

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

N.Y. meeting discusses openings to build communist movement
—PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 45 NOVEMBER 23, 2009

White House plans for Afghan war escalation

Mulls sending 30,000 or more troops



U.S. Army/Sgt. Matthew Moeller

U.S. Army soldiers November 3 take cover in heavy firefight with Taliban forces at Waterpur Valley in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

BY SAM MANUEL

While denying that any decision has been made, White House officials say that President Barack Obama will likely approve sending tens of thousands additional troops to Afghanistan.

Civilian deaths in the eight-year-old war continue to mount. Nine civilians, including at least three children, were killed in a NATO rocket strike November 5, reported Associated Press.

The Obama administration has not been helped by the outcome of the presidential election in Afghanistan, which Washington hoped would establish a more credible regime in Ka-

bul. It was instead rife with charges of election fraud and the main challenger, Abdullah Abdullah, dropped out of a planned runoff.

According to Associated Press, White House officials said that the deployment of additional troops to Afghanistan would most likely begin in January, aimed at strengthening their presence in 10 key cities and towns. Washington's top general in Afghanistan, Stanley McChrystal, submitted an assessment of war strategy there calling for an additional 40,000 troops.

White House officials have said the

Continued on page 11

North Korean patrol boat is fired on in unprovoked attack

BY SAM MANUEL

South Korean warships fired on a North Korean patrol boat along the western sea border November 10. The U.S.-backed South Korean government placed its military on alert.

There is no dispute that the South Korean warships initiated the attack. South Korea's prime minister, Chung Un-chan, told South Korea's YTN television that the North Korean vessel had unintentionally violated South Korean waters. The South Korean military fired warning shots at it. When the North Korean ship returned fire it was directly fired on by South Korean ships, according to a statement by the South Korean military.

A statement by the North Korean military said its patrol boat was attacked after it had been instructed to cross into South Korean waters to investigate an unidentified object near the North's side. The statement said the North Korean boat was attacked as it was returning to the North.

Seoul's main daily *Chosun Ilbo* re-

ported that one North Korean navy officer was believed to have been killed and three sailors wounded. The South Korean military said in a statement that it could not confirm any North Korean casualties.

Traveling with President Barack Obama aboard Air Force One, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs blamed the North Korean government

Continued on page 6

Bosses use layoffs to raise worker productivity

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

U.S. government officials are more confidently claiming that the economy is beginning to improve. One of the bright spots they point to is a rise in "productivity." Those with jobs are being driven by the bosses to produce more in fewer hours.

The official unemployment rate is now above 10 percent. Since the 1930s depression, this has happened only once before.

The day before release of the October unemployment figures, Congress voted to extend unemployment benefits in all states by 14 weeks, and an additional six weeks in states with unemployment levels greater than 8.5 percent.

There are 5.6 million workers who have been out of work for six months or more. They now make up one-third of those on the unemployment rolls. The benefit extension will apply to those whose checks will run out by December 31, which the Senate estimates is nearly 2 million people, CNN Money reported.

For the month of October, unemployment rose to 10.2 percent—that's

Continued on page 11

Health-care bill attacks right to abortion

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The health "reform" bill passed by the House of Representatives November 7 includes a major attack on a woman's right to choose an abortion. It prohibits people who receive newly proposed federal health subsidies from buying insurance plans that include abortion coverage. A proposed government-run plan would also bar funding for abortions, except in cases of incest, rape, or if the woman's life is in danger.

The amendment by Democrat Bart Stupak of Michigan was added to the bill at the last moment, winning approval in a 240-194 bipartisan vote. Five states—Idaho, Kentucky, Missouri, North Dakota, and Oklahoma—already bar private insurance plans from covering elective abortions.

About 85 percent of those who will be buying insurance under the proposed plan will receive government subsidies, which would be provided to anyone earning less than \$88,000 for a family of four. The amendment is an incentive to private insurance companies to discontinue offering plans to

Continued on page 7

Israel to continue settlements as 'peace talks' near collapse

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, is threatening to resign. He announced November 5 that he would not participate in Palestinian elections he had called for January, raising a question mark over the Authority's continued existence.

This move comes as Tel Aviv is continuing construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with no progress toward negotiating the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Abbas "see no state coming so he really doesn't think there is a need to be president or to have an Authority," Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator in "peace" talks, told the *New York Times*. "You think anybody will stay after he leaves?"

The Palestinian Authority was set up in 1994 as an interim governing body for what was to be a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories Tel Aviv occupied in

Continued on page 3

Final push for 'Militant' readers

BY TOM BAUMANN

This week marks the final stretch of the fall 2009 subscription campaign, which runs through November 17. Over the past eight weeks supporters of the *Militant* have been organizing to win 2,000 new subscribers to the socialist press. Readers interested in helping us surpass this international quota should contact the distributor nearest them, listed on page 10.

Brian Williams from New York

reports that five long-term renewals were collected at the November 7 public meeting on "What Does the Dictatorship of Capital Have in Store for Working People?" organized by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists in New York. More than \$1,000 in Pathfinder books was sold.

The following day supporters of the *Militant* hit the streets of New York and signed up nine new readers. Joe Fields, a distributor of the

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

San Diego rally counters anti-immigrant rightists	2
Maryland students defend affirmative action	4
Tamil refugees demand asylum in Australia	5
Cuban foreign minister answers U.S. gov't at UN	6

San Francisco: bridge reopens with warning

BY LEA SHERMAN

SAN FRANCISCO—Commuters drive across the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge gingerly these days. Following a six-day closure the bridge was reopened, but with the warning that it would be shut down again in a few months for further repair, reported the November 3 *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The failure of the bridge’s steel rods highlights the continuing crumbling of infrastructure in the United States and the failure of the federal, state, and local governments to devote resources to make necessary repairs. There are some 77,000 U.S. bridges considered structurally deficient.

On October 27 during rush hour 5,000 pounds of steel assembly and two steel tie rods crashed down on motorists crossing the bridge.

What had come crashing down was itself the patch repair of a crack in a critical structural beam done during the Labor Day weekend. Three vehicles were totaled. Miraculously there were no serious injuries or deaths.

The 73-year-old bridge, which connects San Francisco with Oakland and the East Bay, is traveled daily by some 280,000 motorists.

In a September 8 press release, officials lauded the earlier repair completed ahead of schedule. Caltrans director Randell Iwasaki boasted, “The bridge has been inspected and it is now safer than when we closed it.”

Civil engineering professor Abolhassan Astaneh-Asl from University of California, Berkeley refuted the

safety of that repair. He called it “a Band-Aid” that was supposed to keep the fractured beam or “eyebar” together.

“The combination of the weight of the traffic and the force of the wind exceeded the capacity of this temporary repair,” he stated. “It was like the bone is broken and you put casting in so the break point doesn’t get worse and the cast doesn’t break open. But it did break open. You don’t open the bridge with a temporary fix on it.”

This is the longest closure of the bridge since the monthlong closure after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake toppled a 50-foot section.

While the bridge was closed workers had to use BART at a minimum cost of \$7 per day round trip from San Francisco to Oakland or drive on other bridges in the Bay Area, which prolonged the driving time and increased heavy traffic congestion.

During the six-day closure Caltrans lost massive toll revenues and worked round-the-clock to repair the bridge.

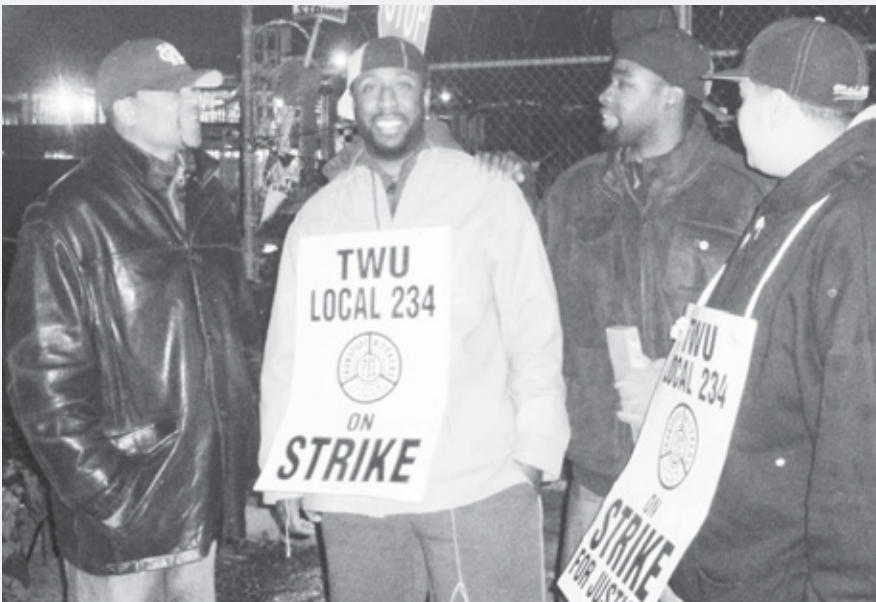
San Diego rally counters anti-immigrant rightists

BY RICK TRUJILLO

SAN DIEGO, November 6—More than 140 supporters of immigrant rights picketed outside the parking lot of an exclusive Mission Bay marina hotel here to protest an appearance by Maricopa County, Arizona, sheriff Joseph Arpaio.

Arpaio drew nationwide attention in February when he forced more than 200 Latino prisoners to march

Philadelphia transit workers strike over pensions



Militant/Janet Post

PHILADELPHIA—Members of Transport Workers Union Local 234 picket during a strike by the union against SEPTA, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. The six-day strike by 5,100 transportation workers November 3-8 shut down bus and trolley operations. The latest proposed contract will be voted on in a week and a half, according to union officials. One of the main issues in dispute is the attempt by SEPTA to increase workers’ payments toward their pensions, thus impacting any negotiated wage increases. The union explains that the company has underfunded the pension fund. There is also disagreement on work rules in the maintenance department involving workers’ rights to choose jobs by seniority.

—JANET POST

through the streets of Phoenix before TV news cameras, in shackles and prison stripes, from the jail to a tent prison set up to detain immigrants in the desert.

Nearly two dozen Arpaio supporters showed up carrying American flags and signs that read, “Deport La Raza.” They were cordoned off behind three squad cars. Other cop cars patrolled the area.

The rightist sheriff was in town to endorse Jay La Suer, a 31-year veteran sheriff’s deputy who is running for sheriff of San Diego County in a June 2010 election. Many cops and others attended the \$150-a-plate fund dinner.

Outside the chants were continuous and loud. Defiant boos and cheers drowned out every racist and derogatory epithet shouted by Arpaio’s supporters. Protesters could be heard a quarter of a mile away. The demonstrators—most of whom were Latinos, the big majority young adults

and college students—remained disciplined with well-organized security monitors.

Salvador Reza, a Native American from Phoenix, was warmly welcomed by the protesters. He spoke to the crowd about the continued abuses by cops, deputized posses, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in the roundup and incarceration of immigrants.

A long-time veteran of the Chicano-Mexicano Brown Berets, David Rico, stated to cheers, “You [Arpaio] aren’t real, you know we are more than 11 million, you know we will win. We aren’t going anywhere, but you will.”

A report on the 11-year struggle to free the Cuban Five by Gary Wilhite, a member of the California School Employees Association, drew a brief and respectful quiet moment.

Arpaio later came out and stood behind the parked cop cars to address his supporters. He was drowned out by the pro-immigrant rights protesters.

THE MILITANT

U.S., NATO troops out of Afghanistan!

The U.S.-led imperialist war in Afghanistan is into its ninth year and Washington is considering whether to send another 40,000 troops. The ‘Militant’ covers the U.S. rulers’ debate on war strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Don’t miss a single issue!



Reuters/Shamil Zhumatov

U.S. soldier doing road clearance patrol in Wardak province in Afghanistan in July.

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Israel-Palestinian talks

Continued from front page
1967. Today the Authority conducts limited civil tasks in the West Bank, which is home to 2.2 million Palestinian Arabs and 280,000 Jewish settlers in 120 settlements. Hamas, a rival bourgeois Palestinian group, runs Gaza.

Palestinian Authority officials have insisted that negotiations with Israel cannot resume without a freeze on settlements. Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu counters with a moratorium on some new building, but insists that work will continue on the 3,000 new homes already under construction and says there will be no limit on building in East Jerusalem.

In a visit to Israel October 31, U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton praised the Israeli government's offer as "unprecedented." Under this plan, Clinton claimed, Tel Aviv "will build no new settlements, expropriate no land, allow no new construction or approvals" for the next nine to 12 months, reported the *Washington Post*. She rejected the Palestinian Authority's stance that freezing settlement activity must be a precondition to negotiations.

"Clinton's comments represented a shift in the dynamics since Obama took office," noted the *Post*, "with initial pressure on Israel giving way over the past several weeks to apparent impatience over the refusal of Palestinian officials to resume peace talks in the absence of a settlement freeze."

Two days later, in Marrakesh, Morocco, Clinton toned down her earlier remarks, saying Tel Aviv's settlements offer "falls far short" and is "not enough."

While visiting Jerusalem, Clinton asked Netanyahu "to include in negotiating guidelines specific references to the creation of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and in Jerusalem," the *New York Times* reported.

"He declined."
Netanyahu met with President Barack Obama at the White House November 9, with their discussions shrouded in secrecy. Unlike previous such encounters, noted the *Jerusalem Post*, this one "was accompanied by an unusual news blackout, as the standard photo op and press availability were not held."

Earlier that day Netanyahu, in a speech in Washington to the Jewish Federations of North America, backed the resumption of Middle East "peace" talks. He vowed Israel "is willing to make great concessions for peace." Netanyahu says he backs creating a Palestinian state alongside Israel. But he says there would be no negotiations over East Jerusalem being part of that state and the right of return of Palestinian refugees "wouldn't be on the table," noted the *Wall Street Journal*.



Aerial photo of wall on border of Israel and West Bank taken in 2004

Reuters

Cuban library head speaks at N.Y. meeting

BY BEN JOYCE

NEW YORK—As many city governments across the United States are cutting back on resources for schools and libraries in the face of the capitalist crisis, Cuba is exploring ways to expand access to education and culture. Some 50 people heard Eduardo Torres Cuevas, director of Cuba's José Martí National Library, describe advances in the national library system at a November 6 meeting held here at Hunter College.

The meeting was sponsored by the Library Association of the City University of New York's International Relations Roundtable; the Northeast chapter of Reforma, an association that promotes library services to Latinos; and the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. The event drew mostly academics but several students also attended and participated in the discussion.

Based in Havana, the José Martí National Library was founded in 1901. After the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, the revolutionary leadership mobilized working people to expand access to education and culture beginning with a massive literacy campaign in 1961, where some 100,000 Cubans participated in the effort that taught nearly one million workers and peasants to read and write. Since then, the place of education has been a central priority.

Torres Cuevas described some features and services the library offers. Access for the disabled is provided in the "Sala 'Frank Emilio'" where those with vision and other disabilities can get one-on-one help using library services. A facility for youth promotes reading and learning among young children.

During his presentation Torres Cuevas mentioned some initiatives being

taken to advance the library today. A recent accomplishment he mentioned was the process of archiving major sections of the library into digital and microfilm formats in order to minimize the impact of physical deterioration. He said the library has recently added several hundred computers to the system nationwide.

During the discussion a student who was originally from the Dominican Republic asked about collaboration with other libraries in Latin America. Torres Cuevas responded that there are several countries the Cuban library system collaborates with, citing a project in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where Cuban librarians are helping develop a major library.

Also in the audience was New York librarian Robert Kent. Kent is well known for organizing a group called The Friends of Cuban Libraries, an organization funded by the U.S. government, which claims that libraries in Cuba censor materials and persecute so-called independent librarians.

In the discussion Kent raised his slander against the Cuban libraries and distributed a flier claiming the Cuban government burns books such as George Orwell's *1984*.

In response to Kent's accusations, Torres Cuevas showed an image of the cover of the Spanish-language edition of *1984* with the Cuban library catalogue number displayed on the spine. After one participant defended Cuba's system against Kent's slanders, discussion shifted back to the topic of the library's achievements.

Broad response to party-building fund

BY LAURA GARZA

A broad response to an appeal for funds has put the party-building fund for the Socialist Workers Party within 1 percentage point of being on schedule at the end of week seven. Supporters are within reach of completing and exceeding the \$95,000 nationwide goal by the end of the campaign on November 10. The contributions

help finance the work of the party in building a revolutionary movement. To account for mail arrivals, any payments received by November 17 will be included in the final chart.

After surpassing their initial goals, supporters of the fund in several areas have raised their quotas. They report that work to get the pledges early have helped assure a broader range of people contribute.

Osborne Hart, the fund director in Philadelphia, wrote that fund supporters there initially set a quota of \$3,500 based on experiences with previous drives. They increased it to \$3,700, in response to an October 17 Militant Labor Forum benefiting the fund. The forum featured a presentation by Omari Musa on "Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa." Nearly, a third of the quota was collected there and several new pledges made.

"That event attracted several young people we met through the party's political campaigns and in collaboration with two Young Socialist members during the fall. The enthusiastic discussion, formal and informal, following the presentation gave impetus to increased and new pledges by supporters and regular forum attendees," said Hart. Philadelphia then increased its quota a second time to \$4,000.

Citing an example about increased interest in what the party is saying about the deepening economic crisis, Hart point to the example of a *Militant* reader, originally from the Dominican Republic, who renewed his subscription. A week or so later, he left an envelope in the mailbox. In it was \$15 for the party-building fund.

Kevin Dwire, the fund director in Boston, reports that after raising their goal from \$2,800 to \$3,200 they now have \$3,763 in pledges and have collected \$3,363. "This is beyond our initial expectations and shows what can be done with some concentrated work at reaching out and also that we have to do some catching up on what effect the politics of today is having on people around us and how they look at the importance of the party," he said.

In Seattle, Mary Martin wrote, "In the last drive a number of regular contributors were out of town for work or other reasons and we couldn't reach them. This time a couple of people have paid their pledges before leaving town, and in one case wiring money in from afar so the contribution could be counted. In the last few years our goals have been around \$7,000, but with these additional pledges we raised our quota to \$7,800, and there is room to go over."

Party-building fund Fall 2009 ♦ Week 7 of 8

City	Quota	Paid	%
Twin Cities, MN	\$6,600	\$6,885	104%
Miami*	\$3,300	\$3,246	98%
Seattle*	\$7,800	\$7,404	95%
San Francisco*	\$13,500	\$12,721	94%
Boston*	\$3,200	\$2,978	93%
Houston	\$2,700	\$2,498	93%
Des Moines, IA	\$2,400	\$2,154	90%
Washington, D.C.*	\$6,500	\$5,780	89%
New York	\$16,000	\$13,243	83%
Philadelphia**	\$4,000	\$3,315	83%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$7,772	82%
Los Angeles	\$9,200	\$6,762	74%
Newark, NJ	\$3,000	\$2,225	74%
Atlanta	\$7,500	\$4,776	64%
Other		\$600	
TOTAL	\$95,200	\$82,359	87%
SHOULD BE	\$95,000	\$83,125	88%
* Raised quota ** Raised quota twice			

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco
Why Working People Have a Stake in Defending Evolution. Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 20. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission Street. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

NEW YORK

Manhattan
The Russian Revolution: Its Lessons for Workers Today. Fri., Nov. 20, 8 p.m. 307 W. 36 St., 10th floor (at 8th Ave.—use elevators on 37th St. side). Tel.: (212) 736-2540.

Australia union builds support for Cuban Five

BY BOB AIKEN
AND JOANNE KUNIANSKY

SYDNEY, Australia—Ernesto Freire Cazan, director of the International Department of the Confederation of Cuban Workers, addressed a crowd of more than 100 at an October 23 concert here for the Cuban Five, organized by the construction workers union.

Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, René González, Fernando González, and Ramón Labañino have been in U.S. jails for more than 11 years. They were arrested in 1998 while monitoring the activities of several groups in Miami that have carried out armed actions against Cuba. They were convicted on charges ranging from “conspiracy to commit espionage” to “conspiracy to commit murder,” and received harsh sentences.

The Cuban Five’s “actions were to defend the people of Cuba,” Freire said. “The political battle [to win their freedom] must go on,” he declared, condemning the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision not to review their case and the U.S. government’s denial of visas for the wives of René González and Gerardo Hernández to visit their husbands in prison.

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union in Sydney is organizing a two-month tour of the Cuban band JJ Son to build solidarity with Cuba and the Cuban Five. During the day the band will perform on construction sites, in factories, and on the wharves.

The concert was one of several events in Sydney in October that have helped to build support here for the Cuban Five.

The UN Society, a student club on the Macquarie University campus, sponsored an October 15 meeting on

the case, attended mainly by students. Gill Boehringer, retired dean of the law school at the university, and Joanne Kuniansky, from the Sydney Free the Five Committee, spoke about the case and how people can get involved in the defense campaign.

The five Cubans “enjoy the respect of their fellow prisoners,” Boehringer said. He pointed out that three of the five served in Angola fighting against an invasion by the South African apartheid regime. “These were men who were asked to perform a duty for their country.”

Pointing out that extensive surveillance of the five men by the FBI turned up no evidence of espionage, Boehringer said that “conspiracy” is “a catchall” when the prosecution “can’t get you for anything.”

An October 12 meeting was held at Sydney University, organized by activists in the Sydney Free the Five Committee and cosponsored by the Sydney University Research Com-



Cuban band JJ Son plays in Sydney, Australia, October 30. Construction workers and supporters turned out to listen and learn more about case of five Cuban revolutionaries framed-up and incarcerated in U.S. jails on “conspiracy” charges.

munity for Latin America (SURCLA). Dr. Fernanda Peñaloza of SURCLA introduced the featured speaker, Dr. Tim Anderson, a lecturer in political economy at the university. Anderson

also spoke on the case October 10 at a meeting of 50 people organized by the Latin American Forum, a coalition of several Latin American solidarity groups in the city.

Final push in ‘Militant’ subscription drive

Continued from front page

Militant from Montreal, was part of a sales team in Harlem. “Many workers were interested in the special *Militant* supplement,” Fields said. He was referring to the introduction to the forthcoming book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, which the *Militant* published in both English and Spanish as a supplement. It will be a boost to finish the drive strong. For new subscribers, the book is available for a special pre-order price of \$10.

Sales to students on campus continue to be a highlight of the campaign. Ellen Brickley reports that six students at Iowa State University got introductory subscriptions last week. A number of students recognized the *Militant* distributors from previous sales. “One woman we met weeks ago bought two issues of *New International*,” the magazine of Marxist politics and theory, she said.

Many distributors who work in industry have used the drive to further political discussions with coworkers. At

Dakota Premium Foods, a meatpacking plant in South St. Paul, Minnesota, 27 workers have subscribed or renewed their subscriptions during the drive. In Los Angeles, 16 workers at the American Apparel plant have bought subscriptions through discussions with communists on the job.

For the final week of the drive, distributors can draw on the many Pathfinder titles discounted with subscriptions. These include *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* for \$5; *Problems of Women’s Liberation* for \$7.50; *New International* issues 14 and 10 for \$10 each; and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* for \$1.50.

Maryland students defend affirmative action

BY SUSAN LAMONT

COLLEGE PARK, Maryland—Hundreds of students at the University of Maryland’s main campus here marched from the Nyumburu Cultural Center to the Administration Building November 5 to protest growing attacks on university programs aimed at recruiting and retaining Black and other students of oppressed nationalities and faculty. A mass meeting of

700 students the previous day called the march.

Anu Kothan, president of the Graduate Student Body, said, “They don’t want to see Black and brown faces here. The administration is using budget cuts to get rid of minorities. They don’t care about students and faculty of color. They don’t want to support African American and Women’s Studies. All they care about is science and business.”

In August, the state legislature voted to cut \$46 million from the University of Maryland system.

Students were especially concerned that the enrollment of first-year students who are Black fell by 28 percent this year, dropping from 539 in 2008 to 387 in 2009. The percentage of Latino students has also fallen by 9 percent in the last three years.

Dozens of student groups, fraternities, and sororities, especially those involving Black and Latino students, participated in the march.

Many speakers pointed to the increasing “corporate” approach of the university, which spends millions on sports and other

programs designed to attract business investment, while raising tuition and cutting programs that make it possible for Black, Latino, and other working-class students to attend and stay in school.

Students were especially scornful of the administration’s recent decision to spend \$250,000 on a new campus slogan—“Unstoppable starts here!”—while cuts in Black and Latino programs and faculty were being justified on the basis of lack of funds. They chanted, “Injustice stops here!” as a response to the administration’s pricey slogan campaign.

“Bring back Black!” was one of the most popular chants at the rally. Students are demanding reinstatement of Dr. Cordell Black, who helped found the Nyumburu Center and has been associate provost for equity and diversity at the university for many years. “I wouldn’t be here without Doctor Black and the programs he helped fight for,” said sophomore Thomas Dawson, 19, who is studying economics.

Students announced a November 10 follow-up meeting to plan further actions.



University of Maryland march November 5

‘Militant’ Subscription Drive			
Sept. 12 – Nov. 17, 2009			
Week 8			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Seattle**	100	96	96%
New York	230	211	92%
Chicago*	115	102	89%
Newark, NJ*	80	70	88%
Washington, D.C.	100	86	86%
Los Angeles*	105	90	86%
Twin Cities, MN*	145	123	85%
Des Moines, IA	110	90	82%
Atlanta	130	103	79%
Boston*	65	51	78%
Houston	90	68	76%
San Francisco	150	103	69%
Philadelphia	75	48	64%
Miami	110	70	64%
Other		4	
TOTAL	1605	1308	81%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London**	90	92	102%
Edinburgh	35	27	77%
TOTAL	125	119	95%
Canada	100	75	75%
New Zealand	65	55	85%
Australia	50	45	90%
Sweden*	30	32	107%
Total	1975	1634	82%
Should be	2000	1778	89%
*increased quota **increased quota twice			

Tamil refugees demand asylum in Australia

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Twelve refugees drowned as their boat sank about midway between Sri Lanka and Australia November 2. Passing ships rescued 27 survivors. This tragedy shows the desperation of—and the risks for—many trying to reach Australia by boat in order to obtain asylum.

In a callous drive to stem this flow, the Labor government of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has upped its pressure on semicolonial neighbors, especially Indonesia, to cooperate in stopping and interning asylum seekers en route.

The Australian government has boosted its own border patrols to intercept boats with refugees, mostly from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Immigration Minister Christopher Evans said the government will continue “mandatory detention of unauthorized boat arrivals” at remote Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

Refugee boats are closely tracked by satellite in Australia. On October 16, the Australian government asked the Indonesian navy to stop a boat in Indonesian waters carrying 255 Tamil refugees. The vessel was escorted to Merak in west Java.

Two days later, at Jakarta’s request, another 78 were rescued by an Australian ship from a failing boat in Indonesia’s search and rescue zone. The Australian customs ship *Oceanic Viking* eventually took them to the Indonesian island of Bintan, near Singapore. A detention center is being built there with funds from the Australian government.

Both groups of refugees went on brief hunger strikes in protest, calling on the Australian government to grant them asylum. They have since refused to disembark in Indonesia to be interned.

The standoffs and some tense negotiations between the Australian and Indonesian governments over how to deal with the refugees has caused political problems for Australia’s Labor government. Debate over “border protection” has resurged in capitalist politics and the media. Rudd has refused to rule out using force to “solve” the impasse of the boat-bound refugees.

Rudd’s deal with Jakarta has been dubbed his “Indonesia solution.” This echoes the “Pacific solution” under the previous conservative government, un-

der which Canberra paid Pacific Island countries to intern asylum-seekers. Rudd ended that policy. The Liberal opposition proposes to resurrect it.

Australian naval and air patrols have also increased off the northwest coast. So far this year around 40 boats carrying 1,700 asylum-seekers have been intercepted.

On October 31, the Rudd government said it would double the size of the internment center on Christmas Island, an Australian territory, to house more than 2,000 people.

The same day, six men being held on the island refused to be “voluntarily” deported back to Sri Lanka. One of them staged an eight-hour protest. The six remain on Christmas Island.

So far this year there have been 115 such “voluntary” repatriations. Sri Lankans now make up about half those held at Christmas Island, the overwhelming majority of them ethnic Tamils.

Many Tamils fled during and since the 26-year civil war in Sri Lanka. That war ended five months ago when the



Tamil refugees look out from Australian coast guard vessel *Oceanic Viking* on Indonesian island of Bintan November 6. Seventy-eight Tamil asylum seekers were picked up by coast guard when their boat failed. They are still on board, refusing to disembark in Indonesia.

Sinhalese-dominated government and military crushed the Tamil Tigers, an armed group that had fought for a separate Tamil state.

With the war’s end, more than 250,000 civilians are being held in barbed wire internment camps in northern Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government allows no access by any refugee agencies into

the camps. Thousands of Tamils have escaped to the nearest countries without visa requirements, particularly Indonesia and Malaysia. Others now head directly from Sri Lanka to Australia, crossing the Indian Ocean in old fishing boats.

Other refugees held by Canberra are from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran.

76 Tamils are arrested off coast of Canada

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN
AND STEVE PENNER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—A ship carrying 76 Tamil refugees fleeing the brutal internment of thousands in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of a civil war was seized by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) off the coast here October 17. The asylum seekers arrived on a rusted cargo ship with minimal supplies and facilities.

The 76 men, many of them in their early 20s, were seized and thrown into detention. Handcuffed and shackled in leg chains, they were brought before immigration officials nine days later. They pleaded for their release while their refugee claims are being heard, but only one was freed.

Since Sri Lanka won its independence from Britain in 1948, the Tamil language and religion have been relegat-

ed to second-class status. Following the defeat in May of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in a 25-year civil war, an estimated quarter of a million Tamils have been held in 40 internment camps. The government euphemistically calls them “welfare centers.”

The arrival of the refugees in Canada has sparked articles in the big-business media quoting Sri Lankan government officials and “terrorism experts” who claim many of the refugees are Tamil Tigers.

Canadian immigration minister Jason Kenney has warned he intends to play hardball with the 76 men and to deport them if they are terrorists. The government “won’t allow Canada to become a place of refuge for terrorists, thugs, snakeheads, and other violent foreign criminals” said Alykhan Velshi, Kenney’s media spokesman.

So far only one of the men, 26-year-old Kartheepan Manickavasagar, has been charged with terrorism, but by Sri Lankan authorities. His lawyer, Hadayt Nazami, explained that such charges can’t be taken seriously as “a lot of innocent Tamils are being persecuted by the government and accused of all kinds of things.”

In a speech to “security experts,” RCMP commissioner William Elliot claimed that because 250,000 Tamils live in Canada there is a danger that Tamil Tigers “might seek to hide in plain sight, and potentially launch terrorist activities.”

Ottawa deported 12,732 people last year—a 50 percent increase over the past decade. The government has promised tougher immigration legislation that will make it more difficult for refugees to be accepted into Canada.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 23, 1984

Massive Black protests have rocked South Africa the last several months. This rebellion has been the largest and broadest revolt against the apartheid regime since 1976. Protests against a constitutional “reform” by the South African regime, outrage at the government’s crackdown on opponents of apartheid, anger over increased rents and utility rates, and other grievances have fueled the rebellion.

A successful two-day general strike by Black workers on November 5 and 6 highlighted the current upsurge. It was the largest political strike in South Africa in decades.

The general strike was the culmination of weeks of protest by Africans, Indians, and Coloureds (those of mixed ancestry). Twenty-four million Africans, 2.8 million Coloureds, and more than 800,000 Indians make up South Africa’s Black population.



November 23, 1959

As a consequence of the unpunished lynching of Mack Charles Parker in Poplarville, a wave of racist killing and anti-Negro violence is sweeping through Mississippi. The world outcry for punishment of the guilty, which followed the Poplarville lynching last spring, at first gave pause to the white supremacists, making them wonder if perhaps the days were past when they could kill Negroes at will. But the subsequent emergence of the known lynchers—not only unscathed but as local heroes—has reassured them that the old days still remain.

In the past month alone Negroes have been killed in Clarksdale, Philadelphia, and Corinth, Mississippi. The first two of these killings are listed as lynchings by the November 21 *Afro-American*, a leading Negro newspaper, which further reports that state authorities have taken even less interest in these two cases than in the Parker lynching.



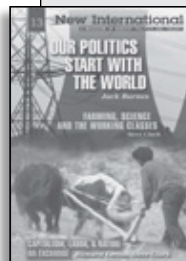
November 24, 1934

Next week the Supreme Court of the U.S. will be asked to reverse the Alabama verdict which condemns two of the nine Scottsboro boys to die. The world at large is still mystified as to whether the court will consider the cases of both Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, or whether the former is “out of court” for technical reasons.

The I.L.D. [International Labor Defense] continues to maintain that its attorneys, O. Frankel and W. Pollak, will make the appeal.

The New York *Nation* reports that the State of Alabama is out to arrest Ruby Bates for perjury. Ruby Bates is the girl who was bribed and bulldogged by the sheriff of Scottsboro three years ago to swear she was raped by the nine young Scottsboro boys. She later reversed her testimony. Now Alabama wants to get her in a jail cell.

For further reading



New International
issue 13

**Our Politics
Start
with the World**

by Jack Barnes

The huge economic and cultural inequalities between imperialist and semicolonial countries, and among classes within almost every country, are produced by the workings of capitalism. Vanguard workers seeking to build a party capable of taking political power must be guided by a strategy to close that gap.—\$14

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Cuban foreign minister answers U.S. gov't at UN

Below is a statement by Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla in reply to remarks by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, during the October 28 UN deliberations on a UN resolution calling for an end to the U.S. trade and financial embargo against Cuba. Rodríguez explains that except for reversing the restrictions on travel and remittances by Cuban Americans that were imposed by the George W. Bush administration, the embargo against Cuba remains in force under the new administration.

The UN resolution calling for an end to the embargo was passed by a vote of 187 to 3. The governments of the United States, Israel, and Palau voted against. Representatives of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia abstained.



I feel obligated to respond to the speeches given by the United States, the European Union, and Norway.

I should say to the European Union that Cuba recognizes absolutely no moral authority to dictate models or give advice on the matter of democracy. I want to remind it of its complicity in the acts of torture that occurred at Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib and reiterate that as long as it maintains a two-faced and hypocritical position, it will not enjoy any credibility.

Mrs. Rice, who unfortunately is not here in the room at the moment, started out by saying “here we go again.” With that phrase she recognized what 17 rep-

resentatives from the United States have come to do in the past.

I respect her opinions and recognize that her career is totally distinct from that of a neoconservative like [John] Bolton; but she has had the sad task of defending the policy of the blockade here, which began, according to a classified memo, on April 6, 1960, with the professed aim of causing hunger, desperation, and discouragement among the Cuban people.

The only remnant of the Cold War that has been discussed here is precisely the blockade. Lift the blockade and that remnant will disappear.

Mr. President:

Cuba is a democracy that is closer to Lincoln's principles, with a government of the people, with the people, and for the people, than the plutocracy or government of the rich that operates in this country.

Here, the U.S. representative described as dissidents or political prisoners those who in reality are agents of a foreign power, mercenaries paid by the U.S. government. If they want to talk about political prisoners, they should free the five Cuba antiterrorist heroes, subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in U.S. prisons.

Mr. President:

Mrs. Rice has said that the word genocide is inappropriate for describing the blockade. I quote Article 2, paragraphs b) and c) of the 1948 Geneva Convention against the Crime of Genocide.

Paragraph b) “Genocide is causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group,” referring to a human group.

Paragraph c) “Genocide is deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.”

I recommend that the State Department study that Convention better.

The blockade against Cuba is a unilateral and criminal policy that also has to be lifted unilaterally. It is not reasonable, just, or possible to wait for gestures from Cuba for an end to the criminal



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodríguez October 28 speaking during UN debate on resolution calling for an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

application of measures against the Cuban people, including its children and elderly, from the examples that I have described here.

The United States should lift the blockade and it should lift it now; first, because Cuba is not blockading the United States or occupying any portion of its territory with a military base, nor is it discriminating against its citizens or businesses; and, in the second place, it should do so because it is in the best interest of the United States itself and the will of U.S. citizens.

A free flow of information was addressed. Lift the ban on U.S. citizens to travel freely to Cuba, respect their right to freedom to travel. Lift the blockade against Cuba in the areas of technology and information; permit better connectivity with our country; export software and information technology to Cuba and there could be advancement in this field.

Mrs. Rice has mentioned constructive advances. It's true that there have been a few steps in the correct direction, strictly limited to the relations between Cubans that live in the United States and their native country, but they have nothing to do with, nor do they mean or signify, any loosening of the blockade. They are

correct steps but extremely limited and insufficient.

The blockade is not a bilateral question. Its extraterritorial application has been clearly shown with the many examples presented.

Mrs. Rice has mentioned the proposal to continue having exchanges and dialogue between the two countries, which had been proposed many years ago by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and publicly reiterated several times by President Raúl Castro. If that is what the United States desires, it should respond to the proposal of an agenda for bilateral dialogue, presented by Cuba to that government on July 17, 2009.

Mr. President:

Mrs. Susan Rice said in August at New York University that “the United States leads by example, acknowledges mistakes, corrects course when necessary, forges strategies in partnership and treats others with respect.”

She also said during that speech: “we are demonstrating that the United States is willing to listen, respect differences, and consider new ideas.” It's deeply surprising to me that Mrs. Rice has had to say the opposite this morning.

Thank you very much.

Postal strike cancelled in United Kingdom

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Leaders of the Communication Workers Union (CWU) have called off two 24-hour strikes of postal workers. Previous weeks' strike actions had involved different grades, but the cancelled strikes were due to involve all 121,000 workers.

The work stoppages were to oppose Royal Mail's “modernization” plans, which include layoffs and speedup. Postal bosses have also suspended workers and imposed changes to hours worked. Some 60,000 postal workers have lost their jobs in the past five years.

Talks over the job cuts, working conditions, and pay will resume between the union, postal bosses, government arbitration organization ACAS, and the Trades Union Congress. The CWU leadership is willing to agree to job cuts to get a deal with postal bosses. Union deputy general secretary David Ward argues for “modernization with [union] consent.”

The decision to halt the strike action was welcomed by government minister Peter Mandelson, who had previously initiated and then withdrew plans to partly privatize the state-owned Royal Mail. Conservative shadow business secretary Kenneth Clarke said a future Conservative government would privatize Royal Mail.

N. Korea boat fired on in unprovoked attack

Continued from front page

for the incident. In the meantime the South Korean government placed its 680,000-strong military on alert, even though there were no signs of unusual North Korean troop movements, according to the South Korean military.

The U.S. military maintains a garrison force of some 28,500 troops stationed in South Korea, but declined to comment on whether they had also been placed on alert. David Oten, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Seoul, said it does not comment on operational or security issues, Associated Press reported.

At the end of World War II Washington imposed the partition of Korea and has forcibly maintained it for six decades. The Democratic Party administration of President Harry Truman organized an imperialist invasion of Korea in 1950, with the U.S. invaders using the United Nations blue helmets as cover. Following its defeat in that war the U.S. government signed a cease-fire agreement but has declined numerous offers from North Korea for a peace agreement.

For further reading



New International magazine

Issue number 14:

Featuring - Revolution, Internationalism, and Socialism: The Last Year of Malcolm X—\$14 \$10 with purchase of 'Militant' subscription

New International magazine

Issue number 10:

Featuring - Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War—\$16

\$10 with purchase of 'Militant' subscription

Problems of Women's Liberation

By Evelyn Reed—\$15

\$7.50 with purchase of 'Militant' subscription

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes—\$10

\$5.00 with purchase of 'Militant' subscription

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

by Jack Barnes—\$3

\$1.50 with purchase of 'Militant' subscription

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Illegal or unsafe abortions kill 70,000 around world

BY SETH GALINSKY

Restrictions on a woman's right to choose abortion have been loosened in the last 12 years in 19 countries including in Iran, Ethiopia, and in Mexico's capital, Mexico City. In El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Poland restrictions were tightened.

Nonetheless the report, "Abortion Worldwide: A Decade of Uneven Progress," states that 70,000 women still die each year as a result of illegal or unsafe abortions. Eight million each year need medical treatment due to complications; nearly half never receive treatment. The report was released in mid-October by the U.S.-based Guttmacher Institute.

Increased use of contraception has given many women around the world more control over when and if to have children. This has led to a drop in the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions, the report says.

The global rate of unintended pregnancy among women aged 15-44 declined from 69 per 1,000 women in 1995 to 55 in 2008. This decline was greatest in the more industrially developed countries.

The most restrictive laws against abortion rights are in the semicolonial or least industrialized countries, excluding China and India, which have relatively "liberal" abortion laws.

Close to 100 percent of abortions in Africa are unsafe, even though after 2003 abortion was legalized throughout much of the continent in cases of rape, incest, or danger to the mother's health.

Abortion safe, legal and free in Cuba

In Latin America, the percentage of unsafe abortions is similar to that in Africa, with the exception of Cuba where abortion is legal, safe, and free, and possibly of Puerto Rico and Guyana, the only other countries in Latin America or the Caribbean where abortion is legal under most circumstances.

But even where abortion is legal, access to it isn't guaranteed, especially for working-class women.

In India there are only 10 abortion centers per 1 million people. Most are in cities, even though 70 percent of women live in rural areas. Abortion centers often lack water, toilets or a clean operating table.

In some countries where abortion is illegal, the law is not enforced across

the board. In the Dominican Republic abortion is not legal under any circumstances. However, many hospitals there perform abortions when a woman's life is in danger.

In Uruguay abortion is permitted only to save a woman's life, to protect her physical health, and in cases of rape. However, there is a vocal women's movement there that has organized large demonstrations to demand legalizing a woman's right to choose abortion.

While the movement has not succeeded in overturning antiabortion laws, abortion counseling is provided in government clinics.

Abortion: a safe medical procedure

The report notes that abortion, when properly performed, is a very safe medical procedure. It cites Romania, where abortion was banned in 1966 leading to a soaring maternal death rate. In 1990, a year after a popular uprising overthrew the Stalinist regime of Nicolae Ceausescu, abortion was legalized and the maternal death rate dropped.

In South Africa, abortion was legalized in 1996, two years after Nelson Mandela became president, marking the end of apartheid.

"Before the new law was established, there were 425 deaths arising from abortion every year," Roland Mhlanga, head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, told IPS news service. "Now the number is less than 20."

Along with increased access to contraception and the loosening of legal restrictions on women's right to



Lorena Espinoza Peña

September 8 demonstration in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, against proposed constitutional amendment that would make abortions to save a woman's life illegal.

abortion, the report notes that technical advances have greatly enhanced the procedures' safety.

Many still denied right to choose

In spite of all these advances, "the proportion of women of childbearing age who live in countries with the most restrictive abortion laws—those that ban the procedure completely, or permit it only to save the woman's life—has not declined in the past decade," the report states.

It is working class and rural women who have the least access to abortion. "Middle- and upper-class urban women who have the means to pay

private doctors" have growing access even in countries where abortion is illegal, the report notes.

An updated "Overview of Abortion in the United States," released by the Guttmacher Institute and Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, describes the continued war of attrition against a woman's right to choose, even though it is legal.

While the number of abortion clinics has remained constant, since 1980 there has been a sharp decline in hospitals that offer the procedure. In 1980 more than 1,400 hospitals performed abortions. By 2004 that number had dropped to 600.

Health-care bill attacks right to abortion

Continued from front page

cover abortion. In 2002, 87 percent of typical employer plans covered abortion, according to a Guttmacher Institute study.

While in Seattle November 9, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that although she opposed the antiabortion amendment being added to the health "reform" bill, she supported doing so because it was necessary for the measure to pass. She said both sides on this issue needed to find "common ground," but aren't there yet, reported Associated Press.

The federal government has been restricting the use of government funds for abortions for decades. The Hyde Amendment passed in the mid-1970s bars funding abortions for those on Medicaid, except in cases of incest, rape, or if the woman's life is in danger. Separate laws apply similar restrictions to the federal employer health plan and the military.

Earlier versions of the health "reform" bill would have allowed people getting federal subsidies to pay for abortion overage, but you had to use your own money, noted AP. In an interview with ABC News November 9, President Barack Obama said he didn't feel comfortable with the abortion restriction inserted in the House bill. "There needs to be some more work before we get to the point where we're not changing the status quo," the president said. On the other

hand, "we're not looking to change what is the principle that has been in place for a very long time, which is federal dollars are not used to subsidize abortions."

The health "reform" legislation is currently being discussed in the Senate. "I expect the bill that will be brought to the floor will ensure that no federal funds are used for abortions," Senate Majority leader Harry Reid told the media.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, Democrat from California, called the House amendment "unfair and discriminatory toward women," because it denies women the right to use their own money to pay for abortions. Referring to the ban on federal funds for abortions, however, she argued that nothing should be done to

change the status quo. "We've had a compromise in place for decades that has been fair. Anything that disrupts that compromise is a huge step back for women."

A statement released by Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards said that if the House health bill is enacted it "would result in women losing benefits they have today." It "reaches much further than the Hyde Amendment."

A statement released November 8 by National Organization for Women president Terry O'Neill opposed the Stupak Amendment, saying, "Health-care reform should not be a vehicle to obliterate a woman's fundamental right to choose."



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Supporters of women's right to choose abortion defending clinic run by Dr. Leroy Carhart in Bellevue, Nebraska, August 29.

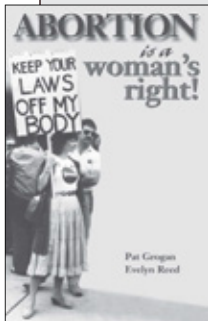
For further reading

Abortion is a woman's right

by Pat Grogan

Why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement. Also available in Spanish.—\$6

Available from distributors listed on page 10 or from pathfinderpress.com



Georgia students discuss role of Cuban Revolution

BY RACHELE FRUIT
AND JACOB PERASSO

ATLANTA—Seventy people attended a panel discussion at Georgia State University (GSU) October 29 that discussed the political course along which working people in Cuba took power and began uprooting the centuries-long legacy of racial discrimination against Chinese and Blacks.

The presentations and discussion drew on the examples of three Cubans of Chinese origin whose contributions to the Cuban Revolution—from its conquest in 1959 and continuing today—is told in the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

The meeting was cosponsored by the Asian Studies Center, the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, the Department of African-American Studies, and Delta Phi Lambda, an Asian sorority at GSU. About 35 of those attending were students.

Michele Reid, assistant professor of history at the university, chaired the meeting and introduced the panel, which included Heying Jenny Zhan, associate professor of sociology at GSU; Eleanor Hunter, research librarian, Auburn Avenue Research Library of African American Culture and History; Amanda Lewis, M.A. candidate, Department of History, GSU; and Mary-Alice Waters, editor, *Our History Is Still Being Written*, and president of Pathfinder Press.

Slavery and Chinese migration

Lewis's research includes investigating race relations in 19th century Cuba. She talked about the hundreds of thousands of Chinese who were brought to Cuba in the mid-19th century as sugar planters looked for cheap labor elsewhere in the world to replace the African slave labor they were having growing difficulty importing. "The contract laborers were called 'coolies,' a term which some say comes from a Chinese word for 'bitter strength,'" Lewis said.

Professor Zhan said that she, like many Chinese growing up in China, had never experienced racial discrimination, but all that changed upon arriving in the United States. "In China I was one of the 92 percent of the population that is Han nationality," she said. "I first encountered discrimination, both as a minority and as a woman, when I came to the United States when

I was 28 years old."

Talking about China and Cuba today, Zhan asked, "What is socialism?" She said readers will find the book *Our History Is Still Being Written* an invaluable help in answering that important question.

Cuba and Africa

Hunter talked about Cuba's 1975–91 internationalist mission in Angola, which was decisive in turning back several invasions by the South African apartheid regime seeking to take over the newly independent Angolan government. It was initiated through Operation Carlota, named after the African woman who led an 1843 slave rebellion in Cuba. "This book made me understand the human and material sacrifices and the principled stand of the Cuban volunteers on a whole new level," she said. "Over 16 years, 375,000 Cubans volunteered—an enormous commitment that risked the existence of the revolution itself.

"Angola is a country rich in resources, but Cuba did not go there for resources," Hunter stated. "They went because it was the right thing to do."

Socialist revolution

Waters, who interviewed the three generals for the book, said that each of them takes great interest in the book's impact around the world. She pointed to an afterword written by Wang Lusha, who translated the Chinese edition. Wang asks, "How is it possible that three men of Chinese descent could rise to positions of such responsibility in Cuba, when this would not happen elsewhere in the world?"

Wang quotes the response by Gen. Moisés Sío Wong given in the book to the same question he was asked in 1999 at an international conference on the Chinese diaspora held in Havana. He said, "Here a socialist revolution took place. The revolution eliminated discrimination based on the color of a person's skin. Above all, it eliminated the property relations that create not only economic, but also social inequality between rich and poor."

Waters noted that women and men like the three generals didn't set out to make a socialist revolution when they took up arms against the U.S.-backed military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in the 1950s. "They set out to create a society with a greater degree of social justice," she noted. Waters explained that



Militant/Dave Wulp

Meeting at Georgia State University October 29 discusses significance of Cuban Revolution. At podium, GSU history professor Michele Reid, who chaired the meeting. Panelists seated at table from left, Mary-Alice Waters, editor, *Our History Is Still Being Written*; GSU sociology professor Heying Jenny Zhan; research librarian Eleanor Hunter; and student Amanda Lewis.

one of the revolutionary government's first acts was a sweeping land reform, which came into conflict with the propertied interests of wealthy ruling families in the United States who owned vast tracts of land in Cuba. "Ninety percent of cultivated land in Cuba was owned or on long-term lease to U.S. families and corporations," Waters said.

Despite U.S. threats, the Cuban people refused to back down. As they defended themselves against the U.S. government's aggression, they carried out the first socialist revolution in the Americas."

"In Cuba," Waters said, "working people have used state power to transform themselves and society," adding, "This is not a book about the past primarily. It is about understanding history to prepare ourselves to act today. That's why the Cuban Revolution matters."

Lively discussion

During the discussion, Professor Zhan asked, "Why does the American government still have such fear and hatred for socialist Cuba?"

Waters quoted from a 1960 U.S. State Department policy memorandum that states that the majority of Cubans supported Fidel Castro, and that the U.S. had to find a way to cause disenchantment, desperation, and dissatisfaction, including through imposing hunger and other privations, with the aim of driving the Cuban people to overthrow the revolutionary government.

"The economic embargo has been the biggest obstacle to economic development in Cuba," Waters said. "It has kept

the squeeze on over the past 50 years and made the Cuban people suffer. And it has served to tell the people of all Latin America, 'This is what will happen to you if you try to be independent and take your future into your own hands.'"

Zhan added, "The U.S. thinks they can tell countries, 'We want you to grow sugar for export.' Only Cuba says, 'We'll organize our economy the way we want.'"

Peter Williamson, an economics student at GSU, asked, "What is the impact of the embargo on other countries doing business in Cuba?" Waters explained that subsidiaries of U.S. companies based in other countries are prohibited from doing business with Cuba and that shipping vessels are prohibited from docking in the United States if they have docked in Cuba the previous six months.

Another student asked if all three of the generals had volunteered to fight in Angola. Waters explained that every Cuban who fought in Angola volunteered and recommended the documentary *Cuba, An African Odyssey*, directed by Lebanese-born filmmaker Jihan El-Tahri and funded by the French Foreign Ministry, which tells much of the rich history of Cuba's decades of aid to countries in Africa.

Following the meeting, Van Hai Nguyen, president of the Gamma chapter of Delta Phi Lambda, said, "The discussion of *Our History Is Still Being Written* put forth new perspectives of the Cuban Revolution." Nguyen said she wants to read the book and organize another discussion of it next semester.

For further reading...



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 talk about the historic place of Chinese immigration to Cuba, as well as more than five decades of revolutionary action and internationalism, from Cuba to Angola, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Through their stories the social and political forces that gave birth to the Cuban nation and still shape our epoch unfold. —\$17

To Speak the Truth by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara

In historic speeches before the United Nations, Guevara and Castro address the peoples of the world, explaining why the U.S. government fears the example of the socialist revolution in Cuba and why Washington's effort to destroy it will fail. —\$17

View the entire 18-part series on the Cuban Revolution online or at a local distributor listed on page 10!

www.pathfinderpress.com



Bohemia

"In Cuba working people have used state power to transform themselves and society," said Waters. Above, members of Chinese New Democracy Alliance, organization of revolutionary Chinese-Cubans, at rally in support of nationalization of U.S. capitalist holdings, July 10, 1960.

Openings today to build the communist movement

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEW YORK—The November 3 elections register that “the thrill is gone” from the administration of Barack Obama, said Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, at a public meeting here November 7.

The incapacity to take any steps to reverse the economic catastrophe facing working people and the inability to avoid deepening the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan mark the Obama administration, which acts as if it’s completely disengaged from its responsibilities. There has never been a better time to sell the *Militant* newspaper and distribute revolutionary books, Barnes concluded.

Some 310 people from across the country, as well as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, attended the meeting, which was held at the Service Employees International Union 32BJ hall.

Norton Sandler, a member of the SWP National Committee, and Tom Baumann, a leader of the Young Socialists and the SWP candidate for Manhattan borough president in 2009, welcomed those attending. On either side of the stage were large blow-ups of the English and Spanish covers of the forthcoming Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Barnes is the author.

Mary-Alice Waters, a member of the SWP National Committee and editor of the Marxist magazine *New International*, announced that editing work on the book has been completed. Final production is now in the hands of some 200 volunteers. “You have fought the political battles that this book is about—the course of the third American revolution,” she told the audience.

The possibility of a socialist revolution in the United States and of a working class capable of leading it was a big part of political debates at the October 15–17 international conference in Monterrey, Mexico, on the relevance today of popular revolutionary democratic struggles in Mexico, the United States, and Cuba in the 19th century, she said.

At the back of the meeting hall was a display of some of the more than 130 photos and drawings that will appear in *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Waters singled out the photo of the 134th Militia Battalion that fought U.S.-organized invaders at Playa Girón in Cuba in 1961. She encouraged everyone to study the faces of those combatants.

“You had to earn the right to be in the militia in Cuba,” she said. The militia became a giant school of revolution. It was a tool for meeting the challenge facing all revolutionary movements: how to forge disciplined cadres who know what they’re fighting for and why, who believe it’s an honor to be on the front lines.

Waters recommended studying *The Inevitable Battle*, a new book by Juan Carlos Rodríguez, who was a literacy volunteer at Playa Girón. This is the best account published of that battle, she said. The preface is by José Ramón Fernández, who commanded



Audience welcomes Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes (inset) at November 7 public meeting in New York City titled “What the dictatorship of capital has in store for working people.”

the revolutionary troops who defeated the invasion. Pathfinder distributes the book in English and Spanish.

Defense of Cuban Five

Waters stressed the importance of work to win the release of five Cuban revolutionaries now in their 11th year of incarceration in U.S. jails. The Cuban Five, as they are known, were in Miami monitoring the activities of right-wing Cuban exiles who have launched armed attacks on Cuba with Washington’s blessing. The five were framed-up and convicted on charges of “conspiracy to commit espionage” and in the case of one “conspiracy to commit murder.”

Waters was among those in the Miami courtroom October 13 for the resentencing of one of the five, Antonio Guerrero, who originally received a life term plus 10 years, later overturned by a federal appeals court as excessive.

In a major victory, Guerrero’s sentence was reduced to 21 years and 10 months, meaning he will be eligible for parole in seven years. Two others of the Cuban Five, Fernando González and Ramón Labañino, will have resentencing hearings in December. Gerardo Hernández continues to serve a double-life term plus 15 years, and René González, a 15-year term.

“This is your victory,” Waters told the crowd here, noting that the federal prosecutor in the case acknowledged the impact of the worldwide campaign to free the revolutionaries.

Waters noted a program with the participation of family members of the Cuban Five will take place in Tijuana, Mexico, December 4, as part of a U.S./Cuba/Venezuela/North America Labor Conference. There is also an international conference on the Cuban Five in Holguín, Cuba, November 19–23.

Pathfinder in Iran, Afghanistan

Ma’mud Shirvani spoke on the ongoing demonstrations in Iran for democratic rights, noting that these are helping the workers raise their own demands. He pointed to a demonstration of 1,000 communications workers

in Shiraz demanding back pay, and a successful strike by bakery workers in the Kurdish city of Sanandaj.

A colorful display showed a big increase in sales of Pathfinder titles in Iran since mid-June. Some 839 books with articles from *New International* have been purchased, 549 copies of *Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun*, 961 of *The Communist Manifesto*, and more than 200 copies of both *Feminism and the Marxist Movement* and *Is Biology Woman’s Destiny?*

Books are also finding their way to Afghanistan, where many people can read Farsi. Bookstores in Los Angeles, which has a large Iranian population, have begun ordering more titles. Socialist workers everywhere can emulate the example of Farsi-language book distribution, Shirvani said. The same results can be achieved with titles in Chinese and other languages.

Dave Prince made an appeal for contributions to the capital fund, which is used to finance the movement’s publishing projects. Contributors have donated \$176,000 to the 2009–2010 fund.

“Yes we can” was the centerpiece of Democratic Party politics one year

“Obama is the first socialist U.S. president,” Barnes said. Obama is attempting to govern based on policies like those of the social democratic governments that have been in power in Europe, seeking social reforms on questions like health care and experimenting with limited nationalizations. The Obama administration fears deeper involvement in the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but historically social-democratic governments have led imperialist wars.

The Democratic Party is not a socialist party, however, and its base is not the labor movement, Barnes added.

On the economy, Obama has handed control over to the very same people who were the architects of the financial crisis that exploded in 2008. Under his administration there has been no retreat from protecting the bondholders at all costs, no retreat from diverting surplus value to fictitious capital. New, bigger debt balloons are being blown up that will burst.

World politics shifts to East

The axis of world politics continues to shift to the East, Barnes said. He focused on the latest developments in India and Pakistan, which have repeatedly gone to war with each other for decades. The Pakistani bourgeoisie now wants to forge an alliance with India to spur capitalist economic development in Pakistan.

This region will be the axis of war and international politics for years to come, Barnes said. The stakes involve a huge portion of the world’s people. India is already poised to surpass China in population within 25 years.

Israel, meanwhile, has successfully developed an anti-missile defense system integrated with U.S. systems that gives it first-strike capacity against countries like Syria and Lebanon.

The Obama administration is not equipped to be the war presidency the U.S. rulers need today. The White



Left, Pathfinder table at meeting, where more than \$1,000 in revolutionary books was sold. Right, young participants enjoy meal and discussion following talks.

ago, said Barnes who gave the final talk.

Every serious electoral challenge to Democratic candidates in November launched by the Republican Party was successful. The Democrats lost two major gubernatorial races, in New Jersey and Virginia. Obama campaigned very visibly for Democratic incumbent Jon Corzine, governor of New Jersey, who nevertheless lost to Republican Christopher Christie. Many of those who had voted for Obama last year switched to vote for the Republican this year. Christie campaigned on the promise of jobs.

House paralysis over sending more troops to Afghanistan is just one indication.

The killing of 13 soldiers and wounding of 30 others at Fort Hood November 5 revealed the degree to which the administration’s policy of “diversity” in the military led it to ignore the obvious signals from Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the man charged with the shootings, that he was planning an Islamist-style terrorist attack. Obama’s first comment after the slaughter of defenseless workers in uniform was that no one should “jump

Continued on page 11

Fighting for a class-struggle course in the unions

Printed below is an excerpt from Teamster Power, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. Teamster Power tells the story of how the men and women of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 574 and their class-struggle leadership used the power they had won through three hard-fought strikes in 1934 to extend union power to cities throughout the Midwest. They helped the unemployed organize and fight for jobs, combated employer-organized frame-ups, attacks by goons, and killings of union members, and launched an 11-state campaign that brought tens of thousands of over-the-road drivers into the union. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

In carrying out their class-collaborationist line, the union bureaucrats exercise tight control over negotiations with employers. They try to avoid strikes over working agreements if at all possible. When a walkout does take place, they usually leap at the first chance for a settlement.

Once a contract has been signed with an employer they consider all hostilities terminated. Membership attempts to take direct action where necessary to enforce the agreement are declared “un-



Local 574 members gather to hear announcement of victory in May 1934 Minneapolis truck drivers' strike. "Organized by industry and prepared for the gruelling daily struggle is the way in which lasting gains can be won by the workers as a class," wrote Dobbs.

authorized" and a violation of "solemn covenants." In fact the bureaucrats often gang up with the bosses to victimize rebel workers.

Local 574's leadership flatly repudiated the bankrupt line of the class collaborationists. There can be no such thing as an equitable class peace, the membership was taught. The law of the jungle prevails under capitalism. If the workers don't fight as a class to defend their interests, the bosses will gouge them. Reflecting these concepts, the preamble to the new by-laws adopted by the local stated:

"The working class whose life depends on the sale of labor and the employing class who live upon the labor of others, confront each other on the industrial field contending for the wealth created by those who toil. The drive for profit dominates the bosses' life. Low wages, long hours, the speed-up are weapons in the hands of the employer under the wage system. Striving always for a greater share of the wealth created by his labor, the worker must depend upon his organized strength. A militant policy backed by united action must be opposed to the program of the boss.

"The trade unions in the past have failed to fulfill their historic obligation. The masses of the workers are unorganized. The craft form has long been outmoded by gigantic capitalist expansion. Industrial unions are the

order of the day.

"It is the natural right of all labor to own and enjoy the wealth created by it. Organized by industry and prepared for the gruelling daily struggle is the way in which lasting gains can be won by the workers as a class."

As these views set forth in the preamble affirm, there was no toying with reactionary ideas about stable class relations in the trucking industry. Stability was sought only for Local 574 itself, so that membership needs could better be served. Relations with the employers were shaped according to the realities of class struggle. The concepts involved are illustrated by the union's approach to the question of working agreements with the trucking companies.

It was recognized that contracts between unions and employers serve only to codify the relationship of class forces at a given juncture. More precisely, they merely record promises wrung from employers. If a union is poorly led, the bosses will violate their promises, undermine the contract in daily practice, and put the workers on the defensive. Conversely, a properly led union will strive to enforce the contract to the letter. It will also undertake to pass beyond the formal terms of agreement to the extent this may be practical in order to establish preconditions for improved written provisions when the contract comes up for renewal. In every case, either the unions

will press for greater improvement in the workers' situation, or the employers will be able to concentrate on efforts to nullify gains the workers have made.

Another matter related to these basic considerations is the length of time working agreements are to remain in effect. Class-collaborationist union officials, who yearn for stable worker-employer relations, favor long term agreements. They want to keep the membership locked up in a given status-quo situation for the longest possible time. Militant union leaders, on the other hand, prefer relatively short term contracts, so that gains for the membership can be registered more frequently.

In Local 574's case the general practice was to limit agreements to a period of one year. This applied both to the negotiation of renewal terms when the August 1934 strike settlement expired later on and to the signing of contracts with companies whose employees were newly organized.

On the question of making employers keep their promises, the handling of grievances becomes vital. Here again class-collaborationist policies entrap the workers. Union bureaucrats are quick to include a no-strike pledge in contract settlements and refer grievances to arbitration. The workers lose because arbitration boards are rigged against them, the "impartial" board members invariably being "neutral" on the employers' side. Moreover, the bosses remain free to violate the working agreement at will, as grievances pile up behind the arbitration dam.

In a similar vein, conservative union officials are prone to make a general no-strike pledge when the capitalist government proclaims a "national emergency." They do so by bureaucratic fiat, giving rank-and-file workers no voice in the decision. Such "labor statesmanship" amounts to proclaiming an overall "truce" between the workers and the bosses. Actually no truce results at all. The capitalists simply use their government to attack the trade union movement under the guise of a "national emergency"; and the workers, deprived in such a situation of their strike weapon, get it in the neck.

November

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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by Farrell Dobbs

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by Pat Grogan

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10 The Militant November 23, 2009

No common ground!

With the collusion of the Democratic Party from President Barack Obama on down, abortion opponents succeeded in winning an amendment that introduces one of the biggest attacks on abortion rights since the Hyde Amendment. Adopted shortly after abortion became legal in 1973, the Hyde Amendment outlawed spending federal Medicaid funds on abortion, forcing millions of working-class women to once again bear children against their will or risk dangerous, illegal abortions.

The Stupak Amendment, adopted by the House as part of a health “reform” bill November 7, would ban use of federal funds for abortion in any government-sponsored health insurance and would prevent those receiving federal subsidies from purchasing private insurance policies that include abortion coverage.

The Stupak Amendment should come as no surprise. Antiabortion forces have been winning the battle against those who back women’s right to choose abortion for some time now. The rightists got a big boost when Obama called in May for seeking “common ground” with them “to reduce the number of women seeking abortion.” Only two weeks later a right-winger in Wichita, Kansas, gunned down Dr.

George Tiller, a doctor well-known for carrying out abortions and defending women’s right to elect the procedure. No national women’s rights organization or trade union has called for the kind of massive mobilizations by women’s rights supporters needed to defend abortion since.

Obama says he’s not comfortable with the way the Stupak Amendment turned out. But he reiterates that “we’re not looking to change what is the principle that has been in place for a very long time, which is federal dollars are not used to subsidize abortions.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says she disagrees with the amendment but she was the one who brought it to the floor. Pelosi says she, too, is looking for “common ground” with the enemies of women’s rights.

There is no common ground between supporters of abortion rights and the antiabortion forces, any more than there is common ground between fighters for Black rights and lynch mobs.

Now is the time to rebuild a women’s movement that will reject “common ground” compromises and subordination of women’s demands to the hollow promises of capitalist politicians and fight for women’s right to control their own bodies.

White House escalates Afghan war

Continued from front page

increase in troops is all but inevitable, reported AP. Gen. George Casey, the army’s chief of staff, added his voice November 8 to those high-ranking military officials calling for sending more troops. Speaking on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” Casey said, “I believe that we need to put additional forces into Afghanistan to give General McChrystal the ability to both dampen the successes of the Taliban while we train the Afghan civilian forces.”

McChrystal’s new counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan stresses the need to reduce civilian deaths. The strategy draws on lessons of the Bush administration’s successes in Iraq. But civilian deaths continue to rise from NATO air strikes and artillery fire.

The November 5 rocket strike hit Korkhashien village in Helmand Province. Residents of the village drove the bodies of those killed to the governor’s office. Afghan local officials had denied knowledge of any civilian deaths, reported the *Miami Herald*. Helmand has been at the center of the stiffest fighting and highest casualties from the U.S.-led intervention.

NATO said those killed by the rocket were suspected of planting a bomb. NATO spokeswoman Navy Capt. Jane Campbell said the alliance “takes all credible allegations of civilian casualties very seriously and investigates each allegation to determine the facts. If any civilians were injured through our actions, we

deeply regret it.”

A resident of the village told AP that the nine people were killed while harvesting corn in their fields.

President Hamid Karzai condemned what his statement called an “attack on civilians.” One day after being declared officially the winner of Afghanistan’s presidential election, Karzai said he wants to have an “inclusive government.” The U.S. government has pressed Karzai to institute reforms and to reach an accommodation with Abdullah. Obama called for a “new chapter” in the Afghan government.

British prime minister Gordon Brown said Karzai has to make it clear that corruption in the government will end. He also reiterated the British government’s continued commitment to the war. “If we are to defend Britain properly from this terrorist threat, then it is not enough simply to defend ourselves here. We have got to make sure that we diminish the effect of those people who are planning terrorist activities on the Afghan-Pakistan border,” Brown said.

Opposition to Britain’s involvement in the war continues to mount, including in ruling-class circles. On November 3 Kim Howells, former foreign office minister in Brown’s government, called for a phased withdrawal of British troops from Helmand while stepping up surveillance of Muslim communities in the United Kingdom. Howells is now the government’s watchdog for intelligence and security.

Openings to build communist movement

Continued from page 9

to conclusions” about the killer’s motives.

There has never been an atrocity by Cuba’s revolutionary armed forces, Barnes said. He quoted from Fidel Castro’s tribute to the “exemplary conduct for more than half a century” of Juan Almeida, an historic leader of the Cuban Revolution who died in September.

It is an example to be emulated by revolutionaries today, Barnes said, living your life within the trajectory of the working-class road to power.

‘Learning how to stand up for rights’

Participants in the meeting enjoyed a delicious meal following the talks and further discussion and dancing. More than \$1,000 was sold in books distributed by Pathfinder.

Jon Gruver, 19, was one of six young people who drove here from Philadelphia to take part in the meeting. Dissatisfied with “mainstream political ideology,” as he put it, he began attending a study group on Marxism at Temple University where he met the Young Socialists. One book they studied,

Lenin’s *Imperialism*, had a big impact on him. “It helped clarify for me what’s happening today in the financial crisis,” he said.

Nate Helfrick, who attends the Community College of Philadelphia, has also been participating in the Temple study group. He said he was surprised to learn how well Pathfinder books are selling in Iran and Afghanistan and inspired by the boldness of those distributing the books.

Helfrick, 24, had volunteered briefly for the AFL-CIO’s Working America. “I quit when I found out they were not about organizing unions but about knocking on doors for the Democrats,” he said.

Tiffany Pleasant, a 25-year-old African American from Rockford, Illinois, first met the Socialist Workers Party at a demonstration there against police brutality. The action demanded justice for a 23-year-old Black man shot and killed by police in August. Pleasant, 25, lives just a few houses away from the youth’s family.

A laid-off Spanish teacher, Pleasant is currently taking classes at Rock Valley College. She said she came to the meeting “to learn more about socialism and capitalism, and how I can stand up for my rights.”

‘Productivity’

Continued from front page

15.7 million workers—up from 9.8 percent the previous month, according to the Labor Department. The unemployment rate for teenagers rose to 27.6 percent; for African Americans to 15.7 percent; and to 8.1 percent for women.

About 2.4 million unemployed workers “marginally attached to the workforce” are not counted, as the government claims they haven’t looked for work in the past four weeks. Another 9.3 million have had to accept only part-time work. The actual unemployed and underemployed rate is now 17.5 percent—27.4 million workers.

A Bloomberg News survey of economists projects the unemployment rate to average nearly 10 percent for all of 2010. The Federal Reserve predicts unemployment will remain above 8 percent through 2011, 3 percentage points higher than it was at the start of the recession, which officially began in December 2007.

The largest job cuts in October were in manufacturing, construction, and retail trade. Since December 2007 bosses have eliminated 1.6 million jobs in construction and 2.1 million in manufacturing, reflecting the ongoing contraction of capitalist production. And more cuts are in the works. On November 3, Johnson & Johnson, the world’s largest health-products company, announced it’s eliminating 7,000 jobs.

Indicating “some improvement in the labor market,” the *Wall Street Journal* pointed to the decrease by 20,000 of first-time claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending October 31. However, 512,000 people filed. There have been more than half a million new claims filed each week since the beginning of the year.

A report issued November 2 by the Institute for Supply Management described what Bloomberg News called a “surge in production,” showing “the first sign of growth since July 2008.” The index reached its highest level since 2006, the business news agency said.

The chairman of the purchasing managers’ factory survey, Norbert Ore, however, called this description a bit “misleading.” The index is a gauge of sentiment rather than actual hiring, reflecting a small callback of laid-off workers, he told the media. For example, Cummins Inc., the largest maker of heavy-duty diesel truck engines in North America, cut about 7,500 workers from late 2008 through June 2009 and has since recalled about 900.

Labor ‘productivity’ rises

Third quarter labor “productivity” rose at a 9.5 percent annual rate, nearly 3 percent higher than the previous quarter and the biggest gain in six years. Output increased 4 percent while hours worked declined 5 percent. The bosses are producing more with fewer workers over fewer hours.

The “productivity” rate in manufacturing rose to 13.6 percent in the third quarter, the largest increase in quarterly rates since 1987, when these figures began being recorded. In the same quarter industrial unit labor costs for the bosses fell by 7.1 percent.

An Associated Press report questions the accuracy of government figures on actual jobs created under the \$787 billion federal “stimulus” plan passed by Congress in February. The Barack Obama administration reported in mid-October that some 30,000 jobs were created or “saved” through federal government “stimulus” contracts with businesses. The president promised that this move would create or save 3.5 million jobs over two years.

In some cases jobs credited to the stimulus program “were counted two and sometimes more than four times,” stated AP. Among the examples cited were Teletch Government Solutions in Colorado, which reported creating 4,231 jobs, although 3,000 of those workers were paid for five weeks or less. Koring Group in Toledo, Ohio, counted the 26 workers it hired twice, and their jobs only lasted about two months.

In another development, individuals filing for bankruptcy in October rose to nearly 136,000, a 9 percent increase over the previous month. According to the American Bankruptcy Institute, 1.4 million will file in 2009, the highest since 2005.