

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuban Revolution discussed at Kent University event in UK

—PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 72/NO. 44 NOVEMBER 10, 2008

U.S. forces strike in Pakistan and Syria

BY DOUG NELSON

Hours after Pakistan's parliament unanimously passed a resolution on "combating terrorism," a U.S. missile strike killed at least 10 people in the country's North Waziristan region. Washington has stepped up attacks on Pakistani soil in an attempt to undercut Taliban and al-Qaeda forces based there and strengthen the imperialist occupation of Afghanistan.

Days later the U.S. commandos landed inside Syria October 26, killing at least eight people. Abu Ghadiya, a leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, was among those killed in the raid in a Syrian village about five miles from the Iraq border, according to U.S. officials. Syrian foreign minister Walid al-Muallem condemned the attack as an act of "criminal and terrorist aggression."

The seven-month old Pakistani government is a U.S. ally, as was the military dictatorship of President Pervez Musharraf before it. Islamabad has stepped up its own war against Taliban and al-Qaeda forces in the country, with two major offensive operations in the Swat and Bajur tribal regions.

An October 22 resolution by Pak-
Continued on page 9

Vote Socialist Workers! Workers, farmers need to take political power



Militant/Carole Lesnick
Socialist Workers presidential candidate Róger Calero (center) and Lea Sherman (right), SWP candidate for U.S. Congress 8th CD, campaign at San Francisco State University.

Workers resist raids by ICE in rural Minnesota towns

BY TOM FISKE

ST. JAMES, Minnesota—Immigrant workers in Watonwan County, Minnesota, found ways to resist the immigration raids carried out by the U.S. government against them October 21–23. They did this despite the fact that no organization or church opened its doors or came to their aid

during the raids.

On October 21, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began its raids against workers in Madelia, Minnesota. In the next two days they spread the dragnet into the neighboring towns of St. James, Butterfield,
Continued on page 9

We urge you to vote November 4 for the Socialist Workers Party ticket: Róger Calero and Alyson Kennedy for U.S. president and vice-president, and the local SWP candidates in federal, state, and city races.

A month after the Democrats and Republicans handed Wall Street a

EDITORIAL

\$700 billion bailout, the capitalist financial crisis—the deepest since the 1930s—has not abated. On the contrary, it is expanding. Simultaneously, a world crisis of slowed industrial production and trade is mounting day by day with devastating consequences for workers and farmers in every corner of the globe.

The working class needs to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class. This question will be more sharply posed in the minds of millions as this crisis deepens.

The socialist candidates are campaigning around an immediate set of demands to protect working people today against the spreading capitalist crisis, of which we are only at the beginning.

Organizing and fighting politically along this course opens the way for workers to see the need to build a
Continued on page 9

Financial crisis hits workers, farmers in semicolonial world

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The capitalist financial crisis is having a devastating impact on toilers living in semicolonial countries, as commodity prices decline for the goods they export and national currencies plummet against the dollar. As a result, a greater portion of the wealth produced by toilers in these countries will be siphoned off to pay the massive debts owed to banks in

imperialist centers.

Brazil's national currency, the real, has lost 40 percent of its value against the dollar since August. Mexico's peso sank to an all-time low October 23. The Turkish lira has fallen by more than 30 percent against the dollar in recent weeks. South Africa's currency, the rand, has sharply depreciated as the price of platinum, a major earner of foreign exchange, plummeted from more than \$2,000 an ounce in June to less than \$800 in October.

In Argentina, the Cristina Kirchner
Continued on page 3

383 subscribers in first week of 11-day blitz

BY ANGEL LARISCY

Socialist campaigners had their best week so far, winning 383 new and long-term readers to the *Militant* newspaper!

The effort to increase the subscription base of the socialist newsweekly is boosted by campaigning for Socialist Workers Party candidates Róger Calero for president and Alyson Kennedy for vice president, as well as local candidates across the United
Continued on page 3

The Crisis Has Barely Begun!

... and Workers' Fight to End the Wages System Is Posed

Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

Reaching to the World:

Workers and Oppressed Nations Unite!

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine and *Our History Is Still Being Written*, recently returned from Equatorial Guinea

Saturday, November 22 Newark, New Jersey
Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place

Reception 3 p.m.—Program 4 p.m.

Dinner, refreshments, talk, & dance 7 p.m. until ...

Activities the following day

Sunday, November 23

at 307 W. 36th Street, 10th floor north

- > 10 a.m. Discussion on Saturday's presentations with youth and workers interested in the program of the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party
- > 1 p.m. National meeting of the Young Socialists
- > Noon Join *Militant* sales teams for final week of subscription campaign
- > 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m. Meeting of supporters of the communist movement (Location to be announced)

Sponsors: New York City and Newark Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists
For more information: (212) 736-2540 or (973) 481-0077
Spanish and French translation will be provided

Also Inside:

Tentative agreement in Boeing strike	2
Socialist candidates present program to unite workers	4
World financial crisis stamps Canadian elections	5
Workers, students show interest in socialist campaign	6

Maori activists protest New Zealand frame-up

BY JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Seventeen Maori rights supporters will go on trial on charges of illegal possession of guns and other weapons, a judge ruled in the Auckland District Court October 17.

An earlier attempt by police to charge the activists under the 2002 Terrorism Suppression Act was dropped in the face of nationwide protests. The current charges under the Arms Act are what remain of the frame-up.

Speaking outside the court in Maori, Tame Iti, a leader of the Tuhoe tribe and central target of the frame-up, condemned the decision. "I have done nothing wrong," he said. "Tuhoe is not in the wrong. The sin lies with the Crown, the government, and the law. They came into Tuhoe land. They were deluded. They came to belittle . . . my people."

The ruling follows a month of court hearings in which the prosecution put forward 343 charges against 18 defendants. The judge freed one of the accused and threw out 39 of the charges for lack of evidence.

The charges arise from nationwide police raids on Oct. 15, 2007. Those arrested were initially branded as "terrorists" and accused of training in military-style camps in the Urewera mountain range, where Maori of the Tuhoe tribe are based.

During the raids, heavily armed police set up roadblocks at the entrance to the Maori settlement of Ruatoki, harassing occupants of vehicles going in and out and rampaging through homes.

The raids followed 18 months of police spying estimated to have cost NZ\$8 million (\$4.7 million). The cops used warrants obtained under the 2002 Terrorism Suppression Act.

Police efforts to lay terror charges under this act, the first-ever attempt to use the law, were squashed after nationwide protests spearheaded by Tuhoe.

"Drop the charges!" was the demand of several hundred protesters who marched here and in Wellington August 30 to back the accused. Pickets have been held outside court hearings. Residents of Ruatoki organized a four-day commemoration beginning October 15 to mark the one-year anniversary of the police lockdown of their valley.



Militant/Mike Tucker

Marchers in Auckland, New Zealand, in December 2007 protest "antiterror" raids aimed at Maoris and demand repeal of 2002 Terrorism Suppression Act.

Tentative agreement reached in Boeing strike

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE—Negotiators for Boeing and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) reached a tentative agreement October 27.

Some 27,000 Machinists struck Boeing September 6 over wages, benefits, and outsourcing of work to non-union companies.

The company and union officials agreed to a four-year contract instead of the usual three years. According to the *Seattle Times*, "The union agreed to let vendors deliver parts to receiving areas inside the factory, but won a commitment that only Machinists will take it from there." *USA Today* says the contract includes "procedures for the union to bid for work before it

is outsourced" and that 2,000 workers whose jobs could be eliminated by outsourcing would not be laid-off during the contract.

Boeing withdrew its demand to make workers pay more for health insurance. The tentative accord accepts Boeing's earlier offer of an 11 percent wage increase over three years, with an additional 4 percent in the fourth.

Union members will vote on the settlement by November 1.

Boeing admitted that its third-quarter profits dropped 38 percent during the strike. It used the world economic crisis as an argument to pressure the union for concessions.

Company officials and the daily press "want to make you believe that we are responsible for the economic crisis because we're on strike," said striker Frank King on the picket line October 26. "But this crisis is really because of corporations' greed for profit."

The company has insisted it has the right to maintain control of production. Boeing wants to be able to decide when and how to outsource work. "The issues at the root of this strike are so critical to our ability to run the company and be competitive that there are lines that we cannot cross," said Scott Carson, president of

Boeing's commercial airplanes division.

Since the mid-1990s, Boeing has cut its jet production time by as much as 60 percent. At the same time it has reduced the workforce by some 40 percent.

Today's Boeing workforce includes a number of younger workers at the lower end of the pay scale. About 10 percent of the IAM membership in Boeing's main Seattle manufacturing hub are now under 30.

According to press reports, about a quarter of the 637,000 U.S. aerospace workers would be eligible for retirement this year.

This could be seen on the picket lines as younger workers picketed alongside those with many years at the plant.

"Takeaways in medical are the most important issue for me," said Elizabeth Troy, while picketing at the Seattle plant. Troy, 31, was hired in June 2007 and works at the Everett plant. "My daughter's asthma drug is not available in generic form so Boeing won't pay for it under their plan."

Dean Peoples, a member of IAM District 751 who has been strike at Boeing's Everett plant, contributed to this article.

THE MILITANT

Oppose U.S. war in Afghanistan & Pakistan!

The 'Militant' reports on world events from the standpoint of defending the interests of the working class internationally and explains why working people should demand immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops around the world.

Don't miss a single issue!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____ PHONE _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

The Militant

Vol. 72/No. 44

Closing news date: October 29, 2008

Editor: Sam Manuel

Managing Editor: Martín Koppel,

Business Manager: Angel Lariscy

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Ved Dookhun, Seth Galinsky, Cindy Jaquith, Ben Joyce, Doug Nelson, Ben O'Shaughnessy

Published weekly except for one week in January and one week in July.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one year send \$85, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above

address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send \$85 for one year drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$45 for one year to the Militant, 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, Montreal, Quebec, H2S 2N1.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

383 'Militant' readers

Continued from front page

States. In other countries, candidates for the Communist Leagues are also promoting the newspaper.

In an 11-day blitz to take advantage of the openings to discuss politics with workers and students leading up to the U.S. elections, a 12-week subscription for new readers is only \$3. The offer expires November 4. This special price helped supporters of the paper in New York sell 65 subscriptions this week, double what they sold in the first three weeks of the drive. On Sunday, October 26, campaign supporters set up tables in the Bronx, Harlem, Jackson Heights, and Brooklyn, along with a door-to-door team to the Lower East Side of Manhattan. They sold 40 subscriptions and six copies of *New International* no. 14.

In Boston, supporters are utilizing the French-language translation of the SWP campaign platform to visit Haitian working-class communities. Sarah Ullman reports they are also fielding teams to sell to garment and textile workers in Lawrence and New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Seattle SWP campaigners set up a lunchtime table at Mercer Island High School. "Two young women got subscriptions and one got a copy of *Woman's Evolution* by Evelyn Reed," writes Edwin Fruit.

"Students at Swarthmore College near Philadelphia bought five subscriptions to the *Militant* and purchased more than \$100 of Pathfinder titles," writes Janet Post. "One student, Ben, who is from the coal mining region of western Virginia and Kentucky, bought a subscription, the

book *Teamster Rebellion*, and a copy of *New International* no. 14."

All those who subscribe or renew their subscriptions can purchase for only \$10 *New International* no. 14 or *Nueva Internacional* no. 8, which contain the articles "The Clintons' Antilabor Legacy: Roots of the 2008 World Financial Crisis" and "Revolution, Internationalism, and Socialism: The Last Year of Malcolm X."

Three more areas raised their subscription drive quotas this week—Houston, Australia, and New Zealand. Quotas don't yet add up to the 2,400 international goal but all reports indicate we're well on the way to making the goal.



Militant/Baskaran Appu
Annalucia Vermunt, New Zealand Communist League candidate for parliament, gets out the *Militant* and campaign literature at gate to meatpacking plant in Auckland October 18.

Financial crisis devastates world's toilers

Continued from front page

government announced plans October 21 to take control of nearly \$30 billion in private pension funds. This move, said the *Wall Street Journal*, "would provide it with much of the cash it needs to meet debt payments and avoid a second default this decade." Argentina is one of the world's top five exporters of beef, soy, corn, and wheat. For the past five years prices of Argentina's agricultural commodities were rising, but in recent months they have plunged.

While hundreds of billions of dollars go toward bailing out banks, nearly a billion people worldwide are malnourished, according to official UN figures. The United Kingdom-based relief group Oxfam estimates that the economic crisis over the past year has now placed an additional 119 million people below official government poverty levels.

In China since the beginning of 2008 more than half of the country's toy exporters have shut factories, throwing thousands out of work. After Smart Union, a supplier to Mattel, closed a plant in Zhangmutou mid-October, hundreds of workers rallied outside the factory and government offices demanding they be paid for the past two months. Thousands of others rallied that week outside other closed toy factories in Guangdong Province. According to Chan Cheung-yau, chairman of the toy and games subcommittee of the Chinese Manufacturers Association of Hong Kong, thousands more factories will close in China next year.

Layoffs in the United States over the past month have begun to spread beyond financial companies to a broad array of industries. These include the airlines, which have announced 36,000 in job cuts, nearly all of them before the end of the year. Chrysler is cutting 1,825 jobs at two plants—6 percent of its hourly workforce. PepsiCo is cutting 3,300 jobs. Plumbing and building materials supplier Wol-

seley is slashing 3,000 jobs. Whirlpool is cutting 440 jobs at its plant in Amana, Iowa, this month and a total of 5,000 by the end of 2009.

ABN Newswire reports that 19 of the 25 steel blast furnaces in the United States are being shut down or closing for various periods of time because of declining orders, especially from the automobile industry.

Inflation-adjusted pay for hourly workers declined 1.9 percent for the year ending this September, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The Labor Department also report-

ed that initial filings for state jobless benefits increased by 15,000 to 478,000 for the week ending October 18—a 44 percent increase from last year. The number of people listed as being unemployed for 27 weeks or more reached 2 million in September.

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department is considering a plan to expand its \$700 billion bank bailout to include insurance companies. Auto companies and local and state governments are also requesting some of these funds.

North Carolina Smithfield workers to vote on union

BY SETH DELLINGER

WASHINGTON—More than 5,000 meat packers at the Smithfield Foods plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, will soon have an opportunity to vote in a union election, company and union officials announced this week. The election comes after years of struggle by workers in the plant to be represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union, in order to fight for higher wages, benefits, and job safety.

In an October 28 phone interview, kill floor worker Israel Ramirez said the news spread quickly in the plant after union officials passed out flyers at the morning shift change. Job safety is one of the key reasons workers need a union, said Ramirez, who has worked

six years in the plant. It is very common for hogs to fall off the hooks over the assembly line, threatening workers below with serious injury or death, he said.

The results of two previous votes on the union in 1994 and 1997 were thrown out by federal regulators. Smithfield eventually paid more than \$1 million in settlements to workers who were victims of antiunion firings.

In 2006, the UFCW launched a national boycott of Smithfield products to pressure the company to hold a union election. Last year, Smithfield retaliated with a racketeering lawsuit against the union under a federal law targeting organized crime. As part of the new agreement, both the lawsuit and the boycott will be dropped.

Troy Davis wins execution stay

BY CLAY DENNISON

ATLANTA—Supporters of Troy Davis won a stay of execution October 24, just three days before he was to die by lethal injection. The action by a federal court of appeals came one day after an international day of protests against the planned execution.

Davis, an African American framed for the 1989 killing of an off-duty Savannah, Georgia, policeman, was to have been put to death on October 27.

On October 23 more than 400 supporters of Davis gathered on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol to demand a halt to his execution. Davis sent a message to the rally by phone.

Martina Correia, Davis's sister, led the crowd in chants of "Free Troy Davis!" She explained the impact of the international support his case has re-

ceived, saying, "If Troy Davis's name is being heard in Madagascar, we have won. If Troy Davis's name is heard in Finland, we have won. If Troy Davis's name is heard in England, we have won. . . . The name Troy Davis is ringing in Savannah, Georgia."

Laura Moye, with the Atlanta office of Amnesty International, explained that the court granted the stay in order to allow lawyers for Davis to ask permission to file a petition for a new hearing in front of a federal court.

After her brother received the stay, Correia told the *Militant*, "This fight for Troy Davis is far from being over."

If the court does not grant permission for the new hearing, Davis could again face execution in late 2008 or early 2009.

'Militant' Subscription Drive Fall 2008 ♦ Sept. 27 – Nov. 23 Week 4 of 8

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Twin Cities, MN*	125	83	66%
Houston*	100	59	59%
San Francisco	140	75	54%
Miami	160	84	53%
Boston	60	31	52%
Newark, NJ	125	64	51%
Los Angeles	100	50	50%
Philadelphia	90	39	43%
Washington, D.C.	95	41	43%
New York	315	131	42%
Des Moines, IA	125	53	42%
Seattle	80	31	39%
Chicago	100	39	39%
Atlanta	250	93	37%
Other		1	
U.S. Total	1,865	874	47%
CANADA	125	55	44%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	80	56	70%
Edinburgh	40	24	60%
UK Total	120	80	67%
NEW ZEALAND*	85	50	59%
AUSTRALIA*	65	34	52%
SWEDEN*	35	23	66%
Int'l Totals	2,295	1,116	49%
Should be	2,400	1,200	50%

* Raised quota

SWP candidates present program to unite workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

“The financial crisis has spread to every part of the world,” Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, said October 25 at a campaign meeting in New York City. “The capitalist rulers act as if what they face is a temporary problem they can regulate themselves out of, or just securitize more debt and then go back on the same speculative binge again.

“This crisis does not stem from poor regulation,” the socialist candidate explained. “It is part of the way capitalism works.”

To fight against the impact of layoffs, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party put forward a series of demands that can overcome the divisions fostered by capitalism and unite workers in the United States and internationally, Calero said.

“We say cut the workweek with no cut in take-home pay to spread around the available work. Another measure needed to fight unemployment is a massive public works program at union-scale wages,” he explained.

“We need affirmative action programs” that can be a weapon in fighting the disproportionate impact of the crisis on Blacks in the United States, he said.

The socialist candidates also call for immediate, unconditional legalization of undocumented workers.

Nationalize under workers control

When workers demand higher wages in the face of rising prices, some bosses say they can’t pay. “Those businesses should be nationalized and put under workers control,” Calero said. He is also for nationalizing the energy industry, which has been raking in record profits.

Fighting around these kinds of demands will put working people in a better position to take power out of the hands of the wealthy capitalists and replace their government with a government of workers and farmers, he said.

While in New York, Calero walked the picket line with striking workers at Stella D’Oro, a biscuit factory in the Bronx. Workers there have been on strike since August 13, when the company refused to budge from its demands for steep wage and benefits cuts.

During an October 21–23 tour in Washington, D.C., Calero’s running mate, vice presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, spoke before five high

school classes and was interviewed by a radio station, two campus newspapers, and an online news service. She joined in a protest at Howard University calling for a halt to the execution of Troy Davis.

At Banneker High School, students were eager to ask Kennedy questions. One wanted to hear about the socialists’ program on international issues. Kennedy explained that one of the first acts of a Calero-Kennedy administration will be canceling the debt of the semicolonial countries.

On the final day of her tour in the Washington area, Kennedy joined representatives of the Green Party, the Democrats, and Republicans at a foreign policy debate hosted by the African Students Association at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Kennedy said that when elected the Socialist Workers candidates will immediately close down AFRICOM, the recently inaugurated military command center for the deployment of U.S. troops on the African continent, and instead offer unconditional aid to the region.

Cuba’s role in Africa

Kennedy pointed to Cuba as an example of solidarity “with no strings attached.” Cuba has a proud history in Africa, she said. Thousands of Cubans volunteered to fight side by side with the Angolan people to repel an invasion by the South African government in the 1970s and ’80s. The revolutionary government of Cuba continues to send thousands of health-care workers to Africa today as well as train African students to be doctors and nurses, she added.

Jeremiah Lowery, representing the Republican Party, questioned whether Kennedy, a coal miner of many years, was qualified to be vice president of the United States. “We need workers and farmers on Capitol Hill because everyone else there represents the wealthy class that exploits the working class,” she replied.

While Kennedy was in the Washington area, Calero campaigned in



Militant/Margaret Trowe

Socialist Workers Party vice presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy fields questions from members of debate club at South Broward High School in Hollywood, Florida, October 16.

New England. He addressed students at the University of Massachusetts–Boston and Central Connecticut State University, and campaigned in Somerville, Massachusetts, at the plant gate of Angelica Laundry, which is organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

He met with leaders of Maya K’iche, a Guatemalan immigrant rights group that has been leading the defense of the 360 workers arrested last year by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the raid at Michael Bianco, a sewing factory in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

In mid-October Kennedy campaigned in Florida. More than 35 students heard Kennedy speak after

school hours at a debate club meeting at South Broward High School in Hollywood.

“Would socialists take away from the wealthy people and give it to workers?” one student asked Kennedy. “We live under the wages system where the wealth workers produce is taken by the bosses,” Kennedy said. “We need a fighting alliance of workers, farmers, and youth that can build a revolutionary movement that will bring a workers and farmers government to power.”

Seth Dellinger and Tim Mailhot in Washington, D.C., Laura Garza in Boston, and Ellen Brickley in Miami contributed to this article.

Vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidates

The Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Róger Calero and Alyson Kennedy is on the ballot in Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Washington State, and has official write-in status in California, Connecticut, and Georgia. In Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, and Washington State, because of undemocratic legal requirements, Calero’s name does not appear on the ballot, and the stand-in candidate is James Harris, the SWP presidential candidate in 1996 and 2000.

California

Lea Sherman—U.S. Congress, 8th CD[†]
Gerardo Sánchez—U.S. Congress, 12th CD
Arlene Rubinstein—U.S. Congress, 37th CD

Florida

Omari Musa—U.S. Congress, 21st CD
Margaret Trowe—U.S. Congress, 17th CD

Georgia

Eleanor García—U.S. Senate[†]
Jeanne FitzMaurice—U.S. Congress, 4th CD[†]
Jacob Perasso—U.S. Congress, 5th CD[†]

Illinois

Betsey Farley—U.S. Senate
John Hawkins—U.S. Congress, 1st CD
Laura Anderson—U.S. Congress, 4th CD
Dennis Richter—U.S. Congress, 7th CD

Iowa

Frank Forrestal—U.S. Congress, 3rd CD^{*}

Massachusetts

William Leonard—State Senate,
2nd Suffolk District^{*}
Laura Garza—U.S. Senate

Minnesota

Ernest Mailhot—U.S. Senate
Tom Fiske—U.S. Congress, 4th CD
Rebecca Williamson—U.S. Congress, 5th CD

New Jersey

Sara Lobman—U.S. Senate^{*}
Michael Taber—U.S. Congress, 10th CD^{*}

New York

Martin Koppel—U.S. Congress, 15th CD^{*}
Dan Fein—U.S. Congress, 10th CD
Ben Joyce—U.S. Congress, 7th CD
Maura Deluca—U.S. Congress, 16th CD

Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart—U.S. Congress, 2nd CD

Texas

Jacquie Henderson—U.S. Senate
Amanda Ulman—U.S. Congress, 9th CD
Steven Warshell—U.S. Congress, 18th CD
Anthony Dutrow—State Rep., Dist. 138

Washington State

Chris Hoepfner—Governor
Mary Martin—U.S. Congress, 7th CD

Washington, D.C.

Seth Dellinger—Delegate to U.S. Congress
Sam Manuel—City Council At-Large

^{*} Candidate will appear on ballot

[†] Candidate has official write-in status



Militant/Dean Peoples

Róger Calero, right, with striker at Boeing picket line in Seattle October 18.

SWP presidential campaign tour schedule

Róger Calero

Oct. 31–Nov. 1 Washington, D.C.
November 2–3 Chicago
November 4 New York

Alyson Kennedy

November 1 Houston
November 2–3 Twin Cities
November 4 New York

ON THE PICKET LINE

N.Y. restaurant workers win back pay, overtime

Three dozen food delivery workers employed at Saigon Grill restaurants in Manhattan, New York, have won \$4.6 million in back pay, overtime, and damages. U.S. federal district judge Michael Dolinger ruled October 20 that the restaurant's owners violated federal and state wage laws, paying workers about \$2 an hour. Many worked more than 260 hours a month, putting in 12-hour days six to seven days a week and taking home just \$520. The case covers wage payments from 1999 to 2007.

"I'm very, very happy about this decision," deliveryman Yu Guan Ke told the *New York Times*. "It was worth the fight because we were treated badly for so long."

In March 2007 the bosses locked out the workers, almost all immigrants from China, at two Saigon Grill restaurants after they refused to sign a contract stipulating they were paid adequately and would not sue the boss. The workers responded with picketing, demanding they get their jobs back with overtime and back pay.

—Brian Williams

Thousands of automobile workers protest in France

PARIS—Several thousand auto workers from factories throughout France demonstrated at the World Auto Show in Paris October 10 to protest layoffs. The action was organized by the CGT union.

Renault is getting rid of 6,000 throughout Europe, including 4,000 in France. Several Peugeot factories are laying off 2,320 temporary workers. These layoffs began before the start of the current financial crisis.

The angry workers were allowed in the auto show free of charge and immediately made their way to the Renault and Peugeot exhibitions, where they climbed onto the slick displays, whistles and unions banners in hand, chanting "No cars without us!"

At the Renault Sandouville plant near Le Havre, workers have also been organizing frequent strike actions over the past few weeks to oppose the planned layoff of 1,000 workers. At the Ford transmission plant near Bordeaux 500 workers took a special train to Paris October 5 to demonstrate at the auto show inaugu-



Militant/Eddie Beck

Saigon Grill workers picket Manhattan restaurant in April 2007 after bosses locked them out for protesting wages of about \$2 an hour. Now workers have won back pay and damages.

ral in order to protest Ford's plans to sell the plant.

—Derek Jeffers

South Korean cops attack Kiryung Electronics strike

Workers on strike against Kiryung

Electronics in Seoul, South Korea, were attacked by police and company thugs while picketing outside the company gates October 15. Twelve members of the Korean Metal Workers' Union (KMWU) were arrested and others injured.

The unionists, all of them women who were first hired by a subcontracting agency, joined the KMWU in July 2005 in a fight for equality on the job and better working conditions. The company threatened them with dismissal for forming a union. The workers responded by going on strike.

More than three years after the walkout began, 32 workers remain on the picket line, reports the International Metalworkers' Federation. The unionists are demanding that the strikers be reinstated will full payment of back wages. Kiryung Electronics is a major producer of Sirius Satellite Radios.

—Brian Williams

World financial crisis stamps Canada elections

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL—The bid by the Conservatives to win a majority in the October 14 federal election in Canada failed. Instead, they formed another minority Conservative government.

The Conservatives called the election in the hopes of forming a majority government, but the deepening of the world financial crisis spoiled their attempt. During the election the government announced bailouts to Canada's banks to the tune of Can\$45 billion (Can\$1=US 82 cents). More than 300,000 jobs have been lost in manufacturing since 2002.

While the Conservatives increased their number of seats from 127 to 143, they fell short of the 155 required to form a majority in the 308-seat parliament. Voter participation fell to 59.1 percent, a historic low, and the vote for the Conservatives actually fell, even though their percentage increased.

The vote for the main bourgeois opposition party, the Liberals, fell even more and their number of seats dropped from 95 to 76. The New Democratic Party, a social democratic party that defends capitalism, saw its vote totals drop a small amount but picked up 7 more seats, rising to 37.

The Bloc Québécois, a bourgeois party that only runs in Quebec and advocates sovereignty, won two more seats but saw its vote total also decline. The Conservatives hoped to make gains in the province because they had presented a motion adopted by Parliament recognizing Quebec as a nation but saw their vote there decline even more. They were hurt by their cuts in subsidies to culture, which is a particularly sensitive question for the Quebecois, who are an oppressed nation within Canada.

The Green Party, a bourgeois party that tries to use environmental issues to win support, was the only party to increase its vote significantly but they won no seats.

The Communist League ran two candidates in the election in Montreal: Michel Dugré, in Rosemont-La

Petite Patrie, and Joseph Young, in St. Laurent-St. Michel. In face of the financial crisis, the Communist League candidates explained that a socialist revolution is needed that will throw the billionaire families out of power and replace them with a workers and farmers government. They raised the need for a labor party based on a fighting union movement.

Their campaign built solidarity with workers resisting the growing attacks of the employers. They supported workers striking against the Queen Elizabeth hotel in downtown Montreal and at the Petro-Canada refinery in Montreal's east end. Dugré and Young supported and helped build a march of more than 2,000 for

abortion rights on September 28.

The Communist League candidates also protested an attack on the campaign of William Sloan, the Communist Party of Canada candidate in Westmount-Ville-Marie. His signs, which called for "Canada out of Afghanistan" and "End Canadian Support to Apartheid Israel," were torn down by the city on September 28–29. In a letter to Mayor Karin Marks of Westmount, Dugré and Young said, "This action is a serious attack on freedom of expression. It violates the election law. We demand a public apology on the part of the City of Westmount and a commitment on its part that such actions will not be repeated."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 11, 1983

Washington has sharply escalated its aggression against Cuba, taking hostage Cuban workers and diplomats on the island of Grenada.

Simultaneously the U.S. State Department—without offering a single piece of evidence—has accused the Cuban government of ordering terrorist attacks around the world. Both are ominous moves that threaten bloody new reprisals against the Cuban people for their defense of the Grenada revolution.

As we go to press, U.S. troops have surrounded the Cuban embassy in Grenada barring all entry and exit. There are some 18 Cuban diplomatic personnel on the island, including children. In addition, U.S. troops say they are holding over 600 Cubans prisoner.

On November 1, Sir Paul Scoon, the man Washington has arbitrarily installed to run Grenada, ordered all Cuban diplomatic personnel off the island within 24 hours.



November 10, 1958

Moves toward reinstating police-state rule are meeting fierce opposition in Japan from over 4,000,000 trade unionists, who staged rallies, marches and work-stoppages throughout the country on Nov. 5.

At the opposite side of the "free world," in West Germany, a debate is raging on the parallel between authoritarian curbs being urged on that country by the U.S. and the stages of Hitler's rise to power.

The Japanese people are violently objecting to a government-sponsored bill which would give the police arbitrary authority to search, to disperse gatherings and to exercise other Gestapo-type power. The Japanese workers bitterly remember how the police exercised these powers in the pre-war dictatorships. To eliminate "dangerous thoughts," police stopped people on the streets, or students on the campus, demanded to see the books and papers they were carrying, invaded homes, prevented meetings, etc. etc.



November 11, 1933

New York—While the organization campaign drive of the Hotel and Restaurant Union Branch of the A.F.W. is going on as reported previously the Union is confronted now with a new serious situation.

The bosses realize that our Union is becoming a powerful force and they are preparing to strike the Union a blow. The big Hotel owners are working methodically in creating the scabbing machinery. They have already begun to force the workers of Taft and New Yorker Hotels to join the company Union. These Hotels so far have very few union members. This fact alone should convince every food worker that in order to protect his interests he must not only join the Union but convince his fellow workers to do the same.

The hours of the waitresses at Loft's are being lengthened, cooks and waiters are being fired arbitrarily, and the impossible burden of proving that the discharge is for union activity is being put on the organized workers.

Socialist candidate backs N.Y. strikers, speaks on campus

BY ANDREA MORELL

NEW YORK—Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Róger Calero took his campaign to the strike picket line at Stella D'Oro Biscuit Co. in the Bronx, October 27.

The strike by 136 members of the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 50, which began August 13, is in response to the bosses' attempt to impose a contract with cuts in wages, holidays, and vacation pay and whose most onerous conditions are aimed at unskilled workers, in an attempt to divide the workforce.

Workers expressed determination not to give in and pride that no one has crossed the line and returned to work, despite attempts by management to lure some skilled workers back, by promising wage increases just for them.

Calero said the capitalist economic crisis will get worse and the attacks on wages and workers' standard of

living will intensify. "What can we do?" asked striker Emilia Dorsu. "We have to do what you're doing, multiplied by the millions," Calero said.

One striker subscribed to the *Militant*, adding to the several bakery workers who have subscriptions to the socialist newsweekly.

At Hunter College in Manhattan the next evening, Calero fielded questions from students. A student originally from Liberia asked whether Democratic Party presidential candidate Barack Obama was really a socialist, since he advocates spreading the wealth. Calero answered, "None of the proposals of Obama or McCain challenges the system of capitalist exploitation. What Obama means by sharing the wealth starts with a pie that never includes the bosses' profits. It's a scam to make you believe there is a limited amount of money available. Meanwhile, Obama wants to go line by line through the federal budget to



Militant/Mitra Sharma

Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Róger Calero speaks with striking workers on a picket line outside Stella D'Oro biscuit factory in Bronx, New York, October 27.

make 'adjustments.' What he means are cuts. Socialism is a society organized for the benefit of the majority and with a government that repre-

sents the interests of working people and is made up of workers and farmers. That is the kind of government needed to fight for socialism."

SWP Party-Building Fund gets boost as campaign effort steps up

BY BEN JOYCE

The Party-Building Fund of the Socialist Workers Party is gaining momentum after the third week as supporters of the communist movement step up campaigning efforts across the country and around the world. Increased contributions have narrowed the gap between funds collected and this week's target. Branches and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party are now in a position to take the next step—build on this week's momentum and surpass our targets for next week.

Four branches have raised their goals in recent weeks. "The Chicago

branch decided to raise its fund quota from \$8,000 to \$9,000 based on new pledges and the response by contributors in the region who are inspired by the work of the party today," reports Dennis Richter, fund director in Chicago.

An October 26 meeting in Chicago celebrating 80 years of building a communist party in the United States featured talks by Betsey Farley and Joe Swanson, leaders of the Chicago and Des Moines SWP branches, respectively. The event netted \$1,542 in contributions. Five new pledges were made, including one from a meat packer and another from a rubber worker.

Tony Dutrow, fund director in Houston, reports \$1,380 was raised in new pledges and contributions at a similar meeting there that weekend. The event featured a presentation by Tom Leonard, a longtime leader of the SWP, on the party's rich history in the U.S. class struggle and its lessons for today.

Meetings are scheduled around the country to celebrate the party's 80 years of communist continuity and to raise money towards the fund. For information on how to make a contribution, contact a distributor on page 8.

\$90,000 Socialist Workers Party Party-Building Fund			
Fall 2008 ♦ Week 3			
CITY	QUOTA	PAID	%
Des Moines, IA*	\$2,000	\$1,040	52%
Seattle	\$6,500	\$3,033	47%
Miami	\$3,200	\$1,431	45%
Newark, NJ	\$3,500	\$1,495	43%
San Francisco	\$13,000	\$5,430	42%
Washington, D.C.	\$4,300	\$1,600	37%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$2,687	32%
Twin Cities*	\$6,000	\$1,850	31%
Boston	\$2,800	\$825	29%
New York	\$15,500	\$4,131	27%
Chicago*	\$9,000	\$2,328	26%
Philadelphia	\$3,500	\$812	23%
Houston	\$2,500	\$190	8%
Atlanta*	\$8,500	\$165	2%
Other		\$300	
Total	\$88,800	\$27,317	31%
Should be	\$90,000	\$30,000	33%
*raised goal			

Haitian rightist faces up to 37 years for fraud charges

BY SAM MANUEL

Emmanuel Constant, the leader of a rightist death squad in Haiti in the 1990s, was sentenced up to 37 years in prison October 28. He was convicted in a mortgage fraud scheme in the State Supreme Court in Brooklyn, New York. Constant was charged and convicted of setting up fake home buyers, giving false information on applications, and inflating appraisals that swindled lenders out of more than \$1 million, reported the *New York Times*. He was given a prison term of 12 to 37 years.

Constant led the Revolutionary Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH), a rightist out-

fit that was responsible for the deaths of thousands of supporters of Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and toppled his government in 1991. Sections of the Haitian military trained and armed FRAPH members. Constant fled to the United States when Aristide returned to Haiti after 18,000 U.S. troops invaded and occupied the island. He surfaced in Queens, New York, where he set up a real estate agency.

Deportation proceedings against Constant were suddenly dropped in 1995 after he threatened on the 60 Minutes news program to expose CIA involvement in the formation of FRAPH.

Haitian rally in Florida demands legal status



Militant

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—More than 1,000 people rallied here October 24 to demand the U.S. government grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian immigrants. Buses brought people from Fort Lauderdale, Delray Beach, and as far away as Orlando, Florida.

TPS would grant undocumented Haitians temporary residency status and the ability to obtain work authorization. In the past TPS has been granted to immigrants from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Somalia, Burundi, and Sudan.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) temporarily suspended deportations of Haitians without papers this summer, after four storms caused massive flooding in Haiti. But ICE is still arresting Haitians without documents and keeping them jailed. The U.S. Coast Guard is intercepting and sending back Haitians at sea who are trying to reach U.S. soil.

The rally was organized by the Haitian Citizen United Task Force, which said it is now planning a rally in Washington, D.C.

—DEBORAH LIATOS AND MARGARET TROWE

Gains of Cuba's socialist revolution discussed at UK campus meeting

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON
AND ALEX XEZONAKIS

CANTERBURY, England—"Before the Cuban Revolution there was discrimination against Blacks and Chinese," said Yuxin Zhao. "Chinese were looked down on. But after the revolution they enjoyed the same rights as others."

Zhao was one of the panelists discussing *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. Seventy people attended the discussion, held October 16 at the University of Kent in Canterbury, 60 miles southeast of London.

A student at the university and member of the Chinese Culture Society, Zhao told the audience he had come to the United Kingdom from China three years ago. There "we learned at school about the Opium Wars and how people were taken to the U.S.—but not about Cuba," he said. He was referring to the 19th century "coolie trade" in which hundreds of thousands of Chinese were shipped to the Americas and press-ganged into indentured labor.

Our History Is Still Being Written, published by Pathfinder Press, tells the story of Chinese Cubans, including their participation in the 19th century wars of independence against Spanish colonial rule as well as the 1959 revolution.

"The wars of independence were about human rights," Zhao said. "That's why the Chinese fought. They had to fight for their own freedom . . . I learned a part of Chinese emigrant history in this book that I couldn't find anywhere else."

Neva Sadikoglu welcomed the audience on behalf of the Current Affairs Society, one of the student groups sponsoring the event. Two weeks earlier, the group had hosted a presentation by Young Socialists member Alex Xezonakis on the international campaign to free five Cuban revolutionaries who

have spent a decade in U.S. prisons, framed up on charges ranging from "conspiracy to commit espionage" to "conspiracy to commit murder."

Other sponsors mentioned by Sadikoglu included the Hispanic Studies Department, Hispanic Society, Chinese Culture Society, Centre for American Studies, Kent Mauritian Society, and Pathfinder Books.

"This book charts the life story of three remarkable revolutionaries: Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong," said Giacomo Macola, a lecturer in African history who chaired the meeting. "It takes us to three countries in three continents—China, Cuba, and Angola."

Macola introduced the speakers. Besides Zhao, they were William Rowlandson, a lecturer in Hispanic studies, and Jonathan Silberman from Pathfinder Books in London.

China, Cuba, and Britain

A clip was shown from the documentary *Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors and Settlers* by Chinese American filmmaker Loni Ding. "As we saw in the film, after abolition of the slave trade Britain became a flag bearer of the coolie trade," Rowlandson pointed out.

Today, Silberman noted in his remarks, "there are tens of thousands of undocumented Chinese workers in this country, working in unsafe conditions for subminimum wage."

In recent years, he said, these conditions of superexploitation were highlighted by two disasters. One was the 2004 drowning of 23 undocumented Chinese cockle pickers in Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, who were left to the mercy of the tide by their bosses. The other, also in 2004, was the suffocation of 58 Chinese immigrants in Dover who had been forced to travel in a lorry (truck) container.

"More important is the resistance of Chinese and other immigrant workers in this country," Silberman said. "Earlier this year, workers in the catering trade—from Bangladeshi, Turkish, and Chinese restaurants—took to the streets in London to protest police raids and deportations, to raise the banner that they are workers, not criminals."

Workers like these find a great deal in *Our History Is Still Being Written*, he said. He cited the afterword of the new Chinese translation by Wang Lusha, the translator. Wang, who lived outside China for five years, "writes that at first the prejudice he encountered made him almost ashamed to be Chinese. But one man made him rethink this: Moisés Sío Wong, a general, who, through this book, introduced Wang to many other Chinese Cubans with revolutionary histories," Silberman said.



Militant/Ann Fiander

Neva Sadikoglu, from Current Affairs Society, speaking at presentation of *Our History Is Still Being Written* at University of Kent in Canterbury, England, October 16. Seated from left are: Giacomo Macola and William Rowlandson, teachers of African history and Hispanic studies respectively; Yuxin Zhao, Chinese Culture Society; and Jonathan Silberman, Pathfinder Books in London.

In the lively question-and-answer period, an exchange developed over Cuba's internationalist mission to Angola. Between 1975 and 1991, some 375,000 Cuban volunteers helped beat back an invasion of Angola by South Africa's apartheid regime. In the book, the three generals relate their participation in this effort.

Macola said he had doubts about the book's assertion that the Cuban government's decision to send troops to Angola was taken independently of Moscow "until I read *Conflicting Missions* by Piero Gleijeses, which documents this fact thoroughly."

He said he still wondered if Cuba's motives in Angola "could be ascribed exclusively to ideology, to internationalism." He cited a CIA document suggesting Cuba had been gathering a force of radical African states as a counterbalance to the Soviet Union.

"Cuba was driven by internationalism," Rowlandson replied. "But it was also looking for new forces and alliances. . . . The two are not mutually exclusive. I don't think there was any underlying conspiracy."

Silberman said revolutionary Cuba's first mission in Africa was to newly independent Algeria in 1963, helping to repel an imperialist-inspired invasion by the Moroccan regime. Cuba sent tanks to Algeria that it had just received from Moscow on the explicit instructions that they only be used in Cuba. "That's what Cuba's revolutionaries do: take their place at the front line of the class struggle, at home and abroad. That's why the generals were in Angola, and why three of the Cuban Five were also there."

Cuba in face of world crisis

One of the themes of the discussion was the international financial crisis. Rowlandson centered his remarks on the book's explanation of how the revolution confronted what in Cuba is known as the Special Period, the deep economic crisis, including a food crisis, that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union, with which Cuba had enjoyed favorable trade relations.

He noted that Sío Wong was among the main promoters of urban agriculture in Cuba to grow food. By 2004 this cultivation involved 380,000 people who produced some 4 million tons of vegetables that year.

Answering a question about how Cuba is affected by today's world financial crisis, Silberman said that although working people there have

some protection because of the social gains of their revolution, Cuba cannot escape the impact of an international economic contraction. He pointed out that with the rise in food prices on the world market, it will cost Cuba an additional \$1 billion to import the same amount of food this year as last.

"Is Cuba an example to us?" asked student Julia Murphy. "Are there disadvantages?"

Rowlandson said Cuba showed what ordinary people could achieve "from the grass roots." He said Cuba's "human rights record has been patchy. . . . But I recently attended a talk in London by Cuban author Leonardo Padura, who contrasted the openness of discussion and debate in Cuba today as compared to the 1970s, when cultural policies were strongly influenced by the Soviet Union and many writers and artists could not get published because they were deemed 'politically unreliable.' Padura said now 'the genie is out of the bottle and can't be put back.'"

Silberman said in Cuba working people have conquered political power. One of the measures the revolutionary government carried out was a thoroughgoing land reform. "This allows Cuba's workers and farmers to confront the huge challenges we've been discussing. This course of struggle is addressed in the book. It shows what's necessary and possible here in the United Kingdom."

At the meeting or leading up to it, 11 people purchased *Our History* at Kent University. Thirty-two subscribed to the *Militant*. Many participants stayed for discussion well after the meeting ended, and 30 people carried on at an on-campus bar.



Militant/Dag Tirsén

Andrés Mendoza (left), Young Socialists member in London, talks with student while building October 16 presentation on *Our History Is Still Being Written*.

Our History Is Still Being Written

The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong—three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry—threw themselves into the great proletarian battle that defined their generation. —\$20

Also available in Spanish and Chinese!

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

How Cuban Revolution has transformed women's lives

Printed below are excerpts from the introduction to *Women and the Cuban Revolution* by Elizabeth Stone. The book contains documents and speeches by Fidel Castro; Vilma Espín, leader of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC); and others from the early years of the revolution to the opening of the 1980s. One of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for November, it describes the gains won by women in the fight for full equality since the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. These includes gains in education, health care, the expansion of child care services, and women's changing role in the workforce. Copy-



Juventud Rebelde

Cuban women's antiaircraft artillery regiment on internationalist mission in Cahoma, Angola, September 1988, repulsing a South African apartheid regime invasion. Standing at center in white blouse is Vilma Espín, then president of Federation of Cuban Women.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

right ©1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY ELIZABETH STONE

The struggle of women for equal rights in Cuba is a process. At every stage, underdevelopment has placed obstacles along the way. But since 1959 there have been big leaps forward in all areas—from the right to an education, a job, paid maternity leaves, child care, and abortion to getting rid of prostitution

and ending degrading practices such as beauty contests and sexist advertising.

Such impressive gains could not have been achieved except within the context of a deepgoing revolution which not only challenged the oppression of women, but set out to eradicate capitalism—an economic system whose motive force is maximizing profit for a tiny handful who own the productive resources of society—and replace it with an economic system based on maximizing the well-being of all. Every single gain Cuban women have made—whether it has been the right to a job or free abortion and contraception or equal education—has come about as part of this broader revolutionary transformation aimed at improving the lives and standard of living of the masses of Cuban workers and peasants.

The women who were most oppressed before the revolution—Black women, poor peasants, agricultural workers, prostitutes, maids, and the urban poor—have benefited most from this process.

Before the revolution, discrimination against Black women was severe. Segregation existed in public areas and facilities such as hotels and beaches, and Black women had an even harder time than their sisters in getting a job. Black women were excluded from some of the more sought-after occupations such as nursing.

Now racial discrimination and segre-

gation in jobs, schooling, housing, and recreational facilities is a thing of the past in Cuba. Some racist attitudes still exist, especially among older people, and the effects of the legacy of centuries of Black oppression have not been fully eradicated. But the whole revolutionary climate of Cuba—the internationalism, the solidarity with liberation struggles in Africa, and the opposition to racism and chauvinism of any kind—helps to counteract this and puts Cuba in the vanguard of the fight against racism internationally.

In Cuba today there is no capitalist ruling class which seeks to profit from racism or sexism and there is no capitalist drive to roll back gains already won in order to improve profit margins.

Masses of Cubans have taken part in discussions about women's rights in their CDRs [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], the FMC, and the assemblies of People's Power, and voted on what course should be taken to bring this about. And masses of working people and peasants have participated directly in bringing about the needed changes through activities such as the campaign to bring women into the work force.

There is nothing that dramatizes the interrelationship between the class struggle and the struggle of women in Cuba better than the commitment of the Cuban government to the expansion of

social services such as child care. While the government in the U.S. is cutting back on such things as education, health-care benefits, pensions for old people, and aid to the handicapped, Cuba continues to devote more and more resources to such services. And there is a strong emphasis on trying to make public institutions and services of as high a quality as possible.

The nature of the child-care centers is a prime example of this. Children at the centers are provided with clothes, bathed, given nutritious meals, and provided with regular medical examinations, shots, and dental care. Psychiatric care is also provided where needed.

The purpose of such centers is not simply that of baby-sitting while parents work, but to promote the full intellectual, physical, and social growth of the children. There is also a conscious attempt to develop in them a social consciousness. For example, children learn about how workers and farmers produce the food and other products they use, and they are taught to value the contributions made by all those who work. Children learn to share with each other, are taught to respect each other, and to identify with children of other countries.

The long-term goal is for all preschool children to be able to go to such centers, where they can benefit from an environment structured especially for them—with facilities, toys, and an experience with other children that an individual home cannot provide. Even infants benefit from the collective experience at the centers and babies are accepted from the age of 45 days on. . . .

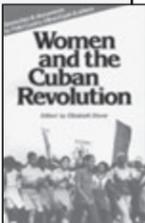
Another inspiring innovation for youth of the junior high school level are the hundreds of boarding schools in the countryside. The youth at these schools are put in charge of agricultural projects and spend part of the day working in the fields and the other part studying, going to classes, and taking part in sports and other recreational activities. The guiding principle for this type of school, as it is for all Cuban education, is that of combining physical work with study. At every grade level, young people in Cuba participate in some kind of manual labor. Even the preschool and grade school youngsters help tend little gardens.

November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25%
DISCOUNT

Women and the Cuban Revolution
Edited by Elizabeth Stone
 Leaders of the Cuban Revolution present the road forward in the fight for the emancipation of women. Speeches and documents by Fidel Castro, Vilma Espín, and others.
 \$16. **Special price: \$12**



The Balkan Wars (1912-13)
by Leon Trotsky
 \$35. **Special price: \$26**

Maurice Bishop Speaks
 \$25. **Special price: \$18.50**

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics:
 Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes
 Building the kind of party working people need to prepare for coming class battles through which they will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all society.
 \$23. **Special price: \$17**



Independent Black Political Action 1954-78.
 \$8. **Special price: \$6**

L'histoire du trotskysme américain, 1928-38.
 (The History of American Trotskyism)
by James P. Cannon
 \$22. **Special price: \$16.50**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
 OFFER GOOD UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2008

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2826 S. Vermont Ave. #9 Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 737-2191. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 6777 NW 7th Ave., Suite 5. Zip: 33150. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381395. Zip: 33238. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2840 NE Expressway, Suite 102. Zip: 30345. Tel: (404) 471-1165. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwest.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2

E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, H2S 2N1. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: cllc_can@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauk@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-2466. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cledinburgh@talktalk.net

Vote Socialist Workers!

Continued from front page

revolutionary movement of millions, one that can replace the capitalist government with a government of workers and farmers and put an end to the wages system.

Along with Socialist Workers Party candidates across the country, Calero and Kennedy demand that the federal government launch a public works program to build schools, hospitals, and affordable housing and to rebuild deteriorating infrastructure. They call for shortening the workweek to 30 hours with no cut in take-home pay to spread the available work around. They campaign for cost-of-living clauses in union contracts and in government benefit programs so that, as prices increase, pay and benefits go up automatically.

The socialist candidates have marched in support of workers standing up for their right to live and work in this country. The socialist campaign calls for legalization for all undocumented immigrants as a means to unify working people and strengthen our fight against the bosses' attack on wages, working conditions, and the right to unionize.

The socialist candidates and their supporters have walked picket lines from coast to coast, backing the strikes by Machinists at Boeing in Seattle and by bakery workers at the Stella D'Oro plant in New York, who are fighting to defend wages, benefits, and jobs.

When capitalist-made social disasters struck in the aftermath of hurricanes Gustav and Ike, Calero traveled to Texas to speak with workers. He called for a massive public works program to rebuild homes and roads, providing jobs at union scale to the many workers left jobless. The socialists also demand Washington lift its embargo preventing Cuba, seriously damaged by the two hurricanes, from importing needed food, medical supplies, and machinery.

The socialists call for cancellation of the foreign debt of the semicolonial countries and an end to all U.S. protective tariffs, which have ruinous effects

on those nations.

As the economic crisis deepens, oppressed nationalities, women, and immigrants are the hardest hit. The socialist candidates have joined actions demanding affirmative action in hiring on construction sites and desegregation of public schools.

They demand a halt to the execution of Troy Davis, framed up in Georgia, and the prosecution of killer cops to the full extent of the law.

Calero, Kennedy, and their supporters have campaigned across the country for the release of the five Cuban revolutionaries who have been unjustly held in U.S. prisons for a decade. The fight to win the freedom of these five working-class fighters is in the interest of all working people. The illegal police surveillance, wiretapping, surreptitious entries, and secret evidence used to frame the Cuban Five will be used against other workers who stand up to the bosses and their government.

From the beginning of the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the SWP campaign has demanded the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from these and other countries where they are stationed.

On November 4, make your vote count! Vote for the Socialist Workers Party, the working-class alternative to imperialist war, economic depression, and racist discrimination.

Hear the national and local SWP candidates at election night celebrations November 4 at campaign headquarters across the country. Come to Newark, New Jersey, November 22 for the public meeting announced on page 1 on "The Crisis Has Barely Begun! . . . and Workers' Fight to End the Wages System Is Posed."

After November 4, the socialists will continue to be on the streets, taking part in fights for legalization of undocumented workers, in defense of unions, against police brutality, and for safety on the job. We urge you to join them in these struggles. Join them in fighting for the only realistic program that can end capitalist rule and open the road to a socialist world.

Workers resist ICE raids in Minnesota

Continued from front page

Lewisville, and Windom. ICE arrested 19 people, all from Latin America.

Word of the arrests spread quickly. "Many workers did not come to work and left the area," explained a worker from St. James who asked that his name not be used. "Because of the big raid at the Swift plant in Worthington an hour from here, we were a little more prepared," he said. "We didn't open our doors so easily." Some of the stores in the area became centers of communication where immigrant workers could exchange information about the raids and discuss how to protect themselves.

Watonwan County is located 120 miles southwest of Minneapolis and 60 miles from Worthington, Minnesota, where ICE arrested more than 200 workers at the Swift meatpacking plant on Dec. 12, 2006. Many workers in the county are employed by meatpacking or other factories. Meat packers at the PM Beef plant in Windom fought to organize a union in 2007 to defend themselves against low pay and harsh working conditions. That year workers in their majority voted for the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW). Workers at the Tony Downs food processing plant in Madelia are organized into the same local of the UFCW. ICE claimed the latest raids were targeting specific individuals, "fugitive aliens" who have evaded deportation or immigration hearings. But working people in the area told story after story of how ICE

stopped and questioned other workers and knocked on homes and apartments of neighbors of those "specifically targeted."

On arriving in St. James, this reporter spoke by phone to Edith Rodríguez, who lives in Butterfield. ICE had seized her mother a few hours earlier. "I was surprised by the brutality of ICE against my family," she said. "They pushed in the door and treated my mother with indignity."

On October 24 some 60 people demonstrated in Minneapolis against the raids. One of the protesters traveled two hours from Watonwan County. "Stop the raids! *Alto a las redadas!*" shouted the demonstrators in English and Spanish. The action was called by the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Coalition.

How to advance the defense of immigrant workers was the central topic of discussion among participants at the Militant Labor Forum in Minneapolis that evening after the demonstration. "We didn't think a raid in a small town was likely," stated one participant, a worker from Watonwan County.

Among the speakers at the forum was Tom Fiske, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the 4th District. "The protest today was very important," he said. "An attack on undocumented workers is an attack on the working class as a whole.

"The first job of working people who want to defend themselves against the assault of the bosses," he continued, "is to fight for legalization of all immigrant workers and to build and strengthen unions wherever we work. Our unions are our first line of defense against the offensive of the bosses. It is clear from what has happened over the last few years that the fight for legalization is totally tied to the fight to organize strong unions that we workers can use to defend ourselves."

Pakistan

Continued from front page

istan's parliament resolved to combat "terrorism, including the spread of sectarian hatred and violence." The document was drafted by representatives of Pakistan's 16 main parties, including the pro-Taliban Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Assembly of Islamic Clergy). It makes no specific mention of the Taliban or al-Qaeda.

The resolution places a priority on "dialogue" with "all those elements willing to abide by the Constitution of Pakistan," reflecting the desire of many Pakistani politicians to negotiate peace with the Taliban—something Washington has opposed.

At the same time, Gen. David Petraeus, incoming commander of the U.S. Central Command, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates have both backed talks between the Afghan government and some elements of the Taliban that are willing to negotiate on terms acceptable to Kabul and Washington.

The Pakistani parliament's resolution states that the "nation stands united against any incursions and invasions of the homeland," a clear allusion to the unilateral strikes by U.S. forces in Pakistan in the regions bordering Afghanistan.

The target of Washington's October 23 missile attack was a madrasa (Islamic school) run by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a Taliban commander, according to the U.S. military. Haqqani was an officer in the U.S.-backed mujahideen forces fighting troops of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s, and allied himself with the Taliban led by Mullah Mohammad Omar as it rose to power. This is the second U.S. strike aimed at Haqqani in six weeks.

Five days later, U.S. missiles killed about 20 in the South Waziristan region, in an area under control of Tehrik-e-Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud.

Washington has carried out 25 attacks on Pakistani soil this year as of October 26, compared to 10 total attacks in 2006–07.

The U.S. military has stepped up these attacks since the end of August. September was the highest month so far with nine attacks, including one involving ground troops. The October 26 strike makes seven so far in October.

Pakistani military officials say they have killed 1,000 Islamist fighters in the Bajur region. Civilian deaths have mounted in the wake of the offensive. As a result, Pakistan faces a serious refugee crisis; more than 200,000 people have fled the Bajur, Mohmand, Swat, and Waziristan regions in the last two months. Many displaced residents are homeless and without basic necessities or education for children.

"We have no shelter, no jobs, and no food. I am worried about our survival in this situation," Mastan Kahn from Bajur told Pakistan's *Daily Jang*. Bozore Khan, a 13-year-old boy from Swat, said, "After migrating to Rawalpindi, the only thing I do is to beg in the streets. I cannot see my parents suffer from hunger."

At the same time, toilers throughout Pakistan are faced with the consequences of a major economic crisis. Power shortages throughout the country have sparked demonstrations in several cities and water shortages were reported in part of Islamabad.

Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell praised the offensive in Swat and Bajur in an October 22 news briefing. Islamabad's military operations, he said, are "stepped up not just in terms of tempo, but in terms of effectiveness. As a result, we have seen some improvement in the flow of foreign fighters across the border into Afghanistan."

The Pakistani government has enlisted tribal militias in the border regions to fight Taliban and al-Qaeda forces in seven districts. According to Pakistani Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, Islamabad has recruited some 10,000 people. The Pakistani military gives the militia artillery and helicopter backup, but doesn't supply weapons, ammunition, or food, limiting their effectiveness, according to Pakistani generals quoted in the *New York Times*.

The Taliban have targeted pro-government tribal leaders, killing as many as 500 in the last four years. Taliban forces killed 10 and took more than 60 people hostage October 26 in the Matta region of Pakistan's Swat District, where an anti-Taliban militia has been formed, according to Pakistan's *Daily Times*. Some 20 Taliban were killed in the clash.

Correction

The November 3 issue contains an article incorrectly titled "U.S.-born Pakistani fights conspiracy charge." The headline refers to Syed Fahad Hashmi who is a U.S. citizen, born in Pakistan.