New Zealand protesters say ‘Abortion is not a crime’

BY MIKE TUCKER
AUCKLAND, New Zealand — “I am a young person who doesn’t believe abortion should be in the Crimes Act,” high school student Lucy Mackenzie told the crowd as she kicked off a rally here Feb. 18 demanding a woman’s right to choose.

Before the rally, Mackenzie and fellow high school student Holly Wakefin led a march through the city center with a large banner, “My body, my choice.” Some 250 people, a majority young women, joined the action, chanting, “Whose bodies, our bodies. Whose choice, our choice,” and “Abortion is not a crime.” Now, now, now is the time.” Similar protests took place in other cities, part of a National Day of Action.

Young women have taken the lead in organizing campaigns in support of their right to choose to have an abortion. Over the past few years there have been actions in Ireland, South Korea, Argentina and elsewhere, with some mobilizations bringing hun-

Continued on page 2

Striking Asarco miners protest bosses’ union-busting attacks

BY DEBORAH LIATOS
PHOENIX — “Asarco, Asarco, you can’t hide. We can see your greedy side,” chanted over 100 copper strikers and their supporters protesting here Feb. 24 in front of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration conference. The gathering attracted thousands of executives, mining engineers and other officials from a wide range of coal, copper, silver and other mining companies.

“We’re here. We’re not going away.

Continued on page 3

SwP presidential candidate in Kentucky: ‘We need a labor party, independent of the bosses’

BY AMY HUSK
LOUISVILLE, Ky. — “We don’t say, ‘Vote for me and I’ll fix everything,’” Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for presi-
dent, told a meeting at the Mount Lebanon of Cedars apartments community room here Feb. 20.

Instead, Kennedy, running mate Malcolm Jarrett, and dozens of SWP candidates across the country use the election campaign to explain that workers need to rely on their own strength, independent of the capitalist rulers, their state and their politi-
cal parties.

The Socialist Workers Party 2020 platform, she explained, points to the need for “a movement of millions” that will fight to replace “the rule of the exploitative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.”

“There have been movements of millions in U.S. history,” Kennedy said. “The civil rights movement of the 1960s and ’70s and the anti-war movement of the 1970s, ’80s and beyond — we need a movement of millions today to change our condi-
tions and defend our interests.”

Continued on page 4

Capitalist two party system’s stability won’t be restored

BY TERRY EVANS

The deep divisions in the Democratic Party continue to chafe as Bernie Sand-
ers, who says he is a democratic social-

ist, is leading the party’s early primaries. His centrist opponents are desperate to prevent him from getting the nomina-
tion and stop his supporters from ex-
panding their influence in a party that is a mainstay of capitalist rule.

Many are convinced that none of the party’s hopefuls has a chance at un-
seating President Donald Trump and are eager to find something new to try to oust him from power before November.

Both the Democrats and Republicans want to keep working people wraped up in the capitalist party setup, whether there are two, three or more parties de-
fending the bosses’ interests. They want to prevent us from organizing ourselves to fight together to change our condi-
tions and defend our interests. And in so doing to develop self-confidence, courage and class consciousness. This is

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Over a million Syrians forced to flee Idlib in face of regime’s offensive

BY TERRY EVANS

The Syrian dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad — backed by Moscow’s air power and Tehran-organized mili-
tias — continues its murderous bom-

bardment of rebel fighters and civil-

ians in the country’s Idlib province, with disastrous consequences for working people. Over a third of the province’s 3 million people have fled their homes since Assad’s offensive began in December.

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Federal court says Florida law gutting felons’ right to vote is unconstitutional

BY CINDY JAQUITH
MIAMI — The attempt by the Florida government to gut a refer-
endum passed by over 60% in 2018 restoring voting rights to former prisoners was pushed back Feb. 19. A three-judge federal appeals court panel ruled that a new law requir-

ing that “felons” pay all outstanding court fees, fines and restitution as-

sessed against them before being al-

owed to register is unconstitutional.

Widely popular Amendment 4 changed the state constitution to restore the right to vote to former prisoners once they are off parole or probation, with the exception of those found guilty of murder or sex crimes. Some 1.6 mil-

lion people became eligible to vote.

Continued on page 3

Inside

Families, former inmates, SWP protest conditions at Georgia jail

Capitalist economies wobble as coronavirus cases spread

Women in Iraq say no to segregation of protesters

Bosse step up spying on workers — on and off the job

Edit: Fight for gov’t-funded, cradle-to-grave health care

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AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 100 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · UK £1.50 · U.S. $1.00
NZ abortion rights actions

Continued from front page
dreaded thousands into the streets. In Ireland, a sustained campaign scored a victory in 2019 when the government legalized abortion for the first time.

Legislation before Parliament in New Zealand would remove abortion from the Crimes Act, and change the law to allow a woman to choose to have the procedure in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy. After this she must get the approval of a medical practitioner. The legislation passed its first vote by a wide margin last August. To become law it has to go through two further votes.

‘End stigma around abortion’

“We need this to happen to end the stigma around abortion,” Mackenzie told fellow marchers. “Girls need choices, not judgment.”

Wakefield was the second speaker at the rally. Under the existing law, she said, women “have to pretend we are mental-ly unstable to get a legal abortion.” High school age women often can’t get them at all, she said, because they are reliant on their parents.

The 1977 law currently in effect says abortion is illegal. But mass protests forced authorities to loosen its applica-
tion, permit many abortions, and allow clinics to perform them. But women must get the approval of two certifying medical consultants on the grounds that an abortion is needed to prevent danger to their physical or mental health. Under this law, some 30 percent of women in New Zealand have had an abortion during their lifetime.

“Ninety-eight percent of abortions in New Zealand are currently granted on mental health grounds. Putting abor-
tion in the Crimes Act says women are not capable of making our own deci-
sions,” Ella Shepherd, chairwoman of the Auckland University Campus Feminist Collective, told the rally. “It’s not enough just to remove abortion from the Crimes Act, it also has to be available and accessible.”

Restrictions must be removed

Many public hospitals, especially outside the big cities, don’t provide abortions. Due to restrictions in the law and difficulties in arranging to have the procedure, many women often find themselves having to wait weeks to get an abortion. As a consequence, 80% of abortions performed today are invasive surgical procedures. If the obstacles are cleared away, many more can be in-
duced with a pill.

“This is my second protest,” Barbara Sharrock told the Militant. “The first was ‘Schools Strike for Climate.’ Abortion is more controversial, but has always been an important issue to me.”

Four high school students from Roselle College came as part of a joint project for their social studies class - to do a report on why abortion should be legal. “We welcome the decriminal-
ization of abortion, something women have long been fighting for,” Annalucia Vermunt, who was the Communist League candidate for mayor of Auckland in 2019, told them.

“The Communist League stands for women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions and government-funded child care,” she said. “We oppose the state intervening in a woman’s right to control her own body and reject any restrictions on ac-
cess to abortion under the new law.”

Further reading...

Documents of the Socialist Workers Party, 1971-86

This three-part series helps politically equip women and men joining battles in defense of women’s rights today.

Vol. 1: Women’s Liberation and the Line of March of the Working Class

Vol. 2: Women, Leadership, and the Proletarian Norms of the Communist Movement

Vol. 3: Abortion Rights, the ERA, and the Rebirth of a Feminist Movement

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Back workers and youth protesting in Iran!

Working people in Iran continue to protest against Tehran’s rulers’ years abroad and the economic and social crisis that this exacerbates at home. They call for the end to government repression and vio-

ence, and for the U.S. out of the Middle East.

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Striking Asarco miners protest

Continued from front page

Our strike but we need more,” Debora vares, a laborer at the Hayden concentrator. “I’m a single mom and I have three kids,” she told the rally. “We start out at $16.75 an hour and it’s hard. You get $18.75 after getting $100 that was presented to the strikers. We are also going through attacks on co-workers in English, Filipino and Spanish, along with their contribution of solidarity messages to USW Local 915 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5252 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 896, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy Blvd., Tucson; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136 Amarrillo, Texas.

SAHUARITA, Ariz. — “I will get out the word about your strike wherever I go. This strike is important and bringing more solidarity to bear is important. My campaign is behind you 100%,” Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. president, told more than 50 Asarco strikers and their supporters at the weekly Sunday dinner at the Mission Mine picket line here Feb. 23.

Some 1,700 copper workers — members of the Teamsters, United Steelworkers and five other unions — have been on strike since Oct. 13, standing up to Asarco bosses’ union busting.

“What we are doing is for every other worker in the country,” Chris Antone, above right, a striker who has worked at the Mission Mine for 12 years and is an assistant chief steward for Teamsters Local 104 at the mine, told Kennedy, center. “It’s not going to get better, just worse.”

“The way workers can change things and better our conditions is by standing up and fighting like you’re doing,” Kennedy said. “It’s out of experiences like the battle you’re waging that workers in their millions will become convinced that we need to build our own party, a labor party.” Kennedy joined a strike protest rally the next day in front of the Phoenix Convention Center (see article on front page). On Feb. 25 she joined strikers on the picket lines at the Ray Mine in Kearny and the Hayden store.
Continued from front page

The ’50s and ’60s and the powerful movement that built the industrial unions and won unemployment benefits and social security in the 1930s, for example. When working people begin to stand up in their millions against the system, we can build our own party, a labor party that fights for working people all year round. Supporting fights today like the copper miners on strike against Asarco in Arizona strengthens this course.”

During Kennedy’s tour in Kentucky she also spoke at a Militant Labor Forum, which was reviewed by WNV’s TV News and a gospel radio station, in ad-

dition to campaigning door to door here and Bedford, a small town outside of Louisville. Margaret Trove, SWP can-
didate for U.S. Senate, Samir Hazboun, the party’s candidate for the 3rd Congres-

dional District, and supporters in the area accompanied her.

Some 25 people came to the meeting at the Mount Lebanon of Cedars hosted by Lamont Anthony, who lives in this government-subsidized assisted living housing complex. 62, made the SWP when Amy Husk, the 2019 can-
didate for governor, spoke at a church breakfast. He joined the party in bring-
ingsobriety to Kentucky. “I understand that your campaign is for the working class. Your platform points out that the bosses and their government always lie to working people about how much money they make. They always say they can’t pay higher wages.” He asked her to explain the party’s demand for workers control of production.

“I work for Walmart, one of the richest companies in the world. In Texas, they pay us $11 an hour,” Kennedy said. “We know they can pay more. As working people organize to defend ourselves, we can force the employers to open their books so we can see the real situation, including how big their profits are. We’ll learn how they cut corners to cheat us and the workers who shop there.

Then we can fight to take more and more control over how things are done. Of course that will require strong unions that we control. In the process we will learn we are capable of organizing pro-
duction to the benefit of all and the Party as well,” she said.

“We can build a labor party, a party of millions, that can organize our fight to take political power.

“Everyone says we have a government for and by the people, but we know that’s not what really goes on,” Lyons said. He then asked what Kennedy thought about police brutality, racist dis-
crimination and the “outrageous crimi-
nal justice system.”

“Look at who is in prison. It’s work-

ing people, disproportionately African American,” Kennedy said. “It’s a class question. The working people are convinced that we are lowlifes and stupid. They want us to stay in our place and not get out of line. They use the schools to perpetuate these myths.”

Kennedy recalled how she used to have a house in Louisville for a couple years and taught at Wheatsley Elementary School.

“That experience was one of the many things that convinced me there’s some-
thing really wrong in this society, it’s impossible to really teach,” Kennedy said. “I was part of the fight to desegre-
gate the schools here.”

Oppose U.S. rulers’ wars abroad

Samir Hazboun joined Kennedy on the platform at the Militant Labor For-

um Feb. 22. He took up the question of why the U.S. capitalist rulers are driven to fight imperialist wars abroad.

“Many workers agree with us that working people have no interest in sup-
porting Washington’s wars,” Hazboun said. “They are beginning to understand things like the Teamsters organizing drives in the Midwest and our campaign to explain that the coming war would be conducted to advance the capitalist rul-
ers’ ability to exploit workers here and abroad against their imperialist rivals. Roosevelt’s administration barred Jew-

ish refugees trying to escape the Nazis from entering the U.S., sending them back to their persecutors.”

Hazboun encouraged participants in the forum to join this year’s May Day International Brigade of Volunteer Workers and Solidarity with Cuba. “The Cuban Revolution is an example of what is possible when working people take power,” he said.

Matthew Murphy, a 22-year-old stu-
dent from Oakland, California, was in town visiting a friend who is a cam-
paign supporter. After hearing Kennedy speak, he joined her campaigning in Bedford.

“I like how the Socialist Workers campaign explains the negative attitudes toward workers” promoted by the rulers and their meritocratic boosters, Murphy said.

Kennedy talked to Sally Patterson, a retired health care and factory work-
er, on her doorstep. Patterson told her she voted for Obama and thought that “Obamacare” was good because there were “a lot of children who didn’t have any health insurance.”

“But ‘Obamacare’ is still health insur-
ance, you’ve got to pay,” said Kennedy.

“It’s not health care,” Patterson said.

She described the conditions of elderly people in nursing homes. “They have worked all their lives and everything they owned is now gone. They get told when to eat, when to sleep.”

“The capitalist class pushes their own dog-eat-dog morality onto us. To only look out for yourself,” Kennedy said. “Our class, the working class, has differ-
ent values. We look out for each other.”

“That’s true, too,” Patterson said. She bought a subscription to the Militant, a copy of In Defense of the U.S. Working Class by SWP leader Mary-Alice Wa-
ters, and a Kennedy-Jarrett campaign button to wear.

### Back Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign

Contribute to $25,000 fund!

Socialist Workers Party candidates Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett are on the campaign trail, speaking at public meetings; talking to working people in cities and towns, small and large; join-
ing social protests; walking picket lines with workers on strike all across the country. Campaign supporters are planning efforts to get on the ballot in a number of states.

To cover the costs of the “Militant” campaign, the Socialist Workers Party National Campaign Committee has launched a monthlong $25,000 fund drive from Feb. 24 to March 22. The fund was kicked off with a bang with $630 col-
lected in Louisville, Kentucky, the first stop on the candidates’ national tour. Any contribution of $200 or more will be reported in filings with the Federal Election Commission.

Send your contribution today! Make checks out to: Socialist Workers National Campaign. Mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

### Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020!

Campaign for what you are, for those who are against you!

- I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, talks with construction and maintenance worker Maria Parada in Seattle.

- You can find a volunteer to help you out.

- I would like a 12-week subscription to the Militant, the campaign newspaper.

- You can also find a volunteer to help you out.

- You can find a volunteer to help you out.

Michele Smith, right, campaign for SWP presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, talks with construction and maintenance worker Maria Parada in Seattle.

February 22. “It’s good to know about the world,” Parada said, as she got a Militant subscription.

Tel: 347-871-0282 - Email: socialworker2020@gmail.com
Families, former inmates, SWP protest conditions at Georgia jail

BY JANICE LYNN

MIARIETTA, Ga. — “It’s monstrous what they are doing. How do we allow this?” asked Wanda Webb, one of dozens of family members and former inmates who spoke out at a Feb. 18 meeting here protesting conditions at the Cobb County Adult Detention Center. The meeting was organized by the Cobb County Southern Christian Leadership Conference, American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, Cobb County NAACP, and other groups demanding an independent investigation of the conditions and treatment meted out at the center. Speakers were both African American and Caucasian.

Many of the inmates are waiting for a court date and haven’t been convicted of any crime. Seven have died in custody there in the last 14 months.

Weeb said her 19-year-old son has lost more than 20 pounds and had been beaten. “He is thinking of taking a plea deal just so he could get out of there,” she said.

“What happened to innocent until proven guilty?” asked another mother who did not want to give her name fearing retaliation against her son. “We must do something.”

Another mother pointed out that many of the young men are being detained just because he was singing.

“Another mother described how her son or daughter was and how they had suffered significant weight loss. They told of black mold on the food trays.

Ivy Treadwell-Garcia said she had been detained at the center for six months. “I can corroborate what every- one is saying,” she said. “I have severe food allergies, but when I was booked in the county jail, they gave me access to my EpPen. I lost 30 pounds.”

A month-long lockdown kept inmates in their cells for 23 hours and 45 minutes a day, according to former family members and no letters or phone calls.

Tajh Hill, detained for three months for a probation violation, spoke about the isolation during the monthlong lockdown. “Panicky buttons to call for a guard weren’t working or just ignored,” she said, resulting in at least one of the deaths.

Rebecca Carlson, a cousin of William Kocour who died in September, said the family believes he wasn’t given proper medical care. “I want justice for all the inmates incarcerated who are facing this kind of treatment,” she said.

Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia, said, “This is a working-class issue,” she said. “I work at Walmart and many of my co-workers or their family members have also faced these same conditions. In Cobb County this may be particularly outrageous, but this type of abuse exists in prisons across the country. This is how the capitalist state treats working people trying to work to keep us in line. “They aim to break our spirit, our humanity,” she said. “No human being deserves this kind of treatment.”

My campaign will be speaking out about this fight.”

Cynthia Busby said her son told her he had no clean blanket, no TV or radio, and had to fight to get his hands on a newspaper that inmates had to share. Books are sharply limited — no more than five — regardless of how long someone was incarcerated.

Copies of a Jan. 12 edition of the Marietta Daily-Journal that reported on complaints of the inhumane treatment at the jail from an earlier public meeting.

Continued on page 6

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

This is the SWP’s fighting campaign platform to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism.

UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY Support workers’ struggles to organize to defend themselves, to use union power on behalf of ourselves and all working people. Workers need their own parties, a labor party. One union for all workers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight for organizing unions and for safe working conditions.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to drivers’ licenses for all.

JOBS Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing in every community. Workers need the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba.

US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE END the US rulers’ economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uphold capitalist exploitation.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement income for all.

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION The bosses and their government lie to working people about their production costs and profits, while they insist they can’t afford to pay higher wages. Demand they open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. To prevent capitalist collusion and thievery — and their production of shoddy and dangerous goods like the Boeing 737 MAX — workers in their millions will need to fight for control of production, a step towards taking political power and a school for running the economy for ourselves in the interests of the all.

“JUSTICE” SYSTEM Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” outrageous bail and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-offenders and all workers behind bars.

POLITICAL RIGHTS Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republican public officials. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption.

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary confinement. End suppression of the Militant, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the cops.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to controlled by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. For a labor party and a movement of millions to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploitative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

Vote Socialist Workers Party in 2020

Allyson Kennedy for president

Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

SWP candidates coast to coast:

New York/New Jersey
Leo Sherman, US Senate, New Jersey
Willie Cotton, 2nd CD, New York
Seth Galinsky, 10th CD, New York
Abby Triller, 20th CD, Albany
Jacob Perillo, 21st CD, Albany
Candace Wagner, 6th CD, Union City, NJ

Mid-Atlantic Region
James Harris, delegate to Congress, D.C.
Philadelphia Hat, 3rd CD, Philadelphia
Robbie Rebolledo, 14th CD, Washington, PA
Dave Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

The South
Rachele Fruit, US Senate, Georgia
Anthony Dixley, 27th CD, Miami

See directory on page 10 to contact party campaign office nearest you.
Capitalist economies wobble as coronavirus cases spread

BY ROY LANDERS

Media worldwide headlined the news Feb. 24 with reports that coronavirus infections and deaths were spreading outside China. The virus, which originated, with spikes in South Korea, Japan, Iran and northern Italy. Capitalist governments around the world either admit their health systems are ill-prepared for a sizable outbreak, or they’re lying.

Medical systems like in the U.S., Europe and those imposed by the workings of imperialism in most of the semicolonial world are run for profit, not human needs. They increase the deadly risks — from here this highly contagious disease. Because COVID-19 is a new virus to humans, no one is immune. Except for very few rich people, hospital quarantine facilities would rapidly become overwhelmed, and ventilators and oxygen essential for those with the severe pneumonia this coronavirus can cause would rapidly run short.

The discovery that the incubation period may be up to double the 14-day quarantine period applied around the world has heightened concerns about the spread of the virus and the actual number of people that are infected and become carriers. It has a fatality rate 40 times that of the seasonal strains of flu. Even in the case of the flu today, the inadequate for-profit hospital system in the U.S., let alone in less developed countries, is overwhelmed. As of Feb. 24, at least 29 million people in the U.S. have caught the flu and so far some 6,000 have died.

The capitalist financial press is more and more concerned about a contraction in the world economy, a crisis that is already visible in China and Japan, with manufacturing contracting. This has made production in the U.S. and other imperialist countries completely dependent on parts and other components produced thousands of miles away in countries where workers get lower wages. Facing the unfolding spread of coronavirus, world stock markets plunged Feb. 24-26.

The central government in Beijing is trying to restart export-oriented factories to overcome the interruption to China’s already slowing economic growth. But more than one-third of China’s 775 million-strong labor force are rural migrant workers, many facing the 14-day quarantine period on their return from holiday or lockdown. Many are in limbo.

In New International no. 10 ‘What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold’ Resolution adopted by SWP 1988 convention

“The October 1987 crash on the world’s stock markets signaled the consequences: no longer can the exploiters be confident that a major bankruptcy, loan default, crop failure, bank collapse, deflationary slump, stock market dive, or other partial crisis will be buffered by the strength of productivity investment and trade in the broader capitalist economy.

“Today, at this advanced point in the stagnation of capitalist economies, any of these partial crises has the growing potential to spiral out of control and trigger a worldwide depression and generalized social crisis.”

www.pathfinderpress.com

This unpredictable epidemic is part of the deepening social disaster that capitalism in crisis is imposing as a mounting toll on working people. The Cuban international mission in West Africa in 2014-2015 — Fidel Castro’s “army of white coats” — that helped stem the Ebola virus spread there helps us understand the way a virus could be used to control and mobilize the masses, self-discipline and creativity of millions to halt the march of this new disease. This example is brought to life in Pathfinder’s new book, Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa (see article on page 9).

Disease started in China

By Feb. 26, over 80,000 definite cases were reported with almost 3,000 deaths, most of them in China. The Chinese rulers made the situation worse by trying to cover up the disease’s spread until it became impossible to do so. There have now been more than 1,500 instances of infection in 36 other countries, mainly from people who traveled to China. WHO spokespeople say this could be “the tip of the iceberg.”

Factories across China are still closed or short-staffed, dislocating world supply chains. Plants are closed across Hubei, where the outbreak was first reported. They are vital for global production from cars to aerospace, from medical to electronic products. Apple’s largest factory with 200,000 workers run by Foxconn in Zhengzhou, Henan, was still stalled Feb. 21. Disruptions to just-in-time supply lines have forced Hyundai and Kia to halt production in South Korea. Automakers from Japan to Germany, France and even the U.S. are affected.

The lean inventories of major companies like Amazon, Apple and Nike avoid money being tied up in warehouse stockpiles awaiting sales. But this crisis has showed how vulnerable these just-in-time “globalized” supply lines are.

Decoupling of many U.S. firms from Chinese suppliers started with uncertainties about the Washington-Beijing tariff and trade dispute. Now this process of deglobalization will be hastened by the fallout from the virus.

Airlines under mounting pressure

The fall in daily domestic and international flights from China from over 15,000 to just over 2,000 due to quarantine restrictions has put Chinese airlines and Asia-Pacific carriers under mounting pressure. The massive fall-off of Chinese travelers, who account for about a fifth of all tourism spending worldwide, is having an impact across the board.

Outbreaks were reported at several jails in China Feb. 21, including in two Chinese provinces outside Hu- bei. Some 230 cases were diagnosed at Wuhan Women’s Prison alone. Two hospitals in Beijing have reported an outbreak with about 400 cases sparking fears of an epidemic in the capital of 22 million people.

Some 1,200 people in the Uighur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang are suspected to have contracted the virus. An estimated 1 million Uighurs detained in “reeducation” camps are at risk. The contagion is especially virulent among clusters of human beings in close proximity to each other.

The regime’s brutality repressing the largely Muslim Uighurs is well-known around the world even though many of the camps are just to help them get jobs. When Wang Xin- ping, a Chinese diplomat posted in Aus- tralia, went on ABC TV there Feb. 24 and repeated this claim, the audience laughed at him.

Jail speak out

Continued from page 5

Inmates in Florida, Indiana and other states.

“The October 1987 crash on the world’s stock markets signaled the consequences: no longer can the exploiters be confident that a major bankruptcy, loan default, crop failure, bank collapse, deflationary slump, stock market dive, or other partial crisis will be buffered by the strength of productivity investment and trade in the broader capitalist economy. “Today, at this advanced point in the stagnation of capital economies, any of these partial crises has the growing potential to spiral out of control and trigger a worldwide depression and generalized social crisis.”

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Inmates in Florida, Indiana and other states.

A vessel in the Ganges River, India.

Join the Socialist Workers Party Election Campaign. Meet James Harris, SWP candidate for D.C. delegate to U.S. Congress.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sirens pierce the air.

“Today, at this advanced point in the stagnation of capitalism, any of these partial crises has the growing potential to spiral out of control and trigger a worldwide depression and generalized social crisis.”

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MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Continued from front page Turkey is already home to some 3.7 million Syrian refugees and its regime has clashed with their hosts. Assad’s current offensive. Thousands trying to escape the onslaught have no shelter and are sleeping with little protection from freezing winter conditions. Whole villages and towns in the province are being abandoned before the regime’s airstrike turns them into ruins. Assad’s forces are focusing seven to close in the last week.

The Syrian government is attempting to crush all opponents, including reactionary Islamist forces that seized control of Idlib in the course of the country’s civil war. Since 2018 the province has been the last remaining part of Syria west of the Euphrates River beyond government control. Assad claims his offensive is the “prelude for complete victory.”

He neglects to mention a wide range of fighting in the plant and the city are against the war on April 15.

“Free all victims of military compulsion. All out for Anti-War Week March 16-22 is now off

— TERRY EVANS

Syrians flee regime’s offensive

Hundreds of women took to the streets of Baghdad, Najaf, Nasirya and Basra Feb. 13 to protest demands by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr that women and men attending anti-government protests and encampments be segregated. “We refuse,” 20-year-old Ruwayda Khteer told Al Jazeera. “We’re protesting for our rights because in Iraq they’ve been stolen.”

Al-Sadr, who heads the country’s largest parliamentary bloc and commands his own militia, has demanded his supporters pull out of the protest camps and called for attacks against them. He has urged protesters instead to support the efforts of prime minister-designate Mohammed Al- lawi to form a new government.

Since October hundreds of thousands of working people and youth 25, 50, and 75 years ago

In many major cities plans are being made for political rights in Tunisia and others inspired by the “Arab Spring” mobilization Committee, stated March 3.

The Militant’s parties and institutions. Our executive secretary of the Student Movement, Carol Lipman, national executive secretary of the Secretariat of the Socialist Movement, stated March 3.

In Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria women and men attending anti-government protests and encampments have taken to the streets across southern Iraq to demand a halt to the political and military intervention in the country by both Tehran and Washington; for jobs and better living conditions; and for the fall of the government and an end to rule by parties that have long dominated the sectarian political system in the country. They insist that includes Alawi.

“We will give our soul and blood to Iraq and only Iraq,” sang women in Bagdad’s Tahrir Square.

March 13, 1945

In Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria lies a modern capitalist Eden in the form of the world’s richest oil deposits. This is why [President Franklin] Roosevelt went from Yalta to Great Bitter Lake where he held court for the three kings of the Orient — King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, King Farouk of Egypt and Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia.

The lavish arrangements for Roosevelt’s reception of these potentates were part of extensive preparations by U.S. imperialism for its drive to dominate the Middle East. Several official missions have recently returned from that area with reports surveying the situation. They have carefully studied the measure of British control and sought ways and means for Wall Street to muscle in on this rich domain that British imperialism has so long exploited.

The Militant March 9, 2020

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March 13, 1995

UNION POINT, Georgia — Shout- ing “No justice, no peace!” more than 20,000 workers, mainly black, marched in a protest against the killing of 8-year-old Dajon Carter, an innocent bystander.

Close to 100 members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 328 and several hundred union members and supporters of Black rights matched here February 25. In a victory for democratic rights, a racist ban on 21 Black youths entering downtown businesses had been lifted.

ACTWU members Scottie Williams and Mark Tolbert distributed “End Discrimination at Chipman-Union” and “End Redlining Union Point” stickers. “It’s clear to me that the fight in the plant and the city are identical,” said Williams.

March 13, 1970

Plans are well under way for the spring antwar offensive. National Anti-War Week, March 16-22, is now off. President Nixon has issued an executive order to stop the war, and our allies are increasing their bombing.

“The Militant” workers from the Chipman-Union ho- siery plant, who won union certification by U.S. imperialism for its drive to dominate the Middle East. Several official missions have recently returned from that area with reports surveying the situation. They have carefully studied the measure of British control and sought ways and means for Wall Street to muscle in on this rich domain that British imperialism has so long exploited.

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The deviation of Iraq did not lead to the downfall of a new world order. They effectively delivered a coup de grace to the declining capitalist world order and accelerated its contradictions.

314. Alto in Farsi, French, Spanish, Swedish

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What is Marxism? What are we all about?

In October 1847, as part of his preparation together with Karl Marx to draft the Communist Manifesto, Engels wrote a couple of editorials responding to a petty-bourgeois German socialist named Karl Heinzen (whose place in history lies in the fact that he served as a foil for Marx and Engels).

“Herr Heinzen imagines communism is a certain doctrine which proceeds from a definite theoretical principle as its core and draws further conclusions from that,” Engels wrote.

“Herr Heinzen is very much mistaken. Communism is not a doctrine but a movement; it proceeds not from principles but from facts.” That’s where the fund of the Manifesto’s program comes from, said Engels.

Marx and Engels incorporated this central concept at the heart of the Communist Manifesto, which they had been asked to draft at the founding congress of the world’s first modern revolutionary workers organization, the Communist League, held in London in December 1847.

“The theoretical conclusions of the communists are in no way based on ideas or principles that have been invented, or discovered, by this or that universal reformer,” they wrote. “They merely express, in general terms, actual relations springing from an existing class struggle, from a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

Marxism is “simply” the generalized interests, written down, of one of the two major classes involved in that struggle in the modern world — the working class. Communists “have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole,” wrote Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the Communist Manifesto. “They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own, by which to shape and mold the proletarian movement.”

“Communism is not a doctrine but a movement” Below is a chapter from The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Bowler. It is entitled, “COMMUNISM IS NOT A DOCTRINE BUT A MOVEMENT.” Copyright © 2019 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

The Militant March 9, 2020
New book on Ebola launched at Cuban tropical medicine school

BY RÓGER CALERO

HAVANA — Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa, by Cuban writer Enrique Ubieta, published by Pathfinder Press in both English and Spanish, was presented Feb. 18 at the Pedro Kouri Institute of Tropical Medicine here.

The Kouri Institute is the world-renowned research center and hospital where 256 Cuban volunteer doctors and nurses — who were instrumental in ending the deadly Ebola epidemic — underwent rigorous training before going to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea in 2014. It is also where Ubieta and his two-person TV film crew spent their 21-day quarantine on returning from a reporting trip to those countries, gathering the material that was used in the book.

Dr. Manuel Romero, the institute’s director, said Red Zone “counts the U.S. disinformation campaign against our internationalist doctors. It tells of the example of our ‘army in white coats’ around the world.

The invited speakers were Ubieta and Pathfinder president Mary-Alice Waters and Martin Koppel, the co-editors of the Pathfinder book. Defending Cuba’s socialist revolution and its working-class internationalism “is a necessity for us,” Waters, a leader of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party, told the meeting. “It’s inseparable from helping working people in the United States to learn from and prepare to emulate your example.”

After the program, many of the 30 medical researchers and workers attending the meeting crowded around the book table to get their copy of Red Zone, as well as other books on revolutionary working-class politics. Some of them had been part of Cuba’s internationalist medical missions in Africa and elsewhere.

Proud of how they won Ebola battle

As they browsed through the books, several workers at the institute were eager to tell Militant reporters about their participation in the intensive effort to train the Ebola brigade. They noted that the Cuban personnel arrived in West Africa much better prepared than other groups of foreign doctors — and shared their knowledge with those colleagues.

They set up tents at the Kouri Institute simulating the Ebola treatment centers for brigade members to practice safety procedures. They learned how to put on and remove the specialized protective gear, and how to enter and exit the “red zone” — where the sickest patients were housed — and other wards to prevent the spread of the virus. They worked in those “space suits” under the hot Cuban sun to prepare for the conditions they would face in Africa.

Most international doctors, following World Health Organization guidelines, worked in the Ebola clinics for stints of no more than four weeks to avoid burnout. However, the highly prepared and motivated Cuban volunteers decided to stay for six months to maximize use of their cumulative experience.

Marta Castro Peraza, who helped supervise the training program for the Ebola brigade, told the Militant that medical personnel from France, United Kingdom and other countries had a policy of avoiding hands-on contact with those sick with Ebola. “But we couldn’t do that. In Cuba we’re accustomed to touching our patients,” she said.

And that’s what they did in the Ebola clinics — providing intravenous drips for rehydration, bathing and dressing patients, and assisting them with drinking and eating, without violating any safety procedures. They viewed patients as fellow human beings, winning their confidence and that of their families.

The Cubans’ approach sharply lowered fatality rates. By mid-2015 the outbreak was virtually eradicated.

Panel of speakers discuss new book published by Pathfinder Press

Sat., March 7, 6:30 p.m.

The People’s Forum

320 W. 37th St.

New York City

Join 2020 May Day international brigade to Cuba!

BY JANET POST

I have been wanting to go to Cuba ever since I heard about the May Day brigade. I think it is a great opportunity to exchange culture and check out the political differences between Cuba and the U.S.,” Brian Wickman, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, told Dan Fein Feb. 17. Fein, a member of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago, is working to build the April 26 to May 10 May Day International Brigade of Voluntary Work and Solidarity with Cuba.

“I look forward to see a system that works without the dog-eat-dog mentality we so often find here,” said Wickman. He lives in Downers Grove, some 20 miles west of Chicago, and works for ComEd, the electrical utility.

Wickman is one of hundreds of workers and youth from around the world who are signing up for this year’s brigade, which is sponsored by Cuba’s Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). A highlight will be joining over a million Cubans on the May Day mobilization in Havana in support of their living revolution and to celebrate the 61st anniversary of its triumph. It’s a powerful way to tell U.S. imperialism, “Hands off!”

The 1959 victory of the Cuban Revolution — led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement — overthrew the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship and brought a workers and farmers government to power. It opened the door for the socialist revolution in the Americas.

The brigade takes place as the U.S. rulers are stepping up their economic and political war against the revolution, seeking to isolate Cuba and punish the Cuban people. It provides a unique opportunity for its supporters in the U.S. and elsewhere to meet and talk with Cuban workers, farmers and youth, and to become better armed to return home and counter Washington’s lies.

The rules have launched a worldwide smear campaign against Cuba’s over 50,000 internationalist medical volunteers, who serve in more than 60 countries. Washington slander them as “slave labor” or claims they foment social unrest wherever they go.

A new book from Pathfinder — Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa — tells the inspiring story of the more than 250 Cuban medical personnel who helped lead the fight to stem that epidemic in 2014-15. “The heroic actions of Cuba’s army of white coats will occupy a place of honor,” Fidel Castro said in 2014. Brigade members will have an opportunity to meet some of Cuba’s medical internationalists.

The brigade is also a real opportunity for participants to describe Cuba’s reality to the class struggle in the U.S., Canada and other capitalist countries, and the political activities they have been part of. Last year 320 people from 21 countries, including 65 from the U.S., joined the brigade. The National Network on Cuba, a coalition of groups in solidarity with the Cuban people, is organizing the U.S. delegation.

Participants will be based at the Julio Antonio Mella camp in Caimito, outside Havana. They will join in volunteer labor alongside Cuban farmers in the fields and meet leaders of Cuba’s women, youth and trade union organizations. Brigadistas will visit health care centers, factories, universities, farm cooperatives, museums and cultural venues in a number of cities to learn more about the revolution.

Travel arrangements are being organized by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), Cuba’s national labor union. The May Day mobilization will be followed by an international solidarity meeting in Havana.

Travel arrangements are being organized in accordance with U.S. guidelines by Search Tour Services. Applications are due March 27. Total cost, not including airfare to Cuba, is $725. For the forms and more information go to www.nnoc.info or email info@ncnc@cubamail.com
Women garment workers in Dhaka fighting for union rights, better wages and conditions, October 2014. Bangladeshi “fashion” industry workforce of 4 million is 80% female. Women in these factories have joined union struggles, advancing their confidence and status.

In the whole history of capitalism, he asks, “has the bourgeoisie ever gone about cultivating the feats of commodities more cold-bloodedly than American big business?”

The resources devoted by capitalist enterprises to advertising and the creation of markets, far from being a thing of the past, have expanded astronomically in the last half century as the working class has been pushed to “need” everything from must-have cell phones, to the latest model automobiles, $500 torn blue jeans, an exploding array of “cosmetic” surgeries, designer handbags, and cosmetics-designed-to-make-you-look-like-you’re-not-using-cosmetics. All these and more are pushed on hapless “consumers” without truce. The pressure to be “fashionable”—that is, to be “employable,” and attractive to a potential spouse—has penetrated even more deeply into the working class. Television and the internet greatly intensify the all-pervasive intrusions.

The manufactured compulsion to “shop,” playing on the emotional insecurities of women and adolescents alike, has only deepened and spread. The “marketing” Hansen poking such fun at in the 1950s seems amateur by comparison to the sales techniques employed today. “Shop until you drop” has gone from being a humorous exaggeration to a description of an actual social condition pushing increasing numbers of working-class families into more and more debt at usurious rates.

The impact of the twenty-first century capitalist advertising “industry” is, if anything, even more insidious as it spreads into areas of the globe previously buffered to some extent from the imperialist world market. In large areas of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, marked by imperialism-sponsored agricultural and industrial underdevelopment, as well as in countries previously part of the now-defunct economic bloc, and trading bloc once dominated by the Soviet Union, the inevitability of the commodity fetish is an imperial weapon like none other.

In the eloquent words of the Com- munist Manifesto, “the cheap prices of its commodities are the heavy artillery with which [the bourgeoisie] batter down all Chinese walls. ... It compels all nations, in one way or another, to adopt the bourgeois mode of production; it compels them to introduce what it calls civilization into the barbarous states of the world after its own image.”

As the not-so-outdated polemic of the 1950s makes clear, in periods of world war and class struggles such as we have lived through the last quarter century—a period of retreat far longer and more devastating than the relatively brief post-World War II interlude—“the heavy artillery” of capitalism takes its greatest toll, including among the most politically conscious layers. The answer to the second question is equally important.

The articles by Evelyn Reed—“The Woman Question and the Marxist Method,” and “A Servant’s Ordeal: Marxist or Bourgeois?”—are two of the earliest she wrote on these subjects. They were, in effect, “first drafts” of work that she continued to edit, expand, update, and re-issue on an annual basis for another quarter century. This second edition of Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women, in fact, incorporates Reed’s editing on “The Woman Question and the Marxist Method” when she prepared portions of it in 1969 for inclusion in Problems of Women’s Liberation. That work, along with Sexism and Science, Is Biology Woman’s Destiny? and Reed’s widely acclaimed book Woman’s Evolution have been published in editions around the world in the tens of millions of copies.

The sharp focus of the polemic in Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women is what Reed often referred to as the “Hundred-Year War in Anthropology.” Here, as elsewhere, Reed defends the historical materialism of nineteenth-century anthropologist Lewis Henry Morgan and Frederick Engels and drew on extensively in their writings on the subject, and Morgan’s twentieth-century continuation Robert Redfield.

As Reed points out, one of the major battle lines in this century-plus war over historical materialism has been the question, does something akin to the modern bourgeois “patriarchal system” of marriage and family relations [go] all the way back to the animal kingdom? Or did what is often referred to as “patriarchy” begin with the “feminization of men” and the “feminization of women,” arise in relatively recent times, on the scale of evolution, as a corner-stone of class-divided societies? As private rather than communal property came to dominate all social relations, including those between men and women, didn’t a small handful of men emerge for the first time as a ruling class, subjuga-ting all the rest, and, in the process, women as well? ... If class society and the accompanying subordinate status of women is a stage of human history, one that arose at a certain historical junc- ture for specific reasons, then it can be eliminated at another historical junc- ture for other specific reasons.
The U.S. government, the most powerful imperialist power on the planet, like every other capitalist power around the world, is preparing for the spread of coronavirus. The virus is new, no one is immune, and it will take time to develop an antidote. The rulers in China and Iran tried to pretend things were fine, but workers and farmers fought back. The administration in Washington tells us they’ve got everything in hand and complain the media is trying to make coronavirus “look as bad as possible.”

The debate against Sanders at the party’s convention — with working people in rural areas and working-class neighborhoods, where the workers decide they aren’t making enough profit. The system of health insurance in the U.S. when working class taxes pay for the health insurance or the Medicare-for-all insurance schemes promoted by a wing of the Democrats — is designed to guarantee a profit for hospital bosses and drug and insurance companies while providing coverage for the working class people and workers need and deserve.

If we can’t afford to pay the rising costs they charge for premiums, deductibles or copays, we have to go without, with the working class as a basic human right. The capitalist rulers consider the provision of health care to workers a nonproductive expense. Hospital bosses are notorious for transporting homeless people seeking care out of the city and dumping them. The capitalist rulers seek to impose the responsibility for medical care onto individual workers and our families. And if you don’t change your lifestyle — quit smoking, lose weight, etc. — they want to make you pay more. You’re on your own.

Health care is social right

Health care is a social right. The working class and their unions need to fight for government-run cradle-to-grave health care for all. Our labor forces produce all the wealth, more than enough to provide care for all, for a lifetime. The problem is the employers expound that wealth for themselves. So they don’t have to worry about the costs of getting treatment, and going on to take power into their own hands. In the face of Washington’s hostility they advanced the interests of the most exploited and put an end to the capitalist ownership of land, the factories it will take years.

And they have defeated those conquers ever since from bipartisanship USA. The U.S. rulers’ policy — aimed at overthrowing Cuba’s revolution, firmly in power — will remain the same whether Trump, Sanders, Biden or any other Democrat or Republican is in the White House, as it has for 60 years.

Both Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett have been to Cuba and support for Cuba’s socialist revolution is part of the SWP’s campaign platform. They urge workers and youth to join this year’s May Day Brigade to Cuba to learn about the revolution firsthand.

Ongoing crisis of bosses’ two parties

As conflicts leading to the election sharpen, some pundits express fear that this will damage the capital- ist two-party political setup. Writing in the Wall Street Journal, Charles Lipson says these clashes are “deep and toxic for democracy,” and worries that unlike previous disputes they will not end wherever wins in November. Both of these bosses are fractured and will never be the same again.

The roots of the political crisis gripping the Demo- cratic and Republican parties lies in the widespread alienation among working people from parties that have failed to lift the anger against the bosses’ relentless efforts to offload the crisis of their system onto our backs. This is why millions of workers helped put Trump, a noncapitalist, in the White House in 2016 where, with the power, they would “drain the swamp” in Washington and work to halt the American wartime workers face. This year the socialist wing of the Demo- crats hope they can take over the party and make the same journey. The centrists believe this would mean the death of their party. The crisis in the capitalist parties and the conditions workers face today also fuel interest in the Socialist Workers Party campaign. The party campaigns in cit- ies large and small, and in rural areas, urging workers to break from the bosses and form our own party, a labor party, in order to find a road forward.

The Militant March 9, 2020

EDITORIAL

Fight for gov’t-funded, cradle-to-grave health care!

The Militant, March 9, 2020

Capitalist-two-party stability won’t be restored

Continued from front page

the road to defend our wages and working conditions from bosses’ attacks today and points in the direction of independent working-class political action.

This course of resist struggles against the bosses and their system in 2020 by the So- cialist Workers Party presidential ticket, Alyson Ken- nedy for president, Malcolm Jarrett for vice president. They are the only candidates that act on the capacities of the working class to advance its interests by building a movement that can take political power into our own hands and put an end to the exploitative social relations bred by capitalism. Sanders and his socialist cohorts push an ideology aimed at reforming dog-eat- dog capitalist rule. It has nothing to do with building a movement of millions to fight for ourselves.

The centrist Democrats are working overtime to at- tack the Sanders campaign using Republicans’ attacks on socialism not only the presidency, but any chance of majorities in the House and Senate. James Carville, longtime Democratic operative and former campaign manager to Bill Clinton, argued Sanders’ Nevada primary vic- tory meant the race for the party’s nomination was “going very well for [Russian President] Vladimir Putin.” This is the same smear liberals have used for the “going very well for [Russian President] Vladimir Putin.”

Asarco pickets face harassment

On the picket line at the Ray Mine gate entrance to Asarco, the company has hired security guards that film our every move. Is that legal? They are on private property. We are on state property. A police officer speeds on their property going the wrong way, on an exit ramp on a blind corner with strikers only 10 feet away.

Buses Asarco has contracted going in and out of the property get very close to picketers. Someone on the picket line is going to get killed. We need filming of the ridiculousness we have to put up with.

Correction

The caption for the photo of striking Asarco copper miners on page 10 of Militant issue no. 8 incorrectly stated that it was of United Steelworkers Local 532 members picketing the Ray Mine.

LETTERS

Origin of Irish parties

There is an error in the article “Sinn Fein Vote Surges Fueled by Social Crisis, Calls for Irish Uni- ty” in the Feb. 24 issue of the Militant. This doesn’t detract from the main points of the article, which I agree with, but it’s a bit sloppy on history and the data. The last line in the article misrepresents the past 100 years in its articles. The article mentions that Fianna Fail and Fine Gael dominated Irish governments since a war for independence liberated a majority of the country from British rule in 1921.

Neither party existed at that time. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael dominated Irish governments since a war for independence liberated a majority of the country from British rule in 1921.

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