a popular saying, says Brig. Gen. Teté Puebla, "The enemy's not taking my street, my city will be defended inch by inch, house by house." Sign in center reads, "Long live socialism."

wants to come and tell us: "Do as we say." No, this revolution belongs to the people.

There's a popular saying: "The enemy's not taking my street. My city will be defended inch by inch, house by house. We'll die here but they're not going to take our town."...

Sometimes we're asked, "Why are you always thinking about war?" We don't like thinking about war, because we don't like war. We like life, happiness, we love people. But they force us to live like this due to a tightening blockade that obligates us to stay on the alert.

Our problems are with the U.S. government and its blockade and all the other attacks. But not with the people of the United States. There's a people-to-people identification. ...

People there want what we want, an end to the blockade. We don't have anything against the people of the United States and they don't have anything against us.

It's the U.S. administrations and those Cubans who are traitors to their country, many of whom ended up in Miami. Among them are people who

have committed acts of sabotage, who participated in attempts on Fidel's life, people responsible for the deaths of many Cubans.

Take Jorge Mas Canosa. According to the perpetrators themselves, he gave money to finance the bombing of the Barbados plane.² He has been linked to more than forty acts of sabotage committed against the Cuban people. The group he founded has close ties to many in the U.S. government.

Who was killed in that plane over Barbados? Some were young people fourteen, sixteen, and seventeen years of age. There was the entire Cuban junior fencing team, which was returning victorious to the country from their competition in the Pan American Games in Caracas. I should mention that we're helping the families of the victims of that act.

The people who committed this crime are the real terrorists.

Yet the ones they find guilty are our compañeros, the five heroic prisoners of the empire: Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino. These compañeros are not criminals,

they're ordinary working people who were there defending our homeland. They were trying to prevent all those acts of sabotage that are committed against our people. And to prevent acts of terrorism against our people. Three were given life sentences. Yet they're innocent; they simply were trying to save the world from so many deaths. ...

WATERS: It's been forty-six years and you're still on active duty. ...

PUEBLA: Forty-six years may sound like a long time, but I don't see myself as a hero, just a regular person. We don't like to talk about what we've done since it's just our daily work and daily lives. We've lived the revolution so intensely that we can't separate it from ourselves. It's our reason for being.

I can't stop feeling I'm a guerrilla. Today we're defending the same ideas of Martí and of the Moncada. But we do so with other, heavier weapons, and we face a powerful enemy that demands greater unity and steadfastness, not to mention heroism. These times require combatants with a guerrilla spirit, a rebel spirit. Such a spirit exists within our people—a people who in the midst of all the difficulties remain loyal to our commander in chief.

So if I were to be born again, I'd do exactly the same as I've done until now.

Being a general of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, a military force that has never been a mercenary one, constitutes the pride of our lives. Because every member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces represents all of our dead. The war of liberation cost twenty thousand dead. And others died later.

From the days of the war of liberation up to the present, we work and live for the people. We're a people in uniform.

So I'm proud of being a soldier, of wearing the olive green uniform. And we will defend this uniform to our last breath.

1. Formed in 1991 to mobilize community residents to meet any U.S.-encouraged counterrevolutionary actions in Cuba.
2. On Oct. 6, 1976, Cuban counterrevolutionaries set off a bomb on a Cubana Airlines flight from Barbados to Cuba. All 73 people aboard were killed.

April

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Join actions for immigrant rights!

The following statement was released by Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Omaha, Neb., City Council District 4.

The Socialist Workers Party stands with those fighting for legalization of all immigrants. This is not only a just struggle against discrimination, but is absolutely essential to forging the unity and fighting capacity the working class needs to advance our interests against those of the bosses.

We call on working people to join in protests, marches and other actions April 10, May 1, or whenever they are called, to demand legalization now, and to oppose deportations, use of more cops on the border and imposition of ID checks to get a job.

The bipartisan “immigration reform” proposals coming together in Congress would force undocumented workers to wait 13, 15 or more years before they might be able to win full legal status and place all kinds of obstacles in the way, from background checks to thousands of dollars in fines.

Having a section of the workforce with second-class status aids the bosses’ drive against the living standards and working conditions of all. The proposals promoted by the Democratic and Republican parties include expansion of “guest worker” programs to

maintain a superexploitable pool of immigrant labor.

All workers should also oppose the use of E-Verify and other programs that make it harder for those without papers to find work and lead to increased deportations and firings. The expanding government databases and their ties to the employers are moves toward a national identity card and are aimed at undermining the rights of all workers. The same “tools” will be used to target union militants.

Immigrant workers have shown themselves to be among the combative sections of the working class. Actions in recent years saying “we are workers not criminals” have won broad support among working people. Immigrants’ breadth of experience strengthens and helps internationalize the ranks of labor. It puts us in a better position in battles to come against deepening employer and government attacks. We need working-class unity in action to fight effectively.

We can only rely on the collective power of working people, independent of the bosses and the Democratic and Republican parties that represent their interests. This is true from the fight for immigrant rights to miners’ struggle against Patriot and other coal bosses, to defense of a woman’s right to choose abortion.

Full legalization now! End the use of E-Verify! Stop the deportations!

Cyprus crisis grinds on working people

Continued from front page

of the country’s banking system and protect the interests of the strongest ruling families among the 17 nations that share the euro currency. Berlin is the strongest power and exerts the greatest influence in the eurozone, as the currency union is called.

Initially, Berlin called for closure of Cyprus’ two biggest banks. After the Cypriot government rejected this, the so-called troika — the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund — demanded confiscation of a portion of all bank accounts in the country as a condition for \$13 billion in loans, further burdening the country with massive debt.

But popular protests and a unanimous rejection by the Cypriot parliament prompted the troika under Berlin’s prodding to come up with Plan B, another version of an offer the Cypriot rulers could not refuse: wipe out a portion of money capital and agree to impose harsh government austerity targeting the country’s working people or forgo the \$13 billion loan and face the immediate economic and social consequences of a total collapse of banking and credit and exit from the eurozone.

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades accepted the troika’s demands to close the Laiki Bank, the country’s second largest financial institution. As far as the Bank of Cyprus, the largest, shareholders are to be wiped out and deposits over \$130,000 are to get a “haircut” of up to 60 percent.

Supposedly guaranteed deposits under \$130,000, which under the previous plan were to be “taxed,” are safe but unavailable for now. The government of Cyprus has imposed strict capital controls, limiting daily withdrawals to \$383 and placing similar restrictions on other transactions as the only way to prevent bank runs by foreign and domestic account holders and a growth of the “banco de mattress” as a *Financial Times* article referred to the resulting loss of confidence in the country’s banks. This is the first time such controls have been imposed by any country within the eurozone.

The contradiction of a shared currency among nations with disparate levels of development and productivity is resolving itself through write-downs and capital controls. When “a Cypriot euro isn’t identical to a German or even a Greek euro, the single currency is closer to a hopeful fiction than an economic reality,” stated a March 28 *Wall Street Journal* editorial.

In some ways “this is true of euros on deposit in Greece,” stated the *Times*, “whose use is increasingly subject to detailed review and delay by tax authorities; or euros in Italy, where the size of cash

transactions is severely restricted, at least by law.”

Cuts in hours and wages

“Right now our workweek has been cut to two days per week with an equivalent cut in pay,” Kiprianou said. “You have individuals working all their lives to save some money and now they just take it from them. Teachers are being told that there will be layoffs and increased teaching hours for the others. Already, social security funds for health care are also being targeted.”

In addition to job and wage cuts, strings attached to the troika loan agreement include raising taxes on alcohol and tobacco products and the island’s value-added tax rate.

Loss of confidence in the banks is reducing the availability of goods on store shelves, as suppliers are not taking letters of credit from banks but demanding cash. In Limassol, Cyprus’ second largest city and a center for shipping goods into the country, “the cargo network has shuddered to a halt,” reported the *Wall Street Journal*. “This is the artery of the economy and now nothing can move through here because no one’s sure they’ll get paid,” dockworker Marios Theodosiou told the paper.

Cyprus’ economy may contract by 20 percent over the next three years, noted *Marketwatch*.

The moves pushed by troika officials, fraught with their own divisions and clearly making it up as they go along, has received much criticism in the bourgeois economic press, whose armchair pundits often include their own nostrums for the crisis — all of which one way or another spell disaster and bear down hardest on working people. Under delusions that complement their faith in the law of value, the experts of capital believe that the right policies can mitigate or exert some control over the growing contradictions of capitalism.

“Cyprus Is Doomed: Why the Country Must Leave the Euro Immediately,” headlined an *Atlantic* magazine article, in arguing for an alternative “solution” to the banking crisis. “The Cypriot bailout and bail-in will save the Cypriot financial system by destroying it, along with the rest of their economy,” the article said.

The article doesn’t describe the immediate ruinous consequences of Cyprus dropping the euro and using a currency whose value would fall through the floor, the long-term challenge this would pose for a country that produces and exports little, or even the fact that its \$19 billion public debt would still have to be paid in euros. The real options within the capitalist framework could be summarized: make it worse or make it worse.

Maria Plessa from Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.

US provokes Korea crisis

Continued from front page

diers and some 10,000 U.S. troops.

On March 18, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced to reporters at a press conference in Seoul that B-52 bombers would carry out their second simulated nuclear raid the following day as part of the drills.

Ten days later, U.S. military officials announced that two nuclear-capable B-2 stealth bombers flew from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to a bombing range in South Korea, dropped inert munitions and returned to the U.S. in a single, continuous mission. This is the first time a training run by a stealth bomber over South Korea has been made public.

“The Korean Peninsula is now in a touch-and-go situation due to the nuclear provocation moves,” North Korea’s foreign ministry said March 26.

On March 31, the U.S. flew F-22 stealth fighter jets, ordinarily stationed in Japan, to South Korea to participate in the military drills. F-22s are low-flying planes, capable of evading radar and air-defense systems and can also be used to escort B-2 stealth bombers in a strike.

The following day, a spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, said that the USS McCain, a destroyer capable of shooting down ballistic missiles, was being positioned off South Korea. A second ship, the USS Decatur, was reported to be en route from the Philippines.

The current crisis is rooted in the 1945 division of the Korean nation, imposed by U.S. imperialism. Between 1950 and 1953 Washington carried out a bloody war under U.N. auspices in an attempt to overthrow the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Korea remains the only unresolved national division coming out of World War II. To this day Washington refuses to sign a peace treaty with North Korea and maintains some 28,000 U.S. troops in the South.

“Since early in the 1950s the U.S. has made ceaseless nuclear blackmail against the DPRK,” said a March 15 press release from North Korea’s permanent mission to the U.N., referring to nuclear threats during the Korean War by then President Harry Truman. After introducing tactical nuclear weapons into South Korea in 1957, Washington announced in 1991 that it had pulled them out, part of hypocritical calls to “denuclearize the peninsula” shortly after Pyongyang began its nuclear program.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military has long-range strategic nuclear missiles aimed at North Korea. In recent years, for example, Washington shifted the majority of its Trident submarines armed with hundreds of intercontinental ballistic nuclear missiles to the Pacific, explicitly targeting North Korea and China.

“Strategic nuclear missiles in the U.S. mainland are aiming at the DPRK and submarines with nuclear warheads are swarming the waters off South Korea and its vicinity in the Pacific region,” the March 26 North Korean statement pointed out.

Last month, Pyongyang cut off all military communication lines with South Korea and declared the cease-fire from 1953 void.

On April 1, the North Korean government said it would strengthen its nuclear weapons capacity in light of U.S. provocations, but would work to further nuclear non-proliferation if there were an “improvement of relations with hostile nuclear weapons states.” North Korean officials said the government would restart its uranium enrichment plant in Yongboun, which was shut down under a nuclear disarmament deal with Washington in 2007. Two days later, Pyongyang blocked 480 workers and trucks coming from South Korea from entering Kaesong industrial park in the North, where more than 120 South Korean companies employ 53,000 North Korean workers. Kaesong is the one joint venture between North and South Korea.

According to the April 2 *International Business Times*, Chinese military forces have been placed on high alert and the Chinese navy has conducted a live-fire naval drill in the Yellow Sea, close to the Korean Peninsula. Beijing was a co-author with Washington of the latest round of sanctions imposed on North Korea March 7. At the same time, a long-standing defense treaty between Pyongyang and Beijing obligates China to help North Korea in the event of war.

Back women's right to abortion

Continued from front page

mount effective resistance against the bosses and wage a victorious revolutionary struggle to take political power out of their hands is impossible.

The Supreme Court ruling reflected changing attitudes among men and women and a growing rejection of women's second-class status.

During and after World War II, millions of women were drawn into the workforce. Scientific advances for the first time made possible safe and effective contraception and medical procedures like abortion.

In the 1950s and '60s, the smashing of Jim Crow segregation by the powerful working-class battle for Black rights and the mass protests against Washington's war in Vietnam had a deep social impact and opened the door to a growing movement for women's rights.

Equal Rights Amendment

A few years before the *Roe v. Wade* ruling, women's organizations, some unions and other groups began to campaign for adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment that stated, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

At first, broad public support for the measure pushed Republican and Democratic politicians to back the measure. By 1973, 30 state legislatures had ratified the ERA, out of the 38 required for the amendment to become law.

Shortly after *Roe v. Wade* passed, politicians of both capitalist parties began to push back the gains it registered, leading to the 1976 adoption of the Hyde Amendment, which cut off Medicaid funding for abortions.

A bipartisan front against passage of the ERA began to emerge. Ultimately, the ERA was defeated, falling three states short of the total needed for ratification by the June 30, 1982, deadline.

Assaults on abortion rights in the intervening decades have primarily focused on changes in state laws, severely limiting access. These attacks have largely gone unanswered. Today 97 percent of counties outside of metropolitan areas have no facilities that provide abortion. Nevertheless, most working people continue to support women's right to choose, regardless what opinions they may have on the procedure.

The assault on abortion rights is the main front against women today and part of the broader attack on the working class.

Under the impact of the capitalist economic downturn, which began in the 1970s and has accelerated since 2008, the propertied rulers have sought to foist a maximum burden on individual working-class families — above all working-class women — to shoulder the responsibilities of caring for the young, old and sick. This is what inroads made against Aid to Families with Dependent Children led by President Bill Clinton in 1996 was really about.

At the same time, liberal pundits and meritocratic political figures like President Barack Obama have heralded as a big step forward for progressive social values the hearing by the Supreme Court of two cases concerning same-sex marriage.

"In the centers of elite opinion—in

particular the universities and the editorial offices of metropolitan newspapers," Steven Presser, a professor at Northwestern School of Law, wrote in the March 26 *New York Times*, "the propriety of same-sex marriage is now accepted virtually without questions."

A few points are useful to remember here.

First, the Supreme Court is behind, not ahead, of changing attitudes among working people on this form of prejudice and bigotry used by the capitalist rulers to divide the working class.

These changes are partially rooted in the sympathy working people felt as the AIDS epidemic swept the U.S., afflicting primarily gay men, intravenous drug users and hemophiliacs.

Growing protests by gay rights groups and others helped draw attention to how discriminatory laws on marriage prevented victims of AIDS from using their companion's health care plans and barred involvement of companions in their partner's treatment.

Second, there is nothing inherently progressive in being gay or lesbian, or for that matter in getting married, as is often presented by bourgeois-minded radicals who have disdain for workers and consider anyone who opposes their "enlightened" views as reactionary. What is of concern to workers is getting rid of laws that allow the capitalist state to interfere in people's personal lives. The question is one of equal protection under the law and the fight against all forms of bigotry.

And third, any legal gain made by

Supreme Court hears gay rights suits amid wide opposition to discrimination

BY SUSAN LAMONT

On March 26 and 27, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in two widely publicized cases concerning overturning marriage laws that discriminate against gays. The cases challenge the constitutionality of federal and state restrictions on the rights of gays to have their marriages recognized as legal and receive the same benefits as heterosexual spouses.

The court's decision to hear the two appeals comes after overwhelming evidence of changing attitudes among working people on the question, as part of widespread opposition to forms of legal discrimination.

Referenda results in last November's elections blocked efforts to enact discriminatory marriage laws in Maryland, Maine, Minnesota and Washington. Same-sex marriage is now legally recognized in nine states and the District of Columbia.

In face of this shift in public opinion, some Democratic and Republican politicians have been rushing to go on record in support of legalizing same-sex marriage.

President Barack Obama, who opposed this in the 2008 election, said last year he was convinced by his children to change his position. Former President William Clinton, who signed the discriminatory 1996 Defense of Marriage Act into law, is now urging its repeal, as is Hillary Clinton. DOMA defines marriage as "only a legal union between one



Militant/Ginny Hildebrand

May 16, 1976, demonstration in Springfield, Ill., for the Equal Rights Amendment.

gay people under capitalism stands on shaky ground, especially in the context of deepening attacks on women's rights.

Those seeking to restrict the scope of any Supreme Court ruling curtailing discrimination against gays in marriage law point to remarks made by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Court liberal, to an audience at Columbia Law School in February 2012, where she criticized the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. "It's not that the judgment was wrong," Ginsburg said, "but it moved too far, too fast."

The movement for gay rights emerged

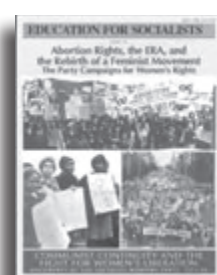
at the end of the 1960s in the U.S. under the impact of the growing fight for women's rights, and remains inexorably bound to it.

A growing international issue

The right to choose abortion and other rights of women are issues of growing importance for workers around the world.

As the working class grows throughout the semicolonial world today, from Indonesia to Bangladesh, millions of women are being drawn into the workforce, as their sisters in Europe and North America were before them. This has resulted in intertwined struggles for workers' rights, women's rights and the right to abortion.

Today the rulers in some 70 countries bar abortion completely or restrict it to cases deemed necessary to save a woman's life. But the tide of history moves against those who would keep it so.



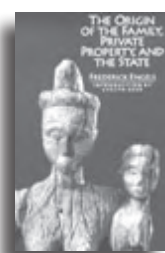
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Continued on page 9

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NDakota anti-abortion laws part of stepped-up attack on women's rights

BY HELEN MEYERS
AND JOHN STUDER

A hundred supporters of a woman's right to choose abortion protested March 29 in Grand Forks and 50 more in Fargo, N.D., against three bills, including the most restrictive anti-abortion law in the country, passed by the North Dakota Legislature and signed by Gov. Jack Dalrymple three days earlier.

"Opposition to these bills is paramount because we need to let our legislators know that it is not OK for them to impede our rights and privacy," Jen Hoy of Stand Up for Women North Dakota said in a phone interview from Fargo. "They do not belong in our bedrooms or our doctor's offices."

"Abortion is STILL legal in the state of North Dakota — despite the signing of some bills today by the Governor," read a declaration posted March 26 at the top of the website for the Red River Women's Clinic in Fargo, the one facility in the state that performs abortions.

One of the new laws outlaws abortions after six weeks, when fetal heartbeats can be detected using an intrusive vaginal ultrasound. Doctors who perform abortions in violation of the new law could face felony charges and up to five years in prison.

Three weeks earlier the Arkansas Legislature adopted a bill to ban abortions after 12 weeks, when fetal heartbeats can be detected using abdominal ultrasound. The legislators balked at requiring women seeking abortions to undergo the more invasive vaginal procedure.

Governor Dalrymple told the press that the North Dakota law was a direct challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that legalized abortion. The decision made abortion lawful until a fetus is considered "viable," that is, capable of living outside the

womb, usually considered to be at 22 to 24 weeks of a pregnancy.

The second bill signed by the North Dakota governor requires doctors performing abortions to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. The bill is an attempt to shut down the Red River clinic, whose doctors are based out of state.

A similar law adopted last year in Mississippi targets the one abortion clinic in that state. The clinic could lose its license at a state Department of Health hearing April 18 because its doctors have been unable to obtain the required paperwork.

The third bill bans abortions based on genetic abnormalities, like Down syndrome, or to select the sex. Like a law adopted in Arizona in 2011 that banned abortions based on gender or race, such laws press women to publicly reveal their reasons for seeking a medical procedure, a private decision.

The North Dakota Legislature also approved holding a statewide referendum in 2014, seeking approval to amend the state constitution to assert that "right to life" begins at conception, outlawing virtually all abortions.

Similar "personhood" laws were recently rejected in referendums in both



Emily Bartz

Supporters of women's rights organized a demonstration in Grand Forks, N.D., March 29, to protest three new state laws that place onerous restrictions on access to abortion.

Mississippi and Colorado.

Support among working people for abortion rights has remained a majority view for decades. "Seven in 10 Americans believe *Roe v. Wade* should stand," the *Wall Street Journal* reported Jan. 22.

Relentless assault on abortion rights

Almost from the day after *Roe v. Wade*, opponents of abortion rights have chipped away at women's access to abortion.

In 1976, Congress passed the Hyde Amendment, which cut off Medicaid

funding for abortions. Recently the amendment was extended to cover Obamacare.

Over the past two years, some 135 state laws restricting the right to abortion have been adopted.

As of March 21, according to the Guttmacher Institute, 32 states and the District of Columbia prohibit use of any state Medicaid funds for abortion; 17 states require so-called counseling laws, which force women to be "informed" about alternatives; 26 states have waiting periods; 38 states have either parental notification or consent requirements for minors, or both; and 43 state laws defend the right of hospitals and other medical facilities to refuse to allow abortions to be performed on their premises.

Ten states have passed bills banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, less than the period legalized by the Supreme Court, claiming that a fetus can feel pain then.

Abortion providers face other legal attacks, including growing requirements for expensive and unnecessary physical plant features, such as hospital-width hallways.

As a result, there are no facilities that provide abortions in 87 percent of the nation's counties. Outside metropolitan areas, that figure jumps to 97 percent.

While this has little effect on wealthy women, who have the resources to travel wherever necessary, it has a big effect on working-class and rural women.

Supreme Court gay rights hearings

Continued from page 8

DOMA has been used to deny same-sex couples a range of federal benefits that other married people receive, such as filing joint tax returns, collecting Social Security survivor benefits, and for members of the military even getting official notice of a spouse's death. The second case, *United States v. Windsor*, challenged these aspects of the law.

The case was brought by Edith Windsor of New York City. She and her companion Thea Clara Spyer were married in Canada in 2007. Spyer died in 2009, leaving her property to Windsor. Under DOMA, the marriage was not recognized as valid and the Internal Revenue Service presented Windsor with a \$360,000 tax bill. Windsor sued,

and in October 2012 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York struck down part of the law.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was one of dozens of groups and individuals that filed amicus briefs in support of the challenge to DOMA.

"[L]ike early laws that were designed to oppress African Americans, DOMA relegates gays and lesbians to an unequal and inferior status as a group. This is contrary to the core purpose of equal protection," the NAACP brief states, citing the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The brief draws parallels to the fight to overturn laws banning interracial marriage, which were finally ruled unconstitutional in 1967.

and the Fight for Women's Liberation

power to end the second-class status of a woman's right to choose abortion a pressing issue? This three-part series helps politically active men and men joining battles in defense of women for all three parts or \$12 each part.

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by Evelyn Reed

The economic roots of women's oppression in modern capitalism and point out why the oppression of women is rooted in property relations, not sex.



Continued from page 3

Manchin, Rep. Nick Rahall, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Secretary of State Natalie Tennant.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, in a videotaped message, promised to press for the Coalfield Accountability and Retired Employee Act, which would transfer money from the Abandoned Mine Lands fund, a government fund for restoration of mined land based on taxing coal production, to the UMWA 1974 Pension Plan.

The CARE Act is supposed to prop up the union's pension plan — which faces insolvency as a result of declining unionization and funds lost through speculative investments — as well as cover retirees who lose benefits when coal bosses file for bankruptcy and reduce taxes on employer payments to benefit plans.

"What Patriot did was designed to fail so they could get rid of these liabilities,"

Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO president, told the rally. "We won't allow them to take the money and run. Anyone who pulls a paycheck, stand with us."

Corey Bachman, 22, a member of Ironworkers Local 3 in Pittsburgh, said he and other workers have been on strike for eight months at Patriot Machining and Maintenance Services, which is not owned by Patriot Coal. "After we organized a union, they laid everybody off," he said. "We have filed unfair labor practice charges."

Steelworkers from Ravenswood came to the rally along with nurses from Bluefield, who recently formed a Nurses Union, and a van of UAW members from the Ford plant in Louisville, Ky.

"It's going to affect all of us," said Debbie Casey, a member of CWA Local 2204 from Castlewood, Va. She said the CWA, IBEW and UMWA brought five busloads to the rally.

"I support the UMWA in this," said

Larry Goodwin, 35, vice president of United Steelworkers Local 477 at a refractory plant in Buckhannon. He came with several others from the local. "We faced the same thing in my plant. We lost health care for retirees and current employees."

"This is not just about the mine workers, UMWA President Cecil Roberts told participants. "This is a movement about the people."

Following the speeches Roberts led the massive gathering out of the Civic Center, marching down the streets of Charleston to the headquarters of Patriot Coal. Chants of "U-M-W-A" and "We are union" broke out. Roberts and 15 other labor, civic and religious officials who had declared their intention to be arrested sat down in the street until cops took them away.

The next action will be in St. Louis on April 16 at 10 a.m. in front of Peabody Coal's corporate headquarters.