

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

1963: Cuba sent tanks, troops to defend Algerian Revolution
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 41 NOVEMBER 16, 2015

‘Militant,’ fund drives help build Socialist Workers Party

BY NAOMI CRAINE

“I don’t know if you can trust the presidential candidates because everyone has a price,” Deborah Malchow, 26, said when Alyson Kennedy and Dan Fein from the Socialist Workers Party knocked on her door in Chicago Oct. 31. “I’m thinking about Donald Trump because he can’t be bought, he’s not an establishment candidate.”

“Our party has a program to defend the working class,” Fein responded. “You can’t be for the bosses and the workers at the same time. We’re participants in the fights taking place today, like the Nov. 10 national day of actions for a \$15 minimum wage and a union. Workers need to organize politically independent of the capitalists and their parties on the road to take power and reorganize society along the lines of the Cuban Revolution.”

Malchow, who works as a nanny, subscribed to the party’s paper, the *Militant*. She also got three of the books on special for new readers: *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*; *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*; and *New International no 11* with the lead article “U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War” to learn more about the SWP.

Over the last two months members have been leading a broad effort to

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‘We need \$15 an hour, full-time work, a union’ Nationwide protests set for Nov. 10



Militant/Tony Lane

JetBlue contract workers at New York’s JFK airport protest Oct. 29 against low wages and unsafe conditions. Sign in Spanish reads, “Fast-food workers, we say your fight is our fight.”

BY MAGGIE TROWE

As fast-food and other low-wage workers are planning for and publicizing what is shaping up to be the broadest national day of action for \$15

ALL OUT NOV. 10!
— Editorial, page 9

an hour and a union Nov. 10, they are also defending fellow workers fired in retaliation for building the struggle.

Sandra Roman, who is active in Fight for \$15, was fired from her job at a McDonald’s in Oakland, California,

Oct. 28, ostensibly for “calling in sick too frequently.” The Service Employees International Union, the East Bay Organizing Committee, co-workers and others mobilized that night at the restaurant. The owner shut down the 24-hour establishment, trying to stop

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‘Our victory is that workers get a voice’ in 2015 election

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

PHILADELPHIA — “This is great! I’ve never had socialists knock on my door,” Michelle Thompson told John Staggs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council at-large, in the Port Richmond neighborhood here Nov. 1. Staggs and Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for mayor, are on the ballot in the Nov. 3 election.

The SWP candidates have gotten widespread media coverage, appeared

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN

in numerous candidates’ debates, joined union picket lines and protests against cop brutality and talked to workers on their doorsteps. They’ve sought to put every political question in a class framework, and promote working-class solutions.

Katie Colaneri, a reporter for WHYY public radio and its associated Newsworks website, accompanied the socialist candidates as they knocked on workers’ doors in the Mayfair

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Prosecutor refuses to charge cop who killed S. Carolina teen

BY JANICE LYNN

SENECA, S.C. — “The dashcam video shows that my son was not trying to hit the officer,” Paul Hammond told the *Militant* Oct. 30. Zachary Hammond, 19, was shot and killed by Lt. Mark Tiller at a Hardee’s parking lot here July 26 during an attempted drug sting. The cop claimed he was in fear for his life and Hammond had tried to run him over.

State prosecutor Chrissy Adams announced Oct. 27 that she would not file any charges against Tiller, and finally made public the police camera footage showing what happened. In addition to repeated requests from Hammond’s family, the *Greenville News* and other media outlets had filed a lawsuit demanding its release.

In an Oct. 26 letter to the State Law Enforcement Division, Adams de-



Despite video, above, that shows cop Mark Tiller shooting Zachary Hammond, right, as his car passes by, prosecutor claimed Hammond was trying to run Tiller down.



scribed the video as “troublesome,” but concluded, “Tiller broke no State laws.” She said, “It was concerning that Lt. Tiller chose to run up to Hammond’s car instead of staying at his patrol car’s door,” but nevertheless “deadly force was justified.”

The dashcam video, which has now been widely viewed, is unmistakable.

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Washington, Moscow step up military intervention in Syria

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

While officials from 17 countries met in Vienna Oct. 30-31 to discuss contending proposals for ending the civil war in Syria and beginning a “political transition” — with no Syrians invited — both Washington and Moscow are deepening their military operations inside the country. The day the talks began the White House

announced it was deploying some 50 special operations ground troops to northeastern Syria to “train, advise and assist” Kurdish-led forces fighting Islamic State there.

Moscow, while saying it’s also fighting Islamic State, has focused on conducting intense airstrikes in western Syria targeting forces fighting against the Bashar al-Assad dictatorship. Moscow’s air assault accompanies a ground offensive by the Syrian

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Cuba Speaks for Itself

Hear Kenia Serrano, president, and Leima Martínez, representative, Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples

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Locked-out ATI workers: ‘Young or old, we’re in it together’

New Chrysler contract maintains lower-paid tiers

NKorea demands Washington sign treaty, stop provocations

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Speaking before the United Nations General Assembly Oct. 1, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong reiterated his government’s longstanding demand that Washington sign a peace treaty with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Washington has refused to do so since being forced to sign a cease-fire in its bloody war in Korea in 1953.

The Socialist Workers Party welcomes the call “for Washington to finally sign a peace treaty,” Steve Clark wrote in an Oct. 10 message to the Workers’ Party of Korea on behalf of the SWP National Committee, “which the imperialist rulers have rejected doing for more than 62 years.”

Ri pointed to an August incident at the “demilitarized zone” dividing the Korean peninsula, as well as frequent military maneuvers by Washington and the South Korean regime, as reasons why the armistice agreement must be replaced with a lasting peace treaty.

The North Korean government has repeatedly requested that the UN Security Council discuss the “aggressive and provocative large-scale joint military exercises of the United States and South Korea,” he said, but the U.S.-dominated council has “remained silent on the referral every time.”

The latest example was the Oct. 26-29 maneuvers by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group, together with South Korean warships, off the eastern coast of the peninsula.

In late August some 30,000 U.S. troops, 50,000 South Korean troops,

and forces from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom held joint exercises, including live fire exercises just 18 miles south of the border between North and South Korea.

“We have no interest in entering into any such discussions” on a peace treaty, Sung Kim, U.S. State Department Special Representative for North Korea Policy, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Oct. 20. “For us the priority focus has to be the nuclear issue.” He pledged to keep up the economic sanctions Washington has imposed on North Korea in the name of opposing Pyongyang’s nuclear program.

Washington is also moving ahead with a 50 percent increase in deployment of Ground-Based Interceptors to “ensure we stay ahead” of the intercontinental ballistic missile “threat from North Korea,” State Department official Frank Rose stated earlier this year.

“What cynicism!” said Clark in the Socialist Workers Party statement. “The DPRK has never taken so much as a pistol shot at U.S. soil, while during the murderous 1950-53 war, the U.S. rulers unleashed 635,000 tons of bombs and 32,557 tons of napalm against the Korean people. That’s 25 percent more than the U.S. Armed Forces dropped in the Pacific theater during World War II.”

With the defeat of the Japanese imperialist occupation of the peninsula at the conclusion of World War II, workers and peasants across Korea rose up in massive mobilizations. They were met by U.S. military forces, who occupied the country and partitioned it with

US confronts Beijing over control of South China Sea



U.S. Navy photo/Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Evan Kenny

The U.S. Navy destroyer USS Lassen, above, sailed within 12 nautical miles of Subi Reef, one of several artificial islands Beijing has built in the Spratly Islands, Oct. 27.

Washington seeks to maintain its imperialist domination in the Pacific, and counter China’s growing influence. The Chinese Foreign Ministry condemned the maneuver, saying it “threatened China’s sovereignty and security interests.”

“We will fly, sail and operate wherever international law permits and whenever our operation needs require it,” Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said during a Congressional hearing the same day.

The governments of Vietnam, the Philippines and other neighboring states dispute Beijing’s claim to most of the South China Sea, through which 30 percent of the world’s trade passes. A Philippine military official said it was “about time America showed it remained engaged in this region.”

The White House played down the maneuver, saying it did not assert any “special specific U.S. rights.” Two days later the Chinese and U.S. navies agreed to go ahead with scheduled visits to China by senior U.S. Navy officers and port visits by U.S. and Chinese ships.

U.S. officials had debated for months whether to send any military ships through the waters claimed by Beijing, according to Reuters.

— EMMA JOHNSON

the agreement of the Stalinist regime in Moscow.

In 1950 Washington led tens of thousands of troops under the banner of the United Nations in an effort to crush the workers and peasants government that came to power in the north and organized an agrarian reform, expropriated the landlords and capitalists, and carried out other social measures in the interests of working people. Some 4 million people were killed in the war. But the U.S. rulers were unable to defeat the Korean people; it was the first ever military defeat for U.S. imperialism.

Since then, Washington has helped maintain the division of the peninsula. Some 28,000 U.S. troops are stationed in

South Korea today, and nuclear-armed submarines patrol nearby. Washington openly maintained tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea until 1991.

“It is among embattled working people here and around the globe that support will be found to end U.S. sanctions and embargoes against the DPRK, Cuba, Iran, Russia, and Venezuela, and to demand the reunification of Korea,” Clark wrote.

He said the Socialist Workers Party calls for withdrawing “all U.S. military forces from Korea’s soil, air and waters. Sign a lasting peace treaty with the DPRK. For a Pacific and Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons. Korea is one!”

THE MILITANT

Fight against police brutality, killings

Protests against cop abuse and killings are having an impact, forcing the rulers to take steps to rein in their police. The ‘Militant’ covers these struggles as well as discussions on the role of the cops in propping up capitalist rule and what it will take to end it.



South Florida Sun Sentinel via AP/Carline Jean
Protest in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Oct. 22 against cop killing of Corey Jones.

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SWP fund, ‘Militant’ drives

Continued from front page
expand the circulation of the party’s press and books in the working class. The final results of the subscription drive, and of the \$100,000 Party-Building Fund, are still coming in and will be published in next week’s issue.

“Four workers subscribed to the *Militant* outside the CVG auto parts plant in Piedmont, Alabama, where workers recently voted in the United Auto Workers,” Dave Ferguson from the SWP in Atlanta reported Oct. 30. “One worker said the company had taken away paid sick time and increased the number of temporary workers.”

The same day teams from Atlanta went to the towns of Seneca and Red Bank in South Carolina. Many workers in Seneca were outraged at the state prosecutor’s decision not to indict the cop who killed Zachary Hammond there (see article on front page). Four people subscribed to the *Militant*.

White supremacist Dylann Storm Roof lived in Red Bank before he carried out the political assassination of nine African-Americans in a church in Charleston in June. “John Benson and I knocked on doors in a small trailer park,” wrote Susan LaMont. “David Thompson, 46, and his wife, Jennifer, both thought what Roof did was ‘outrageous.’ She manages the trailer park and he installs wood floors.

“We also talked about the Confederate battle flag, which the state government was forced to remove from the Capitol in the wake of the massacre. David said he thought the flag ‘wasn’t a racist symbol, it’s part of history.’

“John explained that state governments raised the battle flag in the South in the 1950s and ’60s, not during the Civil War, as a symbol of opposition to the civil rights movement and main-

taining Jim Crow segregation,” said LaMont. “David said he hadn’t known that and they decided to subscribe. So did a neighbor of theirs, a young Black woman who works at the Amazon fulfillment center. She was interested in the Fight for \$15 movement.”

“We’re over our goal,” wrote Patrick Brown from the Communist League in New Zealand. “Stewart Shanks, a stonemason, renewed and bought several books. He has followed the Lac-Mégantic rail disaster (see article on page 6). At first, he said, he was inclined to think the workers were to blame, but the *Militant*’s coverage convinced him that a frame-up is underway.”

“I invited the *Militant* to spend the day talking to locked-out ATI workers at three gates” in western Pennsylvania, said Regina Stinson, an organizer of Wives of Steel, which coordinates solidarity activities for the fight against takeback demands at Allegheny Technologies Inc. “The *Militant* does a great job of getting the workers story out.”

“At picket shacks in Bagdad, Vandergrift and at the gate in Brackenridge six workers subscribed to the paper and one got *Teamster Politics*,” reported Arlene



Militant/Chris Hoeppner
John Staggs, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Philadelphia City Council at-large, on Steelworkers informational picket at ArcelorMittal mill in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, Oct. 26.

Rubinstein from the SWP in Washington, D.C., who took Stinson up on her invitation. “A retired steelworker got a sub and two books for her daughter. She picked up *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power* for herself and contributed \$15 to the fund.”

Five areas have gone over the top and a number more report that they

now have pledges and contributions to the Party-Building Fund that go over their goals. As the final checks are put in the mail, we’ll keep closing in on the \$100,000 goal. Everything that comes in for the fund by next Tuesday will count.

John Studer, SWP Party-Building Fund director, contributed to this article.

‘Our victory is workers get voice’ in 2015 election

Continued from front page
area in Northeast Philadelphia. “The working class neighborhood is home to just the kind of voters they’re targeting,” Colaneri wrote Oct. 26.

She asked Hart what the SWP would accomplish through the campaign. “Our victory is that working people get a voice in the elections,” Hart answered.

The party has been asking workers to join a Nov. 10 rally at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall organized by fast-food workers, Walmart workers and many others de-

manding \$15 an hour, regular full-time schedules and a union. Hart works as an overnight stocker at Walmart and Staggs works a cash register at a different store.

“Yes, I support the fight for \$15 an hour — but the minimum wage should be at least \$20 an hour,” Sean Wright, a construction worker, told campaign supporter Janet Post on his doorstep in Port Richmond Nov. 1.

“The hardest thing about working at McDonald’s was the terrible pay,” Elizabeth Wilcox, who worked there 30 years, told Post. She said that she will try to go to the Nov. 10 demonstration because to win \$15 an hour “will take a fight.”

“A lifelong supporter of black people’s rights, he [Hart] was a participant in the July 24-26 Black Lives Matter national conference in Cleveland,” said a Newsworks 2015 Philadelphia Voters Guide. “He also supports a woman’s right to have an abortion, has marched and spoken out in support of undocumented workers in Philadelphia, Norristown and southern New Jersey, and has joined protests and rallies against public school funding cuts.

“Staggs has been using his Council campaign to support Verizon workers and ATI steelworkers in their contract fights,” the voting guide said. “Staggs is also an opponent of U.S. wars he calls imperialist — in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere — and he supports the revolutionary government in Cuba as an example for all working people.”

“Working people need to organize a movement to form our own political party, a labor party based on the unions that can take the reins of power out of the hands of big business,” Staggs told those attending an Oct. 27 candidates’ meeting sponsored by the Committee of 70, Young Involved Philadelphia and the *Philadelphia Citizen*.

Grandille Crothers, who has worked at ArcelorMittal’s steel mill in Coatesville since 1966, told campaign supporter Mitchel Rosenberg Nov. 2 that he backs the SWP’s efforts to promote the fight for a labor party. “I’m all for it.

Sooner or later somebody has to stand up for the working man,” Crothers said.

ArcelorMittal and U.S. Steel are demanding deep concession contracts in negotiations with the Steelworkers union. The SWP candidates have joined Steelworkers’ actions in defense of the union at ArcelorMittal plants in both Coatesville and Conshohocken.

When the topic at an “All Candidates Night” Oct. 28 sponsored by The Chew and Belfield Neighbors Club turned to police brutality quite a discussion broke out on how to end police killings.

Rev. Chester Williams, club president and the moderator, said that the cops should be trained to shoot so that they don’t kill.

Jim Foster, an independent candidate for mayor, said he thought cops should be trained to take someone down without shooting at all.

Hart said he joined family members in public protests against the killings of Frank McQueen and Brandon Tate-Brown and the brutal beating of Tyree Carroll by the cops.

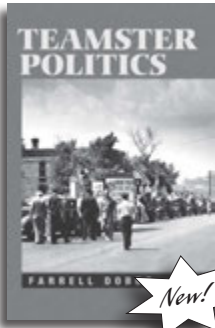
“It isn’t a question of training the police better,” he said. “The police defend the interests of the employers, the ruling class. Working people, the majority in society, need to mobilize to take power out of the hands of the capitalists and put it in our hands — that is the solution.”

The SWP candidates are inviting workers to hear Kenia Serrano and Lei-ma Martínez, leaders of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, Nov. 7 in Washington, D.C., to learn about what workers and farmers in Cuba have been able to accomplish with their own government. And they’re building the Nov. 10 rally for \$15 and a union.

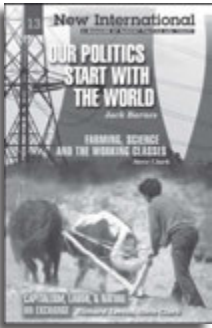
“Unity is what it’s all about, sticking together. You got my vote,” Kevin Foreman, a 39-year-old forklift operator and member of the Teamsters, told Hart at his front door in Port Richmond. “I support the \$15 minimum wage. I’ll read the *Militant*, but I want you to come back and talk after the Tuesday election.”

“I’ll be here,” Hart said. “The SWP doesn’t just run in elections, we’re a 365-day-a-year political party.”

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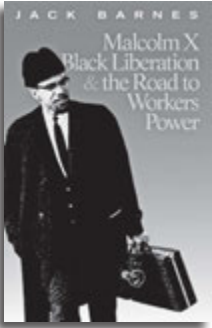
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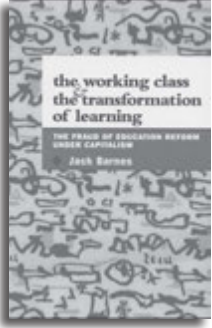
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Seattle forum: Workers discuss \$15, union organizing battles

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE — Low-wage workers involved in the fight to unionize and win better wages and conditions in fast food, at Walmart and on corporate farms shared experiences and discussed perspectives at the Militant Labor Forum here Oct. 23.

Ramón Torres, president of the independent farmworkers union Familias Unidas por la Justicia (Families United for Justice), described how berry workers at Sakuma Brothers Farms in Skagit County have held walkouts, marches, rallies and boycotts over the last two years. “We won better conditions in the camps we live in, and a court settlement where workers got back wages for unpaid breaks and overtime,” he said. “And because of our struggle, a federal court ruled that all agricultural workers in Washington state who work on a contract basis are entitled to paid breaks.”

The union is still fighting for a contract at Sakuma and against child labor.

“I’ve been a Walmart worker for 15 years and have been fired twice for my pro-worker activities,” said Mary Watkines, a founding member of OUR Walmart, which campaigns for higher pay, regular hours and better conditions at the retail giant.

“I got involved after one of my co-workers died on the job,” Watkines said. Fearing she would be fired, “my friend came to work in spite of her being ill, then collapsed and later died at the hospital.”

Walmart is the biggest corporation in the world, she said, yet many workers there make such low wages they must rely on food stamps.

“We are asking for \$15 an hour for all associates. We want to stop retaliation by managers against workers involved in organizing,” Watkines said.

“We need to help each other and I am glad to be here with the fast-food and farmworkers,” said Gerry Paladan, another fired Walmart worker who is a staff organizer with OUR Walmart and works with the United Food and Commercial Workers union. “I started at Walmart in 2006 and was later fired.” An appeal to reinstate him is pending before the National Labor Relations Board.

Paladan said he cut his leg seriously

at work and his boss told him to pour bleach on the wound. When he finally was able to receive medical attention, it took a number of stitches to close the gash.

“I am part of the \$15 an hour movement with Working Washington, which organizes fast-food workers,” said Crystal Thompson. “In my six years at Domino’s Pizza I didn’t get any raises until the new minimum wage law was passed by the City Council.” The law raises the city’s minimum wage to \$13 as of Jan. 1, 2016, and \$15 in 2017.

“People who work in the city ought to be able to afford to live here as well,” Thompson said. “Sometimes I work a 10-hour day with only one break and no lunch. We are short staffed and that puts more pressure on workers. Everyone in the country deserves \$15 an hour.

“Look at the airport workers at SeaTac [Seattle-Tacoma International Airport],” she said. “They won the ballot referendum to raise the minimum wage to \$15 there fair and square,” but the bosses refuse to pay it.

Bosses attack workers’ gains

“Why is it that when workers win ‘fair and square’ the bosses refuse to carry out what we won?” Mary Martin,

Nov. 10 actions demand \$15 an hour and a union

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the protest and delay action by city officials.

The City of Oakland is involved because the firing violated a retaliation clause in the city’s new minimum wage ordinance. It raised the city minimum wage from \$9 to \$12.25 per hour and required employers to provide paid sick leave.

Another protest was held the next day. In a meeting with Roman and SEIU representatives Oct. 30, McDonald’s management reinstated her.

Shonda Roberts joined the Oct. 29 rally to support Roman. Roberts, also active in building the Nov. 10 actions, has reason to feel confident. She was reinstated at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Oakland Oct. 25 after protests against a similar retaliatory firing.

The bonds between the fight for \$15 and protests against police brutality continue to deepen. In Chicago one of the Nov. 10 protests will gather at a McDonald’s a few blocks from the police station where monthly protests have demanded the firing of police officer Dante Servin, who killed 22-year-old African-American Rekia Boyd in 2012. Protesters will march from the restaurant to the police station.

Quinnisha Allen, 21, who works at a South Side McDonald’s, told the *Militant* there will be strikes and protests at several of the fast-food giant’s outlets around the city, followed by a 4:30 p.m. rally at Thompson Center downtown.

Allen was fired from another McDonald’s last year “for drinking a lemonade while I was waiting for my food during lunch,” she said. “The manager claimed I didn’t pay for the drink. When I went back with four Fight for \$15 members, she refused to talk with me and called the police.”

Activities in New York Nov. 10 in-



Militant/Clay Dennison

Panel at Oct. 23 forum in Seattle. From left: chair John Naubert, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Port Commissioner; Mary Martin, SWP and Walmart worker; OUR Walmart organizer Gerry Paladan; OUR Walmart activist Mary Watkines; Ramón Torres, president of farmworkers union Familias Unidas por la Justicia; Crystal Thompson, Domino’s Pizza worker.

chairperson of the Socialist Workers Party in Seattle and a Walmart worker, said. “We need unions and union contracts like the farmworkers are demanding to fight to hold the bosses to the agreements. But the problem is rooted in the system of capitalism. The bosses, the politicians and their government are all stacked against the working class, so as soon as you win something they try to take it back.”

“That is why we need a government run in our interests, by working people like us,” she said. “But that won’t happen unless we build a revolutionary

working-class movement capable of taking political power out of the hands of the capitalist class. The Socialist Workers Party proposes building a labor party based on the unions, independent of the bosses’ parties, that can mobilize our class for that fight.”

Speakers invited forum participants to take part in a number of upcoming actions that can reinforce each other, including the Nov. 10 national protest actions for \$15 and a union, Black Friday protests at Walmart Nov. 27 and the farmworkers’ Dec. 13 Christmas party in Mt. Vernon.

clude an early morning action at a McDonald’s in Brooklyn, a midday rally at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building in Harlem and a 4 p.m. demonstration at Foley Square downtown. There will also be protests in Albany, Buffalo, Corning, Newfane, Poughkeepsie and Troy, New York, and in Jersey City, Perth Amboy and Neptune City, New Jersey.

Two vanloads of Fight for \$15 Now workers joined airport workers, members of SEIU Local 32BJ, and others at a rally of 100 people at JFK International Airport Oct. 29, a run-up action to Nov. 10. Workers at JetBlue subcontractors Roma and Ultimate Aircraft were protesting low wages, inadequate protective equipment and bedbugs in the vans that take them out to the planes.

‘Nov. 10 is going to be big’

“We need \$15 and a union now, not in a few years,” Jorel Ware, a McDonald’s worker and Fight for \$15 organizer, told the *Militant*. “We got \$15 in New York, but it’s not complete until 2018 in the city and 2021 in the state.” The raise applies to some 200,000 fast-food workers.

“We have Black Lives Matter groups, airport and home care workers and university adjuncts joining us, hundreds of organizations,” Ware said. “Nov. 10 is going to be big.”

There are several hundred workers at the 24-hour McDonald’s near Times Square where he works. “The managers talk down to us, tell us to hurry up, say if we eat a french fry we’ll be fired,” he said. “And I have a burn scar above my eyebrow from opening the apple turn-over oven.”

In response to the broadening fight for higher wages, many capitalist spokespeople are waging a counter-campaign and revealing their contempt for working people.

An American Enterprise Institute article in May, titled “Warren Buffett Explains — Simply and Clearly — Why a \$15 Minimum Wage is Bad for Workers,” quotes the multibillionaire owner of railroads, mines and insurance companies claiming higher wages would “reduce employment.”

“A \$15-Hour Minimum Wage Could Harm America’s Poorest Workers,” was the title of a July 30 article in *Fortune* magazine, warning that unemployment will rise because “employers will be very reluctant to pay high wages to workers whose skills — including the ability to speak English, in the case of many immigrants — are so modest.”

Capitalists denigrate workers as part of obfuscating the fact that their wealth comes solely from the exploitation of wage labor. “Low-wage workers” are workers who haven’t yet won higher wages, not ignorant subhuman creatures who don’t merit enough to live on. The \$4.8 billion profit McDonald’s bosses raked in last year came from the value created by the workers who cook and serve the food. Winning pay raises will cut into that profit, not raise prices.

The union-in-becoming of fast-food workers is gaining experience and confidence — and inspiring others.

Tony Lane in New York; Carole Lesnick in Oakland, California; and Alyson Kennedy in Chicago contributed to this article.

**Fight for
\$15 and a union!
National day of action
Tuesday, November 10**

For more info on protests in your city visit: fightfor15.org

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Abortion Is a Woman’s Right to Choose! Stop the Attacks on Planned Parenthood! Speakers: Jackie Rodriguez, president of Georgia NOW; Lisa Potash, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

CANADA

Montreal

Stop Violence Against Native Women: More Than 1,000 Aboriginal Women Murdered or Missing Since 1980. Speaker: Michel Prairie, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles across the country!

This column is dedicated to giving voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including workers fighting for \$15 and a union; locked-out ATI Steelworkers; auto, steel and Verizon workers whose contracts have expired. I invite those involved in workers' battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

— Maggie Trowe

Locked-out ATI workers: 'Young or old, we're in it together'

BAGDAD, Pa. — "Lockouts are the company's weapon to break unions," maintenance worker Adam Cook, 34, told the *Militant* at the picket shack outside the Allegheny Technologies Inc. steel mill here. "Hanging in there is what we can do, because the bosses' motive in this lockout is to set a precedent for the industry."

ATI locked out 2,200 United Steelworkers on Aug. 15. The company wants concessions that would slash health care for active, retired and future workers; institute 12-hour shifts; cut pension agreements for current and future workers; reduce wages and overtime pay; and contract out more work. The lockout takes place as 30,000 Steelworkers at ArcelorMittal and U.S. Steel also face concession demands and work with day-by-day extensions of the expired contract.

"I volunteered for the strike and defense committee in the 1994 strike and it feels good to be here with these guys now," said Ray Ausk, 59, a retired Bagdad worker. "ATI tries to set the public against us. They say everyone has to pay for health care. But this is not about health care, this is about unionbusting."

"It's a crime what ATI has in store for younger workers, a two-tier system and replacing pensions with 401(k)," said Jim Carroll, another veteran of the 1994 strike. "Young or old, we're in this fight together."

Before the lockout, "ATI held town-hall meetings in the plant about the need for cuts," said Alan Braden, 36, a USW safety coordinator at the mill and a coal miner's son. "Meanwhile, they stockpiled their warehouses on our backs with forced overtime and 12-hour shifts. Safety went to the dogs. We're not as strong as the miners were, but we are getting there. This lockout is changing us."

"Working us 12- and 16-hour shifts for straight-time pay for three days in a row is ATI's idea of the new 40-hour workweek," said Cheryl Kanzic at the ATI plant in nearby Brackenridge, where several hundred took part in the expanded picket. "Then a contract worker works the next three days," at a lower rate of pay. Kanzic and other female pickets are members of the union's Women of Steel committee.

One picket sign read, "We got Zamboned." ATI board of directors member David Morehouse is CEO of the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team. Zamboni is a brand of machine that resurfaces skating rinks.



Todd Barbiaux

Hundreds of locked-out Steelworkers picket outside Allegheny Technologies Inc. mill in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, Oct. 29. Similar actions took place that day at other ATI mills.

"It took a monthlong fight for locked-out workers to get unemployment compensation," said Terry Stinson, a utility technician at the Vandergrift plant. "One young worker with two weeks on the job didn't qualify."

But we give him the food gift cards we receive from the union's Strike and Defense Fund. The majority of people are becoming more solid the longer this continues."

— Arlene Rubinstein

New Chrysler contract maintains lower-paid tiers

BY ILONA GERSH

TOLEDO, Ohio — Three weeks after voting 2-1 against a contract recommended by United Auto Workers officials that perpetuated the hated two-tier wage system put in place in 2007, union members at Fiat Chrysler's 16 plants voted 77 percent for a new proposal that includes higher wages for second-tier workers. At the Jeep plant here 55 percent voted for the new deal.

Many unionists here told the *Militant* they opposed a clause that could double the number of workers classified as Temporary Part Time, effectively a third tier, who number more than 1,000 in the plant. New rules on temps weren't in highlights given to union members, *Automotive News* reported Oct. 13.

The UAW agreed in 2007 that Chrysler and General Motors could institute the new category of workers who belong to the union to fill in on the days with most absenteeism: Friday through Monday and holidays.

Temporary workers are not eligible

for the benefits that permanent workers get, from the pension plan; prescription drug, dental or vision coverage; to bonuses. While they are union members, they may be terminated at any time.

Under the new contract newly hired temp workers will start at \$15.78 and top out at \$19.28 after five years, while those hired during the old contract get pay raises that top out at \$22.

The new agreement says the temporary workers are no longer limited to being "part-time" and can be called in any day of the week. Many permanent workers see this as a threat to their jobs. Many temporary workers see this as closing off any chance of becoming permanent workers.

"I'm a third-generation Chrysler worker," Edward DeLuna, 27, a temporary worker, told the *Militant*. "I voted no. I used to think there was a road forward for me here. But now I think they want to keep us as TPTs forever."

"All they're doing with the TPTs is setting up another tier," Bryan Dusseau,

27, a second-tier worker, said. "It's a horrible contract. Chrysler is making more money than they've ever made."

"The bosses in lots of industries are doing the same thing, the tier wage system," he said. "My dad works for the railroad, and he's been getting Tier 2 wages for 25 years."

"I don't like the pay inequity," Demetrius Price, a second-tier worker, said. "It's not fair to workers like me or the TPTs."

Some gains were won for second-tier workers at Fiat Chrysler, who are 45 percent of the workforce.

Under the proposal that union members rejected, Tier 2 workers would have topped out at about \$25 an hour. Under the new contract workers in the second tier are projected to top out at \$28, almost the same pay as those hired before 2007. But the wage gains are stretched out gradually over eight years, while the contract itself is only a four-year agreement. Many will be receiving only \$22.50 per hour when it expires.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 16, 1990

A bill passed by the U.S. Congress October 18 banning trade with Cuba by U.S. subsidiary companies based in other countries is a further tightening of Washington's economic embargo begun 30 years ago.

In particular, the bill aims to compound Cuba's economic problems. Due to cuts in trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Cuba has been forced to broaden its rationing of food and restrict the sale of household items, clothing, and fuel. In addition, the Cuban government has found it necessary to take energy-saving steps because of declining oil imports from the Soviet Union.

Those opposed to U.S. imperialism's war drive should demand an end to U.S. military, economic, and propaganda aggression against Cuba.



November 15, 1965

NEW YORK — A shocking new case of police victimization and brutalizing of an innocent man has come to light. Santo Sanchez, a Bronx factory worker and father of six, who was held in prison for almost a year after confessing to a murder, was released Nov. 8 and charges against him were dropped.

Sanchez's lawyer, Oscar Gonzales-Suares, charged the "confession" had been beaten out of him. He said that Sanchez was so badly beaten by the cops that he spent six weeks in a prison hospital. He said Sanchez was in good physical condition when he was picked up by the police but was "all bruised up" when he appeared in court the next day. "It was a clear case of police brutality," the attorney charged.



November 16, 1940

With the third term nailed over his fireside, Roosevelt has returned to Washington to represent American capitalism for another four years. He immediately accelerated his drive toward war, markets, colonies, plunder, regimentation of the labor movement. Wall Street reacted with great activity on the stock exchange, steels, chemicals, and government securities leading.

On the home front, Roosevelt launched a drive for "national unity" at the expense of the labor movement to back up the "defense measures."

Roosevelt indicated that he would push for "unity" between the CIO and the AFL. Pressure from the White House to unite at the expense of industrial unionism is already being felt among the delegates to the two trade union conventions.

Labor's Giant Step by Art Preis



The rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in the early 1930s transformed the labor movement in the United States and left an indelible imprint on the subsequent course and development of the trade unions. Art Preis, an active participant, tells the story of the explosive labor struggles and political battles that built an industrial union movement and changed U.S. society. — \$30

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Capitalist crisis, attacks on workers mark Canadian vote

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO
AND JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — The 184-seat victory of the Liberal Party, led by Justin Trudeau, in the Oct. 19 federal Canadian parliamentary elections ended nine years of Conservative Party rule. The Conservatives, led by Stephen Harper, paid the price for deepening attacks on working people amidst worsening economic conditions, imposing restrictions on political rights and increasingly authoritarian practices. The social democratic New Democratic Party fell to third place with 44 seats, reversing gains made four years ago.

The only working-class voice in the elections was the Communist League campaign of Joseph Young and Beverly Bernardo, who ran in Calgary, Alberta, and Montreal.

Battered by the world contraction of capitalist production and trade — especially the plunge in oil prices — the Canadian economy entered a recession in 2015. Official unemployment rose to 7.1 percent in September. In oil-rich, formerly booming Alberta, jobless claims jumped 82 percent over the last year as oil companies laid off thousands. Husky, a major oil company based in Calgary, announced 1,400 layoffs Sept. 30. Many workers and some middle-class layers blamed the Conservatives' moves to place the burden of the capitalist downturn on their backs for worsening conditions. The slogan "Anyone but Harper" became popular at labor rallies and social protests.

Harper's "government has, with a parliamentary majority, become sclerotically rigid, media inaccessible, authoritarian and peevish," wrote longtime Harper supporter Conrad Black in an Oct. 18 *New York Sun* article titled, "Canada Is Set to Vote on Whether to Re-elect a Sadistic Schoolmaster." Black concluded that it was time for Harper to go, saying Trudeau "has earned his chance."

Harper attacked political rights. He pushed Bill C-51, aimed at strengthening police powers in the name of fighting terrorism, and Bill C-24, which gives the government power to revoke Canadian citizenship for those with dual citizenship if convicted on terrorism-related charges.

He marshaled C-10, an omnibus crime bill, through Parliament, introducing a raft of mandatory sentences, sentencing juveniles as adults, and barring alternatives to prison such as house arrest or community service.

Harper insisted that Muslim women receiving citizenship be denied the right to wear a face-covering niqab at the event. Both Trudeau and NDP candidate Thomas Mulcair opposed the policy.

Communist League campaign

The Communist League ran a working-class campaign with Joseph Young contending in Calgary Skyview and Beverly Bernardo in Montreal Papineau. Both work at Walmart. They joined picket lines and participated in demonstrations for rail safety. They demanded workers control of safety on the job and dropping frame-up charges against Thomas Harding and Richard Labrie, two rail workers being scapegoated by rail bosses and the government who face

life imprisonment in the 2013 Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, train disaster.

Rojhat Dereli, a student of Kurdish origin, joined Bernardo and campaign supporters at a protest of 1,000 in Lac-Mégantic Oct. 11. "I was very impressed to see a crowd of people mobilizing because an issue touched them directly," he told the *Militant*.

The Communist League candidates called for a massive government-financed public works program to put people to work at union rates to build infrastructure, schools, child care centers and other things workers need. They championed the fight for a \$15 minimum wage and a union. They spoke out against Canada's participation in Washington's intervention in Syria and joined protests against the Turkish government's attacks on the Kurds and the murder and disappearance of Aboriginal women. They pointed to the Cuban Revolution as an example for working people in Canada, calling for an end to the U.S. embargo on Cuba and return of the Guantánamo naval base.

Workers face growing attacks from the bosses and their governments no matter what bourgeois party is in office, the Communist League candidates explained. Working people need to organize independently of all the capitalist parties and build a labor party based on the unions that can unite workers in struggle on a course toward taking power out of the hands of Canada's propertied rulers.

Working people looking for a change put NDP leader Thomas Mulcair in first place in the polls at the beginning of the campaign. But the NDP echoed



Militant/John Steele

Beverly Bernardo, right, Communist League candidate for Parliament from Montreal in Oct. 19 Canadian federal election, takes part in protest by taxi drivers there in August.

Harper in promising a balanced budget. Trudeau, on the other hand, pledged to run \$10 billion deficits over the next three years to invest in public transportation, health care and housing.

"Many of my co-workers see the NDP as a bad option for the economy," Atakan Beyi, an air-conditioning mechanic in Calgary, told the *Militant*.

The NDP, founded as a social democratic party in 1961 with a pro-capitalist program, acted as the political arm of the unions outside Quebec at the outset. Never a revolutionary party with a working-class program, it has become a party based on ideology, not on working-class organizations, another liberal bourgeois party. It no longer provides a way for workers to vote for their class — even in a distorted way.

The union officialdom has turned towards "strategic voting" to defeat

the Conservatives, another way of saying anyone but Harper. In essence, this was a call for workers to vote Liberal. The Canadian Labour Congress sent Trudeau a congratulatory message Oct. 19, saying it looked for "real change" under a Liberal government.

Trudeau has announced he will withdraw Canadian participation in the bombing campaign against the Islamic State while maintaining a training role for Canadian troops in Iraq. He said he will let 25,000 Syrian refugees enter Canada by the end of 2015.

This election also marked the continuing decline of the bourgeois-nationalist Bloc Québécois, which runs candidates only in Quebec. The BQ won only 10 of the 75 Quebec seats in Parliament, even less than the 12 won by the Conservatives, while the Liberals won the majority there for the first time in decades.

Stakes high for all workers in Lac-Mégantic frame-up

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — On July 6, 2013, a runaway train carrying 72 cars of North Dakota crude oil rolled seven miles into Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, derailed, exploded and burned, killing 47 people and leveling the town center. Instead of prosecuting the Montreal, Maine

COMMENTARY

and Atlantic Railway's owners and the government officials who turned a blind eye to their disregard for safety, Quebec provincial prosecutors filed frame-up charges against locomotive engineer Thomas Harding and train controller Richard Labrie.

They face 47 counts of criminal negligence causing death and the possibility of a life sentence. The two workers, members of United Steelworkers Local 1976, along with former manager Jean Demaitre, have a Dec. 1 hearing to discuss the date and location of their trial.

People in the Lac-Mégantic area overwhelmingly believe the charges should be dropped and instead Transport Canada officials and former MMA owners should be put in the dock.

Many regard Harding as a hero. He was awoken by the noise of the explosion. He later helped firefighters and other area workers move unexploded

tanker cars away from the fire, preventing further destruction.

"We have no way of knowing what the prosecution's case is, because they cancelled the normal preliminary hearing," Thomas Walsh, Harding's attorney, told the *Militant* by phone Oct. 29. In such hearings each side outlines their case and witnesses they intend to call, and can raise questions to clarify the issues.

The prosecution says it will ask to move the trial out of Lac-Mégantic, claiming it is unfair to Harding because it's a French-speaking area and his first language is English. The real reason is their fear no local jury would convict the rail workers.

Disaster like Lac-Mégantic inevitable

Lac-Mégantic was a disaster waiting to happen. For the rail bosses, and their government enablers across North America, the safety of rail workers and communities takes second place to the drive to extract profits from the North Dakota Bakken oil shale fields, amid increased competition and falling oil prices.

They speed up work and cut crews, cut back on maintenance and let tracks go longer between inspection and repair. They balance the odds of derailments and deaths, and the costs they bring, against the money they can save.

It's why Montreal, Maine and Atlantic bosses fought for — and got — special permission to reduce the crew on their trains to one person. It's why disasters like Lac-Mégantic have happened since and will happen again, and why the stakes are high for all workers in the fight to roll back the frame-up.

The charges and slander campaign against Harding have centered on the allegation he didn't set enough hand brakes.

Because of the company's special dispensation from the government, Harding was the only crew member. He reported to company dispatchers that he left the train after completing his 12-hour shift for his scheduled sleep. The lead engine was running, powering the air brakes, he says in a transcript of company call records, and he had set hand brakes on seven cars.

Due to negligent company maintenance, a fire broke out on the lead engine during the night. Volunteer firefighters from Nantes switched off the engine when they put the fire out. When the dispatcher informed him, Harding asked if he should go there and start another engine. Go back to sleep, the dispatcher told him, the company has sent someone else.

The company sent a track manager, was not trained on operating locomotives.

Continued on page 9

1963: Cuba sent tanks, troops to defend Algerian Revolution

BY SETH GALINSKY

To the chagrin of the U.S. capitalist rulers, Cuba's government has made it clear that neither its revolutionary internationalism nor its sovereignty are up for discussion in exchange for ending the more than 55-year-long U.S. economic war against the island.

An article in the Oct. 23 issue of *Granma*, the daily paper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, features Cuba's first internationalist military mission: defending the workers and farmers government in Algeria from invasion by the U.S.-backed monarch in Morocco in October 1963.

The paper is regularly highlighting such chapters in Cuba's revolutionary history, bringing them to life for new generations. It's a reminder of why the U.S. rulers continue to seek to overturn the Cuban Revolution, even though they've had to change their tactics.

The article by Gabriel Molina, who was *Prensa Latina's* correspondent there at the time, describes how the mission came about. Algeria's workers and farmers had defeated the French colonial army in 1962 after a

bloody revolutionary war. Cuba had provided some assistance to the Algerian fighters in 1961. Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika told Cuban Ambassador Jorge Serguera on Oct. 9, 1963, that Moroccan troops were about to invade. There had already been skirmishes on the border.

Morocco's King Hassan II was a close ally of Washington. He had U.S. pilots flying Morocco's helicopters and 40 heavy tanks bought from the Soviet Union, while Algeria had only a dozen French-built light tanks.

Serguera told Bouteflika what Cuban leader Fidel Castro had said, "For the Algerians, any assistance they may need," and offered tanks, artillery and troops. Bouteflika relayed the Cuban offer to Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, who "accepted without hesitation."

The Cubans responded despite the risk that their solidarity could jeopardize a Moroccan agreement to buy 1 million tons of sugar from Cuba, at a moment when Washington had already launched its economic war and blocked the import of Cuban sugar to the U.S.



Algerian revolutionary leader Ahmed Ben Bella, right, meeting with Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro, foreground, and Ernesto Che Guevara, rear, in Havana in October 1962.

By Oct. 14, an advance group from Cuba's Special Instruction Group had arrived in Algiers. By Oct. 22, the first group of the Cuban contingent of 685 soldiers and officers, an anti-tank battery and 22 tanks had arrived.

"The Algerians really reminded us of ourselves in 1959" when Cuba's workers and farmers overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, recalled Reinerio Placencia, one of the Cuban internationalist fighters. "One had a rifle, another had a shotgun, another a machine gun and so on." The interview appears in the book *Conflicting Missions: Havana,*

Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976 by Piero Gleijeses.

The Cuban internationalists followed a strict code of conduct. No alcoholic beverages, no intimate relationships of "any kind, with women ... a complete and absolute respect" for Algerian customs and religion.

"Do not boast about our Revolution, or our ideology," Raúl Castro, head of the Cuban Armed Forces, instructed them. "Be modest at all times, share the little we know and never act like experts."

The Cubans immediately began preparations to enter the fight, while simultaneously training the Algerian forces.

On the eve of the planned counter-attack on Oct. 29 with joint Cuban and Algerian forces, President Ben Bella ordered them to wait for the outcome of negotiations he would conduct in Mali with Hassan II, Mali President Modibo Keita and Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie.

The Moroccan government backed down and agreed to a cease-fire and suspension of hostilities. The Cuban mission had helped stop further attacks without firing a single shot.

Half of the internationalist contingent soon returned to Cuba, Molina reports. The others trained the Algerian troops to better defend their homeland and revolution and to effectively use the tanks and weaponry the Cubans left behind.

In June 1965 Ben Bella and Algeria's workers and farmers government were overthrown by a counter-revolutionary coup headed by Defense Minister Houari Boumedienne.

But the experience gained by Cuba's revolutionary leadership laid the basis for further internationalist missions around the world and in Africa, including Cuba's key role in defeating repeated invasions of Angola by the white supremacist apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1970s and '80s.

In an Oct. 1 editorial the *Washington Post* complained that Cuban President Raúl Castro is continuing with "his brother Fidel's old jeremiads from the 1960s, complete with a call for Puerto Rican independence and condemnation of alleged NATO encroachment on Russia," despite the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington earlier this year.

In its own way, the editorial is a backhanded tribute to the internationalism and selflessness that continues to mark the Cuban Revolution today.

Student protests push back tuition hikes in SAfrica

BY SETH GALINSKY

In protests that spread across South Africa, tens of thousands of students forced the government to roll back university tuition increases.

The protests began at the University of Witwatersrand, known as Wits, in Johannesburg Oct. 14 after the administration announced a 10.5 percent rate hike. Students boycotted classes and blocked entrances to the campus. The "Fees Must Fall" movement then spread to more than a dozen public universities around the country.

In a futile attempt to break the movement, university officials at Wits cut off Internet access and locked classrooms so that students couldn't set up their own sessions during the protests.

Police fired tear gas and stun grenades at hundreds of students who demonstrated outside the parliament in Cape Town Oct. 21. Two days later, as the movement continued to gain momentum and some 10,000 students protested in Pretoria, South African President Jacob Zuma announced there would be no

increase for a year.

"It's a victory, in that we brought the university administration and the government to their knees. It shows the power we have," Shaeera Kalla, outgoing president of the Student Representative Council at Wits, told the *Militant* by phone Oct. 30. "Our bigger goal is to get free education. But there is a lack of political will to even provide free education for the poorest people in our country."

The protests are a reflection of both what was achieved with the overthrow and dismantling of the white supremacist system of apartheid in 1994 and the crisis of capitalism today. In 1990 blacks were more than 80 percent of the population, but only 32 percent of university and technical students were black. By 2011 the figure had risen to 78 percent.

"Wits was a historically white university," Kalla said. "Now it's 75 percent black. But even with no tuition increase, many still can't afford it."

Tuition at public universities ranges from \$2,400 to \$3,500 a year. Unem-

ployment is officially more than 25 percent and almost half the population earns less than \$60 a month.

"We never thought there could be a national shutdown," Inga Mdewana, a 19-year-old law student at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, said by phone. "This was the largest student strike since apartheid."

Mdewana is a member of the Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command, which opposes the ruling African National Congress. "This fight brought students together with different political ideologies, but we can have a common goal as students," she said, noting that the protests included both supporters and opponents of the ANC, as well as black and white students. "At first not many white students took part. But then they joined us, there was diversity."

Along with the fight against the tuition hikes, the students called for an end to outsourcing the jobs of university workers. At the University of Cape Town the administration agreed to hire the workers directly and the demand is still being negotiated at others.

"It's not about outsourcing, it's about them having benefits like any other staff member of the institution," Mdewana said. "There are workers who have been here 30 years and they can't afford to educate their children. We cannot keep quiet."

Kalla is a member of Progressive Youth Alliance, a coalition that includes the African National Congress Youth League and the Young Communist League. She supports the ANC.

"No other political party promised free education," she said. "But we're not going to keep our loyalty if they don't start delivering. Young people are getting frustrated but they are reclaiming their space. This is an interesting time for the future of South Africa."



Reuters/Mike Hutchings

Students demonstrate against planned tuition increases in Stellenbosch, South Africa, Oct. 23. Middle sign refers to Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education and Training.

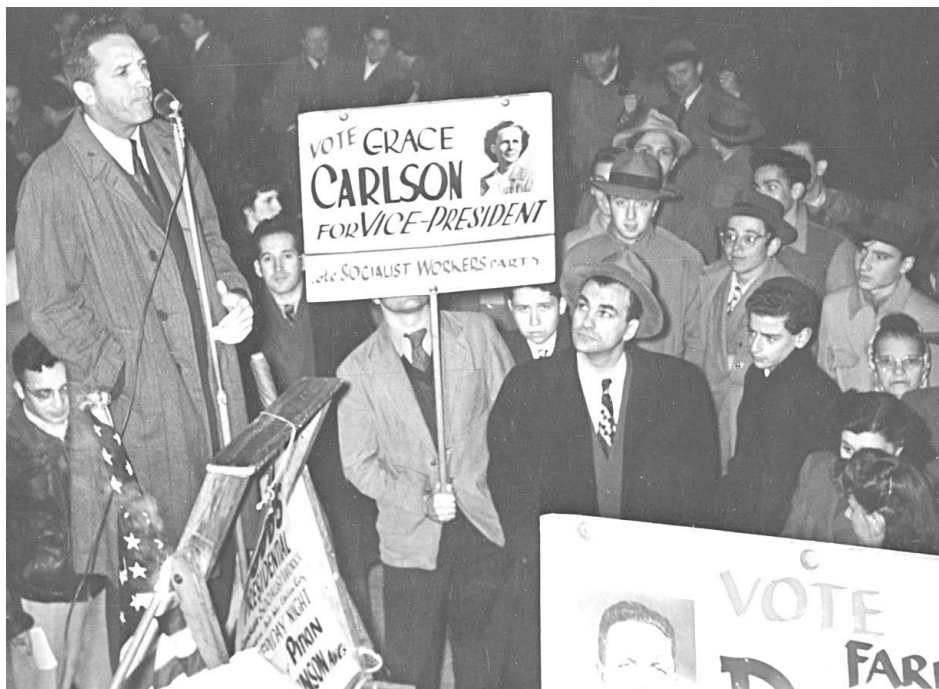
During class combat rebellious workers become revolutionists

Below is an excerpt from the introduction to *Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years 1848-1917*. The author, Farrell Dobbs, was a leader of the 1934 Minneapolis Teamster strikes and the organizer of the first campaign to organize over-the-road truck drivers. He was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president in 1948, 1952, 1956 and 1960. Dobbs served as national secretary of the SWP from 1953 to 1972. In addition to this book, the first in a two-part series on Marxist leadership in the U.S., he authored a four-volume series on the Teamster battles of the 1930s. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

Each worker who joins the revolutionary movement reaches that decision through a unique sequence of personal experiences. Yet there are certain broad phases of intellectual development that most who take this step share in common. In this country the newborn arrive upon a social scene permeated with capitalist ideology. By adulthood they have been conditioned to think in terms of shaping a future for themselves within the



"This book records the ways in which successive generations of proletarian revolutionists have participated in movements of the working class and its allies," Farrell Dobbs writes. Above, Dobbs speaks at New York street rally as Socialist Workers Party 1948 presidential candidate.

framework of the existing social order. Then, after a while, frustrations develop because of inequities built into the capitalist system. Recognition dawns that adjustments are needed in social relations and efforts follow to reform the present order of things. Attempts of that kind run head-on into capitalist resistance, however, as repeated clashes occur over economic, social, and political issues.

In the course of those conflicts some of the more rebellious become revolutionists and join a revolutionary socialist party. This brings unparalleled opportunities to achieve great leaps in social thought and political consciousness as they begin to understand why capitalism is irremediably bankrupt and precisely how the workers' struggle must be waged to replace it with a new, higher social order. This opens the way for a meaningful re-examination of history, not with past events falsely presented or deliberately ignored, as is frequently the case in textbooks of the official educational system, but through honest, forthright accounts of what actually happened. In this way they can learn valuable lessons from the setbacks as well as the advances, from the mistakes as well as the achievements, of their revolutionary predecessors. ...

This study of the struggle for revolutionary Marxist continuity in the United States has been written from the viewpoint of the historic line of march

of the working class. The narration of events is designed to bring forth the significance of the successive efforts of the working masses, and above all of the leading cadres, to attain a clearer class consciousness, a better understanding of their place and role under capitalism, and stronger forms of economic and political organization to oppose and combat the exploitation and domination of the capitalist rulers.

Because of the retarded ideological state of the United States working class compared to its counterparts in many other countries, its inability so far to break loose from the Democratic and Republican political machines and establish a mass independent labor party, and the small size of the revolutionary socialist forces within it, it may seem that very little or no progress has been made toward these goals. That would be a superficial estimate. So sterile and pessimistic a view is not warranted.

The various and repeated attempts of the working class and its most advanced leaders to promote and reinforce its independent industrial and political organization have left their mark. This achievement is most evident of course in the trade union field. When the ranks are aroused and set into motion, the U.S. union movement is one of the most powerful, well-organized, and combative against the corporations and their government in the world. What it still lacks to real-

ize its potential is the proper kind of leadership.

This book records and critically reviews the ways in which the successive generations of proletarian revolutionists have participated in the movements of the working class and its allies and sought to steer them along the correct path. As I have explained, their leadership was not always fruitful or well thought-out. They had their share of defaults and disappointments.

Nonetheless, they maintained through the decades the continuity of revolutionary proletarian thought and kept the spirit of conscious anticapitalist resistance alive. Marxists today not only owe them homage for their deeds, their courage in the face of adversity, their perseverance in defending the welfare of the exploited and oppressed. We have a duty beyond this acknowledgment. That is to learn where they went wrong as well as what they did right so that their errors are not repeated.

That is the only way in which the heritage of the efforts of millions, often paid for in blood, can be put to good account and not squandered and nullified. For the Marxist program is simply the generalization of the strategic lessons learned by succeeding generations over the course of the class struggle as the toilers strive to replace the dictatorship of capital with their own.

Just as I have searched for accounts of past developments in the labor and socialist movements throughout my quest for political education, the current generation of fighters will need every bit of information that can be provided on the subject. For that reason I have undertaken this contribution to the history of revolutionary Marxism in the United States, beginning in this first volume with a sketch of the revolutionary continuity from which it stems. I hope today's worker militants will gain a measure of the enlightenment they seek from the experiences incorporated and lessons emphasized in these pages. ...

I have had in view above all the oncoming generation of workers — Black, brown, and white, female and male — who are destined through their struggles to write the next chapters in the history of the emancipation of the toilers. Reliable knowledge of the past will help arm them to find the road to victory.

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All out Nov. 10 for \$15 and a union!

The Socialist Workers Party urges workers, farmers and youth to join fast-food and other lower-paid workers across the U.S. Tuesday, Nov. 10, to demand \$15 an hour, regular full-time schedules and a union.

This is the road to the renewal of the labor movement. It reinforces social struggles like the fight against police brutality, from which, in turn, it draws strength.

The struggle is expanding in numbers and geographical reach. Fast-food, airport, home care, hotel, agricultural, Walmart and many other workers are joining the fight. Bosses’ efforts to weaken the movement by firing activists are backfiring, fueling new protests and more confidence.

Wages and working conditions have taken a beating as the depression wears on and the capitalists try to solve their crisis on the backs of workers. Today 42 percent of workers earn less than \$15 an hour, including millions forced into contract, temporary and part-time work, and growing numbers on second and third tiers in auto and other basic industries. The figure is higher for workers who are Black, Latino or female.

The Fight for \$15 is winning concessions. Capitalist rulers in a growing number of cities have had to raise the minimum wage to \$15, although in most cases strung out over several years and excluding whole categories of workers. The response of many workers is, “We need it now!”

Most important, the effort is awakening millions of

workers to their worth, their dignity and their capacity to organize and win. The gains and elan of the lowest-paid workers is inspiring the entire working class.

The argument that higher wages mean higher prices is false. Karl Marx showed 150 years ago that workers produce all the wealth, and commodity prices are determined by the quantity of labor necessary for their production. The capitalists *always* try to drive down the cost of labor “to sink the average standard of wages,” he wrote. Workers and bosses are in constant conflict over which will rise, wages or profits. Marx applauded fights to raise wages, and urged workers to go further and abolish the wages system.

Our labor unions have shrunk in size and power over decades, as class-collaborationist officials have refused to mobilize the ranks, chained improving our conditions to helping the boss make profits and tied us to bourgeois politicians — mainly Democrats — telling us we can’t do anything without their help.

Today the cutting edge of the labor movement is the Fight for \$15 and a union. It advances the fight to organize the unorganized and rebuild the unions, the essential defensive organizations of our class, as well as for a labor party based on the unions. It points the way for the transformation of millions of working-class fighters into revolutionaries capable of wresting power from the dictatorship of capital.

All out Nov. 10!

Stakes high for workers in rail frame-up

Continued from page 6

tives. He took no further steps. Without an engine powering the air compressors, the air brakes eventually bled out and the train started its deadly roll.

“This is a failure of one individual,” charged former MMA Chairman Edward Burkhardt, saying Harding just didn’t set enough hand brakes. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada said an insufficient number of hand brakes was one of 18 factors contributing to the disaster, as was the rail line’s “weak safety culture.”

The hand brake issue is a calculated diversion to turn attention away from the actions of the bosses and the government and to fuel the frame-up. In both Canada and the U.S., government rail guidelines and company rules specify that a “sufficient number” of hand brakes should be applied to parked trains in case the air brakes fail or are turned off.

The railroad’s rulebook said nine should be set on a train like the one Harding was operating. The Safety Board report concludes that it would have taken at least 17 and as many as 26 hand brakes, depending on how tightly they were set, to secure the train.

But to determine what is “sufficient” requires at

least two workers, taking the time necessary to set, test and observe if the brakes hold, because conditions vary. It can’t be set by a rulebook or formula.

The report also charged that Harding didn’t properly test the hand brakes, because he ran a test while the locomotive’s air brakes were on. But this was common company practice. Engines on the train were equipped with a “fail-safe” feature to apply the brakes if the air pressure drops, but they did not operate that night, because the rate of leakage was too low.

Harding “had parked the train there for years,” said Walsh. “The procedures haven’t changed. The distance from Nantes to Lac-Mégantic hasn’t changed. The incline hasn’t changed. What has changed is the train length, the volatility of the crude oil, the crew size and the condition of aging equipment.”

Funds for the legal defense can be sent in Canada to Syndicat des Métallos, 565, boulevard Crémazie Est, bureau 5100, Montreal, Quebec, H2M 2V8. Credit card donations can be made at justice4US-Wrailworkers.org. In the U.S. checks can be sent to Tom Harding Defense Fund, First Niagara Bank, 25 McClellan Drive, Nassau, NY 12123.

Prosecutor refuses to charge SC cop

Continued from front page

It shows Tiller rushing up to Hammond’s car with his gun drawn, yelling, “I will blow your f... ass off” as Hammond tries to drive away, not at Tiller. As the car goes around him, the cop grabs it, then fires two shots as the car passes him, hitting Hammond once in the side and once in the back.

Adams also released texts and emails purporting to show Hammond used and sold drugs.

“These had no relevance to what happened,” Paul Hammond said at his home. “Zach had some problems, but he was certainly not a ‘drug king’ as some of the media have stated. Why was the first thing the officer did was pull out a gun?”

“We are more disappointed by an investigation that seemed more focused on attacking the victim, which was Zach, than investigating the shooter,” his mother, Angie Hammond, told the press Oct. 29. Adams “tried to show Zach’s life was not worth anything.”

Paul Hammond told reporters he wants to meet with Gov. Nikki Haley and officials of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division so they can watch the video together and then look him in the eyes and tell him the officer was justified in killing his son. The family

has organized several vigils and press conferences to protest the killing. They filed a civil suit against Tiller, the Seneca Police Department and the police chief, and a federal investigation is continuing.

“Before this we were like many middle-income working people, just trying to get through each day,” Paul Hammond told the *Militant*. “But now we think about things differently and are questioning a lot of things we see in the news.”

Going door to door in Seneca, *Militant* correspondents found pretty much everyone had seen the video. “I believe that cop should go to jail,” said 16-year-old Jahlil Harrison, an African-American high school student. “I didn’t think he was trying to hit that officer.”

John Clark, 72, a retired industrial engineer who is Caucasian, said, “Even though he tried to run off, [Tiller] shouldn’t have shot him. That officer needs to be prosecuted.”

“I think both were in the wrong, but the cop handled it wrong when he rushed up with his gun drawn,” said Garrett Mock, 22, who works at Home Depot.

Eric Bland, an attorney representing the Hammond family, said Oct. 29 that state Rep. Todd Rutherford will ask the state attorney general to reopen the case.

Intervention in Syria

Continued from front page

army, Iranian troops and Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia units from Lebanon.

The talks included top diplomats from the U.S., Russia, Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as representatives from Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and China.

It was the first time the Barack Obama administration invited Tehran to participate in talks on Syria.

Officials from Saudi Arabia, Tehran’s arch-rival for influence in Syria and throughout the region, clashed with Iranian delegates. Riyadh has supplied weapons to opposition forces fighting Assad’s rule that are now being hit by Moscow’s airstrikes and Iranian-backed troops. Afterward, Iranian officials threatened to quit further talks because of Saudi belligerence.

Washington has called for Assad to go, but increasingly agrees with Moscow that there should be a “political transition” for some unspecified period of time. At the talks Tehran called for a six-month transition period followed by elections. The last “election” in Syria, held last year, was limited to areas firmly under Assad’s control and he got 88.7 percent of the vote.

Assad responded to a series of massive mobilizations against his regime in 2011 with bombs and chemical weapons, crushing the popular protests. Nearly five years of civil war since have displaced more than half the population and 250,000 have been killed.

Airstrikes and missile attacks by Syrian regime forces Oct. 30 in Douma, one of the eastern suburbs of Damascus held by opposition forces, killed at least 70 people and injured nearly 550, Doctors Without Borders said. About 200,000 civilians remain in the area, which has been under siege by Assad’s forces for more than two years, with no food or medicine allowed in.

Expanding U.S. role

Washington’s decision to place special operations forces in Syria and the recent announcement U.S. bombers will step up missions against Islamic State are efforts to reassert its role in the region. Over the last two months, Moscow has moved in forcefully, sending in bombers and troops and conducting far more sorties than Washington.

Moscow also has initiated a series of diplomatic moves, aiming to take the lead in reshaping the region. Russian President Vladimir Putin has met with Israeli and Saudi leaders, and invited members of the U.S.-backed National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces to come to Moscow for talks.

Washington is trying to cobble together what it calls the Syrian Arab Coalition and arm them to put pressure on Raqqa, Islamic State’s de facto capital. The recently formed Syrian Democratic Forces, in which the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) are the leading fighters, is organizing this effort.

The White House is also considering a Pentagon recommendation to send hundreds more U.S. troops to Iraq — above the more than 3,300 currently stationed there — and to deploy Apache attack helicopters and crews, the *Wall Street Journal* reported Oct. 27.

In addition, the Obama administration authorized sending A-10 Warthog planes and F-15 fighter jets to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey and requested Baghdad agree to a U.S. special operations task force in Iraq.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government has appealed to Moscow to initiate bombing runs there.

Russian airstrikes and pro-Assad ground forces have driven back opponents of the Syrian regime near Aleppo. Islamic State has taken advantage of Moscow’s actions to expand its territory.

The crisis has led nearly 300,000 Syrians who can afford to do so to seek refuge in Europe since the summer. Millions more have fled to refugee camps in surrounding countries or remained inside Syria’s borders. In refugee camps in Jordan, where 630,000 Syrians are registered, the World Food Program has slashed its food allowance from \$34 per person per month to \$14. And in September they cut nearly a quarter of a million people off completely.

More than 700,000 refugees from the Mideast, Africa and Asia have arrived in Europe so far this year. More than 3,200 have either died or gone missing making the journey.

In response, many European governments have been closing borders and erecting fences to keep refugees out.