‘Militant’ wins again in battle against Florida prison bans

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As the campaign against suppression of the Militant by Florida prison wardens gathers momentum, the Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee overturned the latest impoundments of two more issues of the socialist newsweekly Aug. 28. And they did so before the paper had even filed an appeal.

“Both issues will be allowed into Florida correctional institutions,” committee chair Dean Peterson informed the Militant.

Coming after state prison officials lifted the ban on five previous issues of the paper Aug. 19, this is an important victory for the rights of workers behind bars and of the paper. It will give encouragement to the ongoing fight against efforts to keep the Militant out of the hands of its subscribers behind bars.

The paper continues to receive messages of support, including from two additional subscribers, including two more in Tampa, and 15 new subscribers in the Florida prison colonies. The expected number of total subscribers is growing.

‘Economic recovery is not how most workers would describe life today’

BY JANET POST

“For millions of working people in this country ‘economic recovery’ is not how they would describe their conditions of life over the past 10 years,” Paul Mailhot, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee, told the opening celebration of the party’s new headquarters.

Mailhot described the stagnant conditions growing numbers face and the rising difficulties young workers have affording their own home. He recounted how Blackjewel coal bosses closed mines in Kentucky, West Virginia and Wyoming recently “robbing the pensions and wages of miners through a bankruptcy scam.”

“Direct assaults on workers will intensify as economic conditions worsen,” he said. Most importantly, workers are beginning to resist. Miners in Harlan County are fighting to get their wages and dangerous working conditions growing numbers face and the rising difficulties young workers have affording their own home.

Disaster facing Bahamians is product of the capitalist system

BY SETH GALINSKY

“We are on our own,” Bahamian volunteer fireman Greg Johnson told the press Sept. 6 in Treasure Cay, explaining the inaction of the government of the Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Dorian. “It’s deplorable.”

Working people were left to fend for themselves when the storm, with sustained winds up to 185 mph, devastated parts of the country after making landfall Sept. 1. U.N. officials estimate that 70,000 people are homeless — mostly from Abaco and Grand Bahamas, the hardest-hit areas — out of a population of 400,000 on the archipelago, some 700 islands and cays, off the eastern coast of Florida.

More than a week after the storm, aid still had not reached many in desperate need of it. And crowds of survivors were still waiting at the airport in Abaco, hoping to catch a flight out. The government...

Join in building support for Kentucky coal miners’ fight!

Bosses demand court end Blackjewel miners’ protest

BY MAGGIE TROWE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Blackjewel coal miners in Harlan County and their supporters have been camped out on the rail tracks outside the Cloverlick No. 3 mine since July 29, determined to keep their former bosses from moving about 100 rail cars of coal out until they are paid in full for wages stolen from them.

The miners are setting up by the mine bosses and their anti-worker laws and courts is inspiring a growing number of workers and others across the state and beyond to continue the freeze on the former owners to let them move the coal. One 300 coal miners were laid off by Blackjewel LLC coal company in eastern Kentucky July 1, along with the others.

Gibson’s bakery scores another victory against Oberlin attacks

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a victory for the Gibson family and working people, Lorain County, Ohio, Judge John Miraldi Sept. 7 denied motions by Oberlin College asking him to either grant them a new trial or overturn the jury verdict finding the college and Dean of Students Meredith Raimondo guilty of libel.

UK out of the EU puts workers in better position to fight UK rulers

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — It’s been more than three years since millions of working people helped form the majority that voted for the U.K. to get out of the European Union. But an alliance of capitalist parties is stepping up efforts to continue to prevent this from ever happening.

A cross-party coalition, organized against the Conservative government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, enacted legislation that will force another extension for Brexit — currently set to expire Oct. 31. Its aim is to secure a “Brexit-in-name-only” deal with Brussels that would keep the U.K.’s...

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Indian Machinists end 2-month strike, vow to fight plant closure Petrochemical workers strike in Quebec over wages, pensions 5
Hundreds protest govt’s seizure of Maori children in New Zealand

BY PATRICK BROWN

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Demanding “Hands Off Our Tamariki [children],” upwards of 400 people rallied at Parliament here July 30 to condemn the seizure of Maori children from their mothers by the children’s ministry, Oranga Tamariki. Protests took place in a number of other centers, including Christchurch Dunedin, and Tauranga.

Calls for the actions were sparked by media exposure of attempts by Oranga Tamariki representatives to seize a 7-day-old baby from a young mother at Hawkes Bay Hospital June 10-11. The Family Court had issued a without-notice custody order to take the baby into the state’s care.

A video on the Newsroom website showed the mother — supported by her family, partner and two midwives — holding off repeated attempts to snatch the baby. The mother’s family disputes claims made in the court order that they have a record of domestic violence and drug use.

The two midwives involved, Ripeka Ormsby and Jean Te Huia, were among the speakers at the Wellington rally protesting the seizure, or the “uplift,” of Maori children. “How is it possible that in our country, in this day and age, there’s no voice for the mother?” asked Ormsby.

The video touched a chord with many women who have had firsthand experience with Oranga Tamariki. Amid the furor, inquiries were launched and protests were organized outside Oranga Tamariki offices in many places around the country.

Rachael Taylor, a leader of the pickets in south Auckland, told the Militant July 15 that her daughter had been taken after coming to the attention of authorities for missing school. Accusing the family of having drug and alcohol problems, a social worker had secured a court order to remove the child. “It took a lot of effort to find out my rights and win my daughter back,” said Taylor.

“I’m angry at the intimidation tactics used on our ladies to prevent them from having hope or believing they are worth more,” Taylor wrote on the Destiny Church website.

From 2015 to 2018 the total number of babies under 3 months old removed from their parents jumped by over a third. This coincided with a new law decreeing that once a mother has one child removed she must then prove she is capable of taking care of any new baby or they will take that child.

The number of Maori babies “taken by the state” increased “from 110 in 2015 to 172 in 2018” says an open letter signed by almost 17,000 people and presented to members of Parliament at the Wellington protest.

In 2018, 62% of the 281 babies under 3 months old removed from their parents were Maori, reported a Radio New Zealand “Insight” documentary July 21. Of the nearly 5 million people in New Zealand, 16% are Maori, an oppressed nationality with a long and ongoing record of struggle for national rights.

Speaking at an Indigenous Nurses Aotearoa Conference organized by the New Zealand Nurses Organization in Auckland, Aug. 9, Jean Te Huia pointed out that 86% of children in state care are Maori. She noted that parents seeking to reverse the seizure of their children are not entitled to legal aid, and so “have no financial means of defending themselves so they can get their children back.”

Anamulca Vermunt contributed to this article.

Some 400 people protest in Wellington, New Zealand, July 30 against state’s seizure of Maori children. They heard midwives explain why they had joined fight against seizure at hospital.

PORTLAND POLICE PHOTOSHOP MUG SHOT TO FRAME UP MAN FOR ROBBERY

BY JANET POST

When cops in Portland, Oregon, decided they wanted to nail Tyrone Allen for bank robbery, they used Photoshop on his mug shot to wipe out every one of the many tattoos covering his face to make his image “fit” that of the suspect witnesses had described.

The cops carried out their frame-up operation with the photo-editing program in 2017, knowing that surveillance video indicated the perpetrator had no tattoos. Then they put Allen’s “fixed” photo with five “filler photos” in the lineup and showed them to eyewitnesses of the robbery.

One of the four eyewitnesses identified Allen as the suspect, one did not, and one was unsure. Mark Ahlemeyer, Allen’s attorney, filed a motion this August with the Oregon U.S. District Court to throw out the positive witness identifications based on the doctored picture.

“The revelations raise big questions about how many people may have been falsely identified by eyewitnesses in recent years based on changes [to their photos],” said Mat dos Santos, legal director of the Oregon American Civil Liberties Union.

The U.S. Justice Department provided cover for the cops doctoring of photos in a 2017 memo. “If the suspect’s distinctive feature cannot be readily duplicated on the filler photographs, then the suspect’s feature can be blacked out,” it said.

“Some of the 10 largest police departments regularly use Photoshop and other editing tools in cases where suspects have a distinguishing tattoo, scar, bruise or other mark,” the Aug. 24 New York Times noted.

The Militant

Gov’t to give control of line-speed to packing bosses

The government threat to end limits on line speed in pork slaughtering plants will embolden the bosses to increase speed and put workers’ health and safety at greater risk. The Militant explains why workers can resist the bosses’ attacks and win support of others.

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Continued from front page
back pay they are owed and have oc-
cupied rail tracks to prevent the own-
ers from moving coal. “The miners are
setting an example and all work-
ing people should help them to fight,”
Mailhot urged.

He noted the hall in Miami is the fourth new one the party has opened in
the last month, following Albany, New
York; Louisville, Kentucky; and Dallas.
He described the work SWP mem-
ers do to organize workers to fight
gainst the bosses’ assaults and to ex-
tend solidarity with labor struggles.
And in the course of such work to
increase knowledge about the party’s
revolutionary program.
Anthony Dutrow, SWP candidate for
Miami City Commission, wel-
comed participants to the gathering
and pointed with pride to the work of
SWP members Maggie Trowe and
Maggie Trowe and
Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Volodymyr Petrov
Studer

Moscow frees Sentsov who fought its seizure of Crimea

After years of an international campaign demanding freedom for
Ukrainian and Crimean political prisoners framed up and imprisoned in
Russia, the regime of Vladimir Putin released filmmaker Oleg Sentsov,
left, and Oleksandra Kolchenko, right, along with 33 others in a “prisoner
swap” with the Ukrainian government, Sept. 7.

In addition to 11 political prisoners, the Putin regime released 24
Ukrainian sailors seized after a Russian naval attack on three Ukrainian
ships in the Black Sea last November.

Sentsov, who had been held for more than five years, carried out a 145-
day hunger strike demanding freedom for all Ukrainian political prison-
ers in Putin’s gulag last year.

This is a victory over the “special cruelty” despotic regimes “reserve
for those who, through the power of writing and art can move others to
resist as well,” PEN America’s Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Nossel
said after Sentsov’s release.

In addition to PEN, many organizations worldwide backed the fight for
Sentsov’s freedom, including Amnesty International, the Militant and
the European Film Academy.

Sentsov and Kolchenko were framed up on charges of terrorism for
opposing Moscow’s seizure of Crimea in 2014. They held a press
conference in Kiev Sept. 10 after their release. Sentsov made it clear he in-
tends to continue to fight for the release of dozens of Ukrainian political
prisoners still interned in Russia and Russian citizens who have been
imprisoned for protesting against Putin’s government. “They are our real
brothers, and they are also prisoners of the Kremlin,” he said.

Sentsov said he continued to work no matter what the conditions were
in his Siberian prisons. “I brought back with me 22 kilometers of letters,
books and notebooks,” he said. “Fifteen notebooks of finished scripts,
collections of stories.”

He also said he plans to publish a day-by-day diary he kept during his
hunger strike.

In addition to continuing to speak out for the freedom of political pris-
one in Russia, Sentsov said he was looking forward to “the best things
in life — making films and living.”

JOHN STUDE

‘Economic recovery’ not felt by workers

Economic recovery’ not felt by workers

Édouard Philippe, French prime minister, and his chancellor, Bruno
Le Maire, announced Sept. 10 that France’s economy had regained
growth in the second quarter. The government said the economy had
expanded by 0.2%, better than analysts’ forecasts of zero growth.

But outside of government offices, many working people are still
struggling.

Economic recovery? workers say they missed.

The Militant/Cindy Jaquith

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Militant
September 23, 2019

3

Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions

A tribute of the people uses every manifestation of capitalist oppression to explain why it’s workers and our allies who can and will — in the course of struggles by the unions and beyond — lay the foundations for a world based not on violence and competition but on solidarity among working people worldwide.

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struggling.
Build support for Kentucky coal miners fight

Continued from front page
1,400 other Blackjewel workers in Harlan, Kentucky, visited the tracks in mid-August calling on the company declared bankruptcy. Money the laid-off miners had already deposited in their bank accounts was clawed back days later without notice. The miners and their families found out as debit cards were declined when they tried to make purchases and other payments bounced.

“I was the first one there,” said one Blackjewel miner Chris Sexton told the Militant. “I started calling miners. Dalton Lewis and his daddy, Chris Lewis, came to the tracks. Then Chris Rowe and Blake Watts arrived.”

Members of the retired Mine Workers veterans and supporters from Cumberland County and elsewhere joined them. They brought tents and canopies and set up a kitchen and portable toilets. People started bringing food to the encampment and donating money.

“People were so tired,” retired United Mine Workers veteran and “expert” witnesses who claim the coal is “hot goods” whose value is oxidizing and losing value. “It’s coal, it ain’t gonna go bad.”

Miltiant reporter Joyce Cheng, owner of Panda Garden restaurant in Harlan, who hails from China, told WYMT TV reporter Connor James as miners listened to the bankruptcy court hearing under a canopy of sycamore trees Sept. 5. “It ain’t milk, it’s coal, it ain’t gonna go bad.”

“Growing solidarity

“We’re gaining support,” said Sexton. “People have come from all over. A farmer and his wife from Missouri came to visit us and a couple from California stay for a few days.”

Sexton was talking about Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts. An Aug. 31 Washington Post article reported on Cryts’ visit to the miners. They told Cryts about his fight to get back over 30,000 bushels of soybeans when the silo where they were stored went belly up in 1981. Backed by 600 other farm- ers and supporters, Cryts took back his beans. He was put on trial. Even though a jury of area farmers and farmers — over the sharp objection of the judge — found him innocent, he still ended up serving some time. The Militant covered his fight.

When Blackjewel’s request to move the Kentucky coal awaits decision, the court allowed the company to cut off health insurance for all 1,700 laid-off employees at the end of August.

Material support for the miners’ action has included more than $1 million in monetary contributions to The Miners Relief Fund, organized by With Love from Harlan, a community organization; 16 food boxes and 400 bags of groceries from Cryts, 100$ worth of food, 3,500 diapers, and prepared food delivered from local restaurants. The Food City grocery store sent them $1,700 of food. "Our company and others — because the former bosses’ aren’t trying to move any coal out there, area workers and small businesses are raising funds to help former miners who also had their pay stolen. About 600 workers were put on the street in Wyoming’s Powder River Basin when Blackjewel’s two mines there shut down without any notice. Workers say only a quarter of the miners have found other jobs so far. Blackjewel is the third coal company in Wyoming to declare bankruptcy this year.

The Family of Energy Relief Fund, set up during earlier bankruptcies in the area, has stepped up to help organize aid. The group is raising donations and selling T-shirts to provide funds to Blackjewel miners’ families. Contact familiesenergyliefund@gmail.com or (307) 228-0353.

The effect of Blackjewel bosses’ strategy to force workers to the brink of despair, is to strain relations with workers in areas around the mines. The company owes $37 million in taxes to Campbell County in Wyoming, $4 million in payroll taxes, $1.6 million to Virginia and well over $100 million to equipment makers, local vendors and others. This means it’s possible other coal companies and other programs will end up being shut down.
Bosse's profit drive leads to deaths of two more rail workers

The rail bosses' drive for profit claimed the lives of two more union members in North America in August.

On Aug. 15, in Vaughan, Ontario, 27-year-old train conductor and Teamster member Inraza Qamar was killed in Canadian National's MacMillan yard. News reports say a rail car derailed and overturned, crushing him to death. Qamar had qualified as a conductor 14 months earlier.

On Aug. 20, 39-year-old Travis Andrepont, a rail worker with 16 years experience at Union Pacific, was killed in bad conditions. Another train derailed in Nantes, Quebec, Aug. 24, just 8 miles uphill from Mac-Legniacere, where a train operated by a notorious Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway had derailed and exploded six years ago, killing 47 people and destroying the downtown area. The Central Maine & Quebec Railway, which bought up MMA after it declared bankruptcy — had recently been notified by Transport Canada that the rail was in bad condition.

So far 11 rail workers in North America have been killed on the job in 2019.

Indict Troy cops

Continued from page 4 department. Ved Dookhun, Socialist Workers Party candidate for At-

A train derailed in Nantes, Quebec, Aug. 24, just 8 miles uphill from Mac- Legniacere, where a train operated by a notorious Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway had derailed and exploded six years ago, killing 47 people and destroying the downtown area. The Central Maine & Quebec Railway, which bought up MMA after it declared bankruptcy — had recently been notified by Transport Canada that the rail was in bad condition.

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UK out of EU puts workers in a better position to fight UK rulers

President Philip Hammond, as well as the Liberal Democrats, were concerned about what’s brewing in the U.K.—Johnson claims his government from trying to leave. In the meantime, Johnson has put the U.K.—Johnson claims his government from trying to leave. In the meantime, Johnson has put the U.K. on a collision course with the EU. The courts are not favorable terrain for the college’s lawyers. The courts are not favorable terrain for the college’s lawyers. The colleges lawyers submitted a motion for a new trial that states “the amount awarded is not manifestly excessive” and “is not necessarily excessive” and “is not necessarily excessive.”

An administration in crisis
Many workers worry the “Brexit crisis will be worse than the crisis with,” said Bellamy. He pointed to the yawning authority black hole that threatens workers and farmers, especially among those who work in the service sector. New laws also threaten to harm the bakery. The college’s lawyers submitted a motion for a new trial that states “the amount awarded is not manifestly excessive” and “is not necessarily excessive.”

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Workers fit cars at Packard plant in Detroit in 1920s. Trotsky says the expansion of U.S. imperialism transformed it “into the basic counterconterviolent force of the modern epoch,” and “prepares the ground for a gigantic revolutionary explosion in this already dominant power.”

In our epoch, which is the epoch of imperialism, i.e., of world economy and world politics under the hegemony of finance capital, not a single communist party can establish its program by proceeding from its national programs or an amalgam of local facts and factors of the world situation. The world economic situation as a whole determines the character of the epoch and the epoch determines the character of the party. The party can establish its program by proceeding from an analysis of the conditions and tendencies of development of the world political system. The world political system, as taken as a whole and as a mighty reality which holds sway over the economic life of individual countries and continents. This basic fact alone determines the class character of the epoch, the form of development and course, is a serious step forward – now we must clearly understand that if we do not take into account these tendencies, if we do not understand the meaning of this development into a system of mutual dependence and antagonism, leveling out the difficulties and crisis, will engender the major problems of world politics and revolutionary struggle.

[The new draft – and this, of course, is a serious step forward – now speaks of “the shift of the economic center of the world to the United States of America” and of “the transformation of the ‘Dollar Republic’ into a world exploiter,” and finally, that the rivalry (the draft loosely says “conflict”) between North American and European imperialism, primarily British imperialism, “is becoming the axis of the world conflicts.” It is already quite obvious today that a program which did not contain a clear and precise definition of these basic facts and factors of the world situation would have nothing in common with the program of the international revolutionary party…]

[It] is precisely the international strength of the United States and her irresistible expansion arising from it, that compels her to include the powder magazines of the whole world into the foundations of her structure, i.e., all the antagonisms between the East and the West, the class struggle in Old Europe, the uprisings of the colonial masses, and all wars and revolutions on the one hand against the growth of imperialist capitalism into the basic countercanterviolent force of the modern epoch, constantly more intercontinental and worldwide in character, in every corner of the terrestrial globe; and on the other hand, this prepares the ground for a gigantic revolution–counterrevolutionary explosion and on the other hand, this prepares the ground for a gigantic revolution–counterrevolutionary explosion and a gigantic anti-imperialist revolution, industry and agriculture, and a gigantic anti-imperialist revolution, industry and agriculture, and a gigantic anti-imperialist revolution, industry and agriculture, and on the other hand, this prepares the ground for a gigantic revolution–counterrevolutionary explosion and a gigantic anti-imperialist revolution, industry and agriculture, and on the other hand, this prepares the ground for a gigantic revolution–counterrevolutionary explosion and a gigantic anti-imperialist revolution, industry and agriculture, and on the other hand, this prepares the ground for a gigantic revolution–counterrevolutionary explosion. . . .

The United States will seek to overcome and extricate herself from her domestic difficulties and world imperialist power at the expense of Europe, regardless of whether this occurs in Asia, Canada, South America, Australia, or Europe itself. This program, which takes place peacefully or through war. . .
Workers show power, need to organize to win

Working people around the world have demonstrated their capacity to engage in sustained struggle, courageously facing down repressive regimes and even war. This has been evident in Puerto Rico, Iran, Egypt, and elsewhere in recent months. In the course of organizing massive mobilizations they have won solidarity from far and wide and provided an example of the potential power of working people to face intolerable living and working conditions.

The hatred of regimes — both in Iran and Sadan and Abdelaziz Bouteflika in Algeria — have been forced out of office by protests involving millions, but government defectors that define the rule of the exploiters remain in place in both nations.

Fifteen days of massive demonstrations in Puerto Rico forced the resignation of Gov. Ricardo Rosello in July. His replacement is as dedicated to maintaining U.S. colonial rule and imperialist plunder as he was. In recent years we have seen other mass working-class uprisings that toppled despots and their allies, like in Egypt and Ukraine. They share the same lesson.

What is in front of working people involved in these battles and workers elsewhere is forging a revolutionary leadership that explains that workers can throw off the self-image we are taught by capitalist rulers and recognize we are capable of taking power into our own hands.

And it explains that the problem workers face isn’t simply a few corrupt politicians, a particularly ruthless boss, foreign interference, but the rule of an exploitative and oppressive social class. The
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