Join ‘Militant’ renewal drive, help get paper out to workers

BY SETH GALINSKY
Readers of the Militant, including members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand, are gearing up for an ambitious drive to win subscription renewals, which begins Jan. 1 and runs through Feb. 15.

The Militant is unique in looking at all political questions from the standpoint of the working class, whether it’s reporting from union picket lines, explaining what’s at stake in the fight against antisemitism, fighting to win support for a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion, or in defending rights crucial to the working class, such as the presumption of innocence, no matter who is in the defendant’s chair.

The paper explains why workers need to forge our own party, a labor party — a step toward organizing in our millions to forge our own party, a labor party — who is in the defendant’s chair.

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New Zealand farmers unite, demand end to gov’t attack

BY PATRICK BROWN
AUCKLAND, New Zealand — “Without farmers you will be hungry, naked and sober,” read a placard on a tractor heading a caravan through Christchurch Nov. 21. The convoy was one of 70 across New Zealand in which tens of thousands of farmers and their supporters said, “Enough is enough!”

They were protesting an accelerating onslaught of new regulations adopted by the Labour Party government in Wellington that impose costs and mountains of paperwork on rural producers, in the name of protecting the environment.

Organized by Groundswell, which was formed by farmers in Southland last year, the action built on an earlier round of nationwide protests in July. It opposed “unworkable rules that really hold the [farming] sector back,” co-founder and beef farmer Laurie Patterson told Radio NZ the morning after the protest.

Groundswell and other farm groups
Continued on page 2

Kellogg strikers vote No!
Say ‘End two-tier wages’

Bosss threaten to hire ‘permanent replacements’

BY SUSAN LAMONT
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Kellogg’s workers on strike at the company’s four cereal plants across the country overwhelmingly rejected the bosses’ latest contract offer in a vote Dec. 5.

The key issue is the company’s demand to expand the number of “transition” workers on its divisive two-tier wage and benefits system.

“The members have spoken. The strike continues,” Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union President Anthony Shelton told the press.

“Solidarity is critical to this fight.” The company responded with threats.

Picket at Omaha, Nebraska, Kellogg’s plant Dec. 2. Strikers overwhelmingly rejected new contract, continue fight for “equal pay for equal work.” Join efforts to build solidarity!

BY ALYSON KENNEDY
BEAUMONT, Texas — Exxon, Exxon you can’t hide, we can see your greedy side!” and “Stand up, fight back!” chanted dozens of members of United Steelworkers Local 13-243 and their supporters protesting outside the meeting of the World Petroleum Congress in Houston Dec. 6 where ExxonMobil
Continued on page 4

Texas ExxonMobil workers rally, win solidarity against oil bosses’ lockout

End US sanctions on North Korea!
US troops out of Korean Peninsula!

BY SETH GALINSKY
Washington is committed to “utilizing the full range of U.S. defense capabilities, including nuclear” to “deter” North Korea, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin stated after his Dec. 2 meeting in Seoul with South Korean military officials to discuss “updating” military options against North Korea.

Washington — the only government to ever use nuclear weapons — paints the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea as a threat to world peace. But the U.S. rulers themselves keep some 28,500 troops in South Korea and carry out provocative joint war games with the South Korean
Continued on page 6


BY VIVIAN SAHNER
On Dec. 1, the U.S. Supreme Court began hearings on a case that challenges Roe v. Wade, its own 1973 ruling that decriminalized abortion during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy. A decision by the court isn’t expected until next year.

In Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the court will rule on a Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks, an arbitrary figure.

The state’s attorney general, Lynn Fitch, argues that a woman’s right to choose abortion should be tossed aside, saying “sweeping policy advances” allow women to “have it all,” a career and a family. For Fitch, a divorced mother of three, her “all” includes a nanny and the support of her wealthy family.

Of course, it’s much easier for someone who has family wealth to “have it all” and live without support from her wealthy family.

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NZ farmers fight gov’t attack

Continued from front page are channeling long-built-up frustration among rural communities at policies imposed on farmers by the government — policies that haven’t met with serious opposition from Federated Farmers or other traditional capitalist agricultural organizations. Farmers are particularly angry at being framed up as villains in the degradation of the environment.

The farmers explain that they are on the frontlines of defending the land and waters, and their livelihoods depend on it.

Farming plays a central part in the capitalist economy here. Together with forestry, agricultural products make up more than half of all exports. Protesters gathered on the outskirts of Pukekohe in South Auckland — a major agricultural region — to demand the government to implement new regulations that farmers say will cost them $35,000 [US$23,800] to get a consultation and will have to pay $120,000 to get a consent.

“It’s too much,” said Ian Chitty, who farms on the outskirts of Pukekohe in South Auckland — a major agricultural region — to demand the government to implement new regulations that farmers say will cost them $35,000 [US$23,800] to get a consultation and will have to pay $120,000 to get a consent.

“Last September new regulations came on to have a significant impact on farmers. Statistics New Zealand reports farm input prices have risen by 7% in the last year. "Many, especially younger dairy farmers, are deeply in debt and fear the cost of the new regulatory regime," Johnson told the Militant. “Every farmer I know is trying to make a living, and it’s a hard road.”

Many people turned out along roads and in towns to applaud the caravans. But not everybody was cheered by the protest. On the eve of the event, Labour government Minister Stuart Nash smeared Groundswell as reaction ary, “a mixture of racism, anti-vax, etc.,” a charge firmly rejected by Groundswell co-founder Bryce McKenzie.

In Wellington, supporters of “Extinction Rebellion,” an anti-working class outfit that demands working people sacrifice to prevent imminent climate catastrophe, tried to block the protest. The group says “diets would change if we don’t.”

Rising prices worldwide are starting to have a significant impact on farmers. Statistics New Zealand reports farm input prices have risen by 7% in the last year. “Many, especially younger dairy farmers, are deeply in debt and fear the cost of the new regulatory regime,” Johnson told the Militant. “Every farmer I know is trying to make a living, and it’s a hard road.”

A car farmer “has no intention of harvesting the trees,” he said. Instead, he sells government-issued “carbon credits.” This can be four times more profitable than sheep and beef farming on the same land. That makes land unaffordable for “would-be farmers.”

By STEVE WARSHELL

MUNCIE, Ind. — Jerry Ulman, a longtime member and supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, died here Nov. 22. Ulman was a member of the party branch in Indianapolis from 1978 to 1982. He remained a supporter of the party for almost four decades, and was a long-time member of SWP’s local chapter in Muncie.

As a professor of special education at Ball State University here, Ulman developed the Applied Behavior Analysis program used to successfully treat people with autism. He was instrumental in establishing the Hoosier Association of Behavior Analysis.

Jerry Ulman, longtime SWP supporter

Jerry was a staunch supporter of Cuba’s socialist revolution and worked tirelessly to help distribute the writings of Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other Cuban revolutionaries.

As a member of the American Federation of Teachers, he worked to bring union solidarity to workers fighting to defend their rights and living standards. He had unshakable confidence in the working class and the capacities of working people everywhere.

The Militant

Support, emulate Cuba’s socialist revolution!

Cuba’s workers and farmers have withstood six decades of counterrevolutionary efforts by the U.S. rulers to overthrow their socialist revolution. The ‘Militant’ says, “End Washington’s economic war against Cuba!” The revolution is an example for working people everywhere.

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Join ‘Militant’ renewal drive!

Continued from front page

The goal of the renewal campaign is to get at least 20% of those who bought subscriptions during the full propaganda and SWP fund drive to renew their subscriptions, while asking their help to reach out and win new readers for the socialist newsmagazine and books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders.

Many new subscribers are workers who have been in strike battles over the last few months and agreed that the Militant lets them speak in their own words about what they are fighting for, provides hard-to-get reports on other labor struggles and is a tool for organizing solidarity that is crucial to the outcome of these fights.

When Alyson Kennedy and two other SWP members from Dallas visited the picket line of locked-out oil workers at ExxonMobil in Beaumont, Texas, they spoke to Andre Frances, head trustee for United Steelworkers Local 13-243, at the union hall. Frances showed them every copy of the Militant that the local has received that is displayed in a table in the lobby. “And these are read,” he said.

“Several workers we spoke to there knew about the recent strikes at John Deere and Nabisco and the current fight at Republic Steel,” Kennedy reported.

Sue Little, a retired member of the local who is on the Sabine Area Central Labor Council, was also at the hall. She told Kennedy she had traveled to Washington, D.C., to join an Oct. 2 protest to defend abortion rights.

“The fight for family planning services, including birth control and safe and secure abortion, is a question for the unions,” Kennedy said. The Militant is part of the fight to educate, organize and mobilize a majority of working people to understand and defend this right, which is essential for winning women’s emancipation and to unite the working class.

When Susan LaMont from Atlanta visited the picket line of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International, at Keller Mill in Memphis, Tennessee, Dec. 4, striker Scott Evans gave her a big hug and said he and his wife both read and liked the Militant. He later texted LaMont to thank us for coming up again for the support of the Militant and the SWP for the strike and for all the unions, LaMont reported.

This isn’t unusual. Militant supporters Amy Husk and Jim Horn talked to steelworkers on their picket line at Specialty Metals in Huntington, West Virginia, Dec. 5. They met Michelle Tharpe at the USW Local 40 union hall. Tharpe is currently on loan to Specialty Metals where she has worked for 17 years.

After looking over the Militant, she bought a six-month subscription and Teamster Rebellions, the first in a four-volume series on the Teamsters by Farrell Dobbs. The series tells the story of how the Teamsters in Minneapolis was transformed into a fighting union and social movement; the political questions workers confront; and much more.

Dobbs was a young worker when he became a leader of the Teamsters in Minneapolis in the 1930s and architect of the drive that brought thousands of over-the-road truck drivers into the union. He also became a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

“I’m going to start reading this right away,” Tharpe said. “It’s important to learn about our history.”

SWP members and fellow Militant boosters in New York City have begun calling subscribers, making sure everyone is getting their papers, asking their opinion about what they’re reading, inviting them to weekly Militant Labor Forums, and offering to get back together to talk more.

Some subscribers will want to work together to spread the reach of the paper, help win solidarity for Kellogg’s, Kentucky, Local 790-850 of the IBEW and other strikers or join protests against the U.S. embargo of Cuba.

As a result of their initial work, two subscribers in New York got co-ops of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Fight for Workers Power and Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Want to learn more about how you can help introduce friends, co-workers, neighbors and relatives to the Militant and the Socialist Workers Party? page 8 to contact the branch near you or contact the Militant at themilitant@imac.com.

Jerry Ulman

Continued from page 2

working people to take their struggles and the world in the interests of humanity.

Family, friends, colleagues and comrades hosted a celebration of his life Nov. 27 attended by 40 people in the nearby community of Yorktown, including participants from Chicago, Miami, and Louisville, Kentucky.

Contributions in Ulman’s memory can be sent to the SWP at 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

BY JANET POST

As part of ongoing assaults on opposition political forces, Russian President Vladimir Putin is driving to shut down International Memorial, an organization that commemorates victims of repression by the Stalinist regime in the former Soviet Union and exposes attacks on political rights today.

Its database works to preserve the memory of the estimated 20 million people imprisoned in the Gulag, a system of forced labor camps set up after Joseph Stalin usurped political power in the mid-1920s that lasted until after his death in 1953. Its Moscow archives hold 75,000 documents, thousands of books and artwork by prisoners over many years.

Stalin headed a petty-bourgeois bureaucratic caste that carried out a counterrevolution against the policies fought for by Vladimir Lenin, the central leader of the 1917 socialist revolution. Under Lenin, the Bolshevik Party led millions of workers and farmers to overturn capitalist rule and take power.

The revolutionary government nationalized industry under workers control, distributed land to peasants and granted self-determination to nations long oppressed by the former czarist rulers. The Bolsheviks founded the Communist International to build proletarian parties worldwide to emulate that example.

Putin blames Lenin for Russia’s problems today. In 2016, he said the Soviet revolutionary leader “planted an atomic bomb under the building that is called Russia,” pointing to the debate “between Stalin and Lenin regarding the creation of the new state.”

Putin says the revolution itself was a disaster for “Mother Russia.” On Nov. 25, Russia’s Prosecutor General called on the Supreme Court to ban the International Memorial Society, claiming the group failed to comply with government rulings that both it and the Memorial Human Rights Center in Moscow are “foreign agents” and must put that label on anything they publish.

At a Nov. 23 hearing in Moscow’s City Court, prosecutors also accused the Human Rights Center of making statements in support of “terrorists” and “extremists.”

Militant Labor

FORUMS

Continued from page 9

Sudan protests continue fight to end military rule

Defying tear gas attacks by Sudanese security forces, tens of thousands of people rallied in the capital, Khartoum, Nov. 30, above, as they continue to mobilize in opposition to military rule after an Oct. 25 coup. Neighborhood resistance committees called the demonstrations in spite of the military’s reinstallation of civilian Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok the previous week.

The protests, which also took place in Port Sudan, Kassala, Nyala and Athbara, demanded “Soldiers, go back to the barracks!” and “The people want to bring down the regime.”

The Sudanese Professionals Association, an umbrella group including trade unions that has called most of the protests, denounced Hamdok’s deal with the military and vowed to continue demonstrating until “the corrupt military junta is brought down and prosecuted for their crimes.” Dozens of demonstrators have been killed since the military took over.

The civilian-military coalition was established, supposedly to lead a transition to civilian rule, after a popular upheaval overthrew the three-decade-long autocratic rule of Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

Hamdok appeared on TV and signed a new power-sharing agreement with coup leader Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The military hopes the arrangement will defuse international opposition to the coup, including the freeze on aid from Washington and the World Bank and suspension of Sudan from the African Union.

But the civilian coalition that nominated Hamdok as prime minister two years ago failed to go along with the deal. “The future of the country will be determined by the young people on the ground,” the group told BIC.

ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow moves to crush Memorial political rights group

BY JANET POST

As part of ongoing assaults on opposition political forces, Russian President Vladimir Putin is driving to shut down International Memorial, an organization that commemorates victims of repression by the Stalinist regime in the former Soviet Union and exposes attacks on political rights today.

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Stalin executes Bolshevik leadership

For the last 15 years, Memorial has organized an annual event in Lubyanka Square near the former KGB headquarters, called the “Returning of Names.” It commemorates some 750,000 executed during the height of Stalin’s purges in 1937-38.

The 1936-37 Moscow show trial was paved the way for Stalin to murder the remaining living central leaders of the Russian Revolution. An international commission of inquiry headed by John Dewey, a well-known Columbia University professor, irrebuttably disproved frame-up charges against the chief defendant, Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky.

Supporters of Trotsky’s and Lenin’s policies remained politically active in Moscow’s prison camps into the 1960s.

Memorial activists also make the entire archive of the clandestine samizdat journal “The Chronicle of Current Events,” published between 1968 and 1983, available online. Excerpts from its early years are also printed in Samizdat: Voices of Soviet Opposition published by Pathfinder Press.

The organization is also subject to re
Washington fights for military superiority in space over rivals

BY TERRY EVANS

The U.S. capitalist rulers foresee a future of wars and revolutions, and have been taking bipartisan steps to prepare to defend and advance their world order, but still dominant, place at the top of the imperialist world pecking order. Just in the last few days, Washington has watched potentially hostile military conflicts over Ukraine and Taiwan. One new arena of competition is efforts by Washington, Moscow and Beijing to gain the advantage in the militarization of space. The guardians of U.S. imperialism power try to portray their efforts as in the interest of everybody. “From space, all of humanity is one, and through our work in space, we have the opportunity to benefit not only the American people, but all of humanity,” proclaimed Vice President Kamala Harris at the Dec. 1 meeting of the government’s National Space Council.

The U.S. government “will accelerate its military, economic and diplomatic reach, Washington in September signed the AUKUS pact with the governments of Australia and the U.K., and Beijing is building its own blue water fleet, and will add a third aircraft carrier next year.” To counter the Chinese rulers’ military reach, Washington in September signed the AUKUS pact with the governments of Australia and the U.K. to provide the Australian rulers with nuclear-powered submarines. The U.S. government is determined to hold onto its supremacy in the Pacific, its “prize” for the future, to maintain its top of the imperialist slaughter in World War II.

U.S. capitalists’ development of space travel is completely bound up with advancing the destructive and deadly capacities of their armed forces. As its rivalry with Beijing and Moscow, Washington is developing hypersonic weapons that are launched into space. Unlike ballistic missiles, they are maneuverable and can more easily evade detection. In August the Chinese military tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile. Eager to gain the upper hand in the militarization of space as U.S. rulers prepare for future wars.

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The Militant

WASHINGTON, BIRMINGHAM, MOSCOW RIVALRY

With the massive expansion of capitalist production and trade in China in recent decades, the rulers in Beijing have increasingly challenged Washington’s domination of markets and investments worldwide, especially in Asia. To protect their advances, the Chinese rulers have poured massive resources into expanding their military. Though still far short of the military armament and capabilities of the U.S. Navy, Beijing is building its own blue water fleet, and will add a third aircraft carrier next year.

The government “will accelerate its transition to a more resilient national security space posture.” The U.S. government “will accelerate its military, economic and diplomatic reach, Washington in September signed the AUKUS pact with the governments of Australia and the U.K. to provide the Australian rulers with nuclear-powered submarines. The U.S. government is determined to hold onto its supremacy in the Pacific, its “prize” for the future, to maintain its top of the imperialist slaughter in World War II. U.S. capitalists’ development of space travel is completely bound up with advancing the destructive and deadly capacities of their armed forces. As its rivalry with Beijing and Moscow, Washington is developing hypersonic weapons that are launched into space. Unlike ballistic missiles, they are maneuverable and can more easily evade detection. In August the Chinese military tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile. Eager to gain the upper hand in the militarization of space as U.S. rulers prepare for future wars.

Continued from front page

CEO Darren Woods was speaking. Some 600 members of the USW local at the company’s oil refinery and blending and packaging plant here have been locked out since May 1 for refusing to accept a union-busting contract.

“A lot of people support us now, even more than we realize,” Teria Howard, one of the locked-out local members, told the Militant at the protest. “We were sent designer school supplies and school clothes and now there is a Christmas toy drive being organized. Already bikes and iPads have been received to give children at a Christmas party we’re organizing.”

Ricky Brooks, president of USW Local 13-2001 at the Baytown Exxon oil refinery, said, “This fight is against the lockout is about Exxon trying to take away job security and seniority at all its facilities. Look at the strikes at John Deere, by health care workers and others. The workers are thinking we don’t need unions anymore. Unions will come back and in a big way.”

Also at the action were several members of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees who had worked at the Beaumont refinery, and representatives of the Houston Central Labor Council and the Central Texas Labor Council. “I came to show my support for my brothers and sisters. That’s what you do!” TWU Local 260 member Fernando Dacosta said.

USW staff representative Bryan Gross told the Militant, “We haven’t met with the company since Nov. 1. There is a new mediator and we have been fighting against the union underway, so they’re stalling. The ballots have to be received by the NRLRB by Dec. 22. The labor board will either count the votes or they may impound them until the charges we filed against the company are resolved.”

Spirits high on picket line

Following the protest this reporter and two other members of the Socialist Workers Party drove an hour and half southeast of Houston to Beaumont. We met Zachery Simons and Tonya Singer on picket duty at the Exxon Blending and Packaging plant.

Simons, a warehouse operator, who has worked here for eight years, said he has been following the union battles in other parts of the country. “I was glad to hear that the United Auto Workers union members at John Deere won their strike. John Deere makes a lot of money. Farm equipment is expensive,” he said. “My Dad is a rice farmer near Lake Charles, Louisiana. Farmers there can’t afford to buy this equipment so they have to lease it. They are hit with high prices for farm equipment, fuel and, if you have government subsidies, they tell you how much land you can farm.”

Simons lives in Louisiana. Because of the foot-dragging by the state of Texas, he just started getting unemployment payment. But for most of the locked-out unionists, including Singer, their unemployment has run out. Singer has worked for Exxon for six years. She proudly said, “I am the only woman A-operator at the Blending and Packaging plant.” When her unemployment ran out she had to pull funds from her retirement from International Paper. “I had to work until the plant was shut down. “The union is doing all it can to help us,” she said. “We have a food pantry and we get help paying our bills. In extreme health situations, like I face, the union is paying the COBRA for health insurance. I have to have knee replacement surgery.”

“We are out here to get what we deserve,” Simons said. “We kept Exxon going in rain, sleet, hurricanes and last year’s winter freeze, but they don’t want to acknowledge us. They called us ‘essential’ then, why aren’t we essential now?” Singer added. “This is a huge slap in the face by Exxon.”

At the action, hall, Andre Francis, who is African American and head trustee for the USW local, said, “I’m a fourth generation Exxon oil refinery worker. My great-grandfather worked here when there were separate locals for Black and white workers.” He showed me the certificate uniting the two locals into one in 1943, displayed in a glass case in the union hall.

Francis said that much of the food pantry is donated, or “union members who work the pantry go out and find deals on food and purchase it with the donations we receive.”

“We buy meat from a local farmer and had 30,000 pounds processed locally. The food pantry has big freezers stocked with meat, pork and fish. One local company donated 250 pounds of rice. Farming began in Southeast Texas, where Beaumont is located, in the 1850s. Despite months on lockdown, strikers are upbeat about their fight and applying for “essential” status. There’s a lot of feeling we’re going to win!” Donations and letters of support can be sent to USW Local 13-243, 2490 South 11th St., Beaumont, TX 77701.
LA County bakery workers: ‘We fight for ourselves, our children’

SANTA FE SPRINGS, Calif. — “Don’t let them tell you we are doing something wrong. We are doing some- thing right, we are fighting for ourselves and our children,” striker Elvia Castillo, told a rally of 90 outside Rich’s Don Quijote bakery here Dec. 3. The strike by 175 members of Bakery, Confection- ery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union Local 37 began a month earlier. Meat strikers women.

As part of the spirited rally, work- ers gathered outside the plant entrance chanting in English and Spanish, “One day longer, one day stronger!” Strikers were greeted by representatives of sev- eral area unions. The rally was chaired by striker Miguel Perez.

Walking the picket line with strikers earlier, they told the Militant about the conditions they face on the job and why line speed and treatment by the bosses are the big issues in this battle.

Bakery workers make cakes and freez- ice cream cakes that are then put into cakes. “One of the major reasons we’re on strike is speedup,” she said. “We work with a conveyor belt that is frozen together. The bosses expect us to separate them perfectly, but they can easily get broken or fall on the floor and becomes a waste. We have no time to clean them up. The line is so fast at least half of us have had to have surgeries to our hands.”

Strikers were proud to introduce us to 83-year-old Fernando Jimenez, who has worked at Rich’s since it opened in 2003. Some of the young workers ex- plained that the older strikers have taught them how to conduct themselves inside the plant, to discussions on the picket line. Jimenez told us, “I’m here to sup- port and back up my workmates, so the next generation can benefit.” He agreed the lines are too fast. “I unmold 13 fro- zen cakes per minute. If one of the cakes breaks or gets ruined, the bosses are all over us. It’s cold, hard work, my hands and shoulders are always in pain.”

Ronale Rosales, a cake decorator, stated that she works at Rich’s since 2007, that time negotiations around the last contract were underway, and the com- pany wanted to get rid of the union,” she said. “They offered us a 45 cent raise each year. This time they offered us 50 cents. The workers, especially the young workers, said, ‘No way!’”

“We saw how many of us are incapacitated due to repetitive injuries; how they play favorites; how they give us points, even when we’re not at fault,” she said, if we don’t stand up now it’s only going to be worse three years from now. That’s why we’re on strike.

Martia Montes, another cake deco- rator, said, “The company thought the new people would be too scared to go on strike. I thought being on strike would be bad, but with each day that goes by we, here, we gain more strength. We get stronger each day.”

— Ellie Garcia and Barbara Bowman

December 24, 1971

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Over 1,200 Chicanos marched here Nov. 20 to protest the almost daily beatings Chica- nos have been suffering at the hands of the police. The march also protested the fact that 10 Chicanos have been murdered by police in 1971 alone. The marchers gather- ed strength as they marched five miles through the predominantly Chichano West Side of San Antonio to the Alamo. The demonstration had a great impact on Chicanos. The Cristo- riano workers joined the Chicanos and marched in the parade. The Chicanos marched at the predominantly Chichano West Side of San Antonio to the Alamo.

Chicanos were not the only ones af- fected by the march. G. L. Duarte, writing in El Sol de Texas, observed that an “Anglo lady was overheard to shout as the marchers arrived: ‘Good heavens! They’re coming to take the Alamo!’”

December 21, 1946

SAN JUAN — During the past few weeks hundreds of thousands of Puer- to Ricans have been protesting against President Truman’s veto of a bill twice approved by the Island Legislature, establishing Spanish instead of Eng- lish as the official language in Puerto Rico’s schools.

The Teachers Association is now fighting to have the presidential veto on the Spanish language nullified.

We ask our friends in the United States to support our fight for a prompt solution of our political status. We appeal to the American working class to take action in the United States in behalf of Puerto Rican independence. Long live free Puerto Rico! We demand im- mediate evacuation of American troops from our territory! Join our fight for freedom from the imperialist yoke!

— Pedro Gonzalez Lopez, Julio Marti- nez Nunez, Jose Sanchez Berrios

Elvia Castillo, striker at Jon Donaire Desserts plant in Los Angeles County, California, speaks at rally Dec. 3. Strikers’ union is Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers.

Support for the strikers is growing. Oil refinery workers from Stanlow near Liverpool sent 2,500 pounds from a shop floor collection, and Unite union members sent 2,000 pounds from the Repub- lic of Ireland sent 1,000 euros ($1,125). This reporter met Michael Kermenglo at the picket line, from the ‘Scaffolders Club’ of the SFU in Denmark.

Send your support to unitedscaflo@ gmaillc or Scaffolders strike, c/o Unite Union, 55 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BW, England.

— Peter Clifford

New Zealand wage war: strikers win wider coverage

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — “All we are asking for is enough to pay our bills and feed our kids,” Teriti Rangi told the Militant as he picketed outside Countdown’s distribution center in Mangere Nov. 25. “The prices for rent, food, power, everything has gone up.”

Over 700 First Union members reject- ed a company offer of a 3% pay raise. They struck for three days, stopping production at two warehouses here, ask- ing for 4.9% in line with the rise in the government’s consumer price index.

Jasankar Singh explained his rent had gone up 50 New Zealand dollars ($34) per week from last year, but “the company’s offer would only give me an- other NZ$14 a week in take home pay. It’s not enough.”

The company increased its pay offer Nov. 26. The union agreed to the new contract, including a 5% wage raise for the next year and 3.9% for a nine-month term the following year.

“We are happy with the outcome!” wrote Steve Phillips to the Militant. “It was a three-day journey, fight and struggle to get what we all work so very hard for day in and day out.”

“We’re doing this for the younger generations,” Rangi said.

— Janet Roth and Annulcia Vermao

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 YEARS AGO

December 23, 1996

Now is the time for working people to protest the wealthy rulers’ probes to privatize Social Security and get other social gains that have been suffering at the hands of the bosses and the giantic civil rights movement in the 1950s and ’60s.

In order to reverse the long-term de- cline in real average rate of profit, the employers need to increase the portion of value created by workers’ labor that goes into their pockets, not ours. As part of this they need to get rid of “welfare as we know it,” Social Security “as we know it,” unemployment compensation, student grants, Medicare, Medicaid, and all other social programs.

The bosses can only accomplish their aims by waging a direct assault on the industrial working class.

— THE MILITANT
End US North Korea! US troops out now!

Continued from front page

military. They frequently send nucleo- 
us-bombs capable planes and ships into the 
region, and maintain control of South

North Korean troops in case of war.

Backed by the U.S. nuclear arsenal in the 
civil, Washington began imposing dra-

tcusion in 2000. The and its allies, including the United

sanctions on North Korea from selling

strategic goods, including natural gas.

Oil imports are severely

reduced.

As a result, millions of workers and farmers face severe hardships, includ-
ing food shortages. These have been exacerbated following the de-

nationalization of North Korea’s state-owned industries and foreign 
firms in 2020 to protect the country from US sanctions.

The North Korean government faces severe economic pressures and

struggle conducted by tens of thou-

sands of working people in Mont-
	
ger in the car pool formed

car pool. Providing transpor-
tation was crucial for boycott
group and finally reached

Black leaders and the working people


to the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Consti-
	
them. President Joe Biden has

in the car pool. The bus drivers were

of the unions and the Negro move-

tion of the bus to the end of her shift.

“We’re not going to let them push us around or dictate,”

wrote in the April 2, 1956,

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The vision of the Brotherhood of Sleeping

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The Final Speeches

A week-by-week account from

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A week-by-week account from

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The Militant December 20, 2021

Biden and the working people of the U.S.

The Final Speeches

A week-by-week account from

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Biden is seeking to win the

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Biden is seeking to win the

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The Monday Mass Meeting in

2021.

And they were full of life.

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The Militant December 20, 2021

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Fight for women’s rights crucial for the class struggle today

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women

Two questions asked by thoughtful readers since the initial publication of Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women are useful to consider. First, are questions addressed in a debate over cosmetics and fashions more and more debt at usurious rates. The manufactured compulsion to shop, playing on the emotional insecurity of women and adolescents above all, has only deepened and spread. The “marketing” Hansen poses such fun at in the 1950s seems amateur by comparison to the sales techniques employed today. “Shop till 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 untouched by what was known in the mid-1950s?

Bakery Workers union picket at Nabisco plant in Richmond, Virginia, Sept. 10, helped win nationwide battle for new contract. Women are in front ranks of struggles to strengthen union movement.

Second, isn’t Reed’s article on “Anarchism and the Woman Question and the Marxist Tradition” a clear statement of class struggle today?

The answer to the second question is underscored by Hansen’s rhetorical question in The Fetishes of Cosmetics: “Marxist or Bourgeois?” – are two of the earliest she wrote on these subjects. …

The focus of the sharp 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 Morgan, whose work Karl Marx and Frederick Engels drew on extensively in their writings on the subject, and Morgan’s twentieth-century commentator Robert Briffault.

As Reed notes, 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,” and the second-class status of women, arise in relatively recent times, on the scale of evolution, as a cornerstone of class-divided societies in which the exploitation of women by every other commodity came to dominate all social relations, including those between men and women, didn’t a small handful of men emerge for the first time to rule over the women — and, in the process, women as well?

“For what were the origins of property relations [go] all the way back to the archaic system of marriage and family relations [go] all the way back to the communal property came to dominate social relations” that arose at a certain historical juncture for specific reasons, then it can be eliminated at another historical juncture for other reasons.

If there has been an evolution of social relations through distinct stages of the prehistoric and history of human society, one that stopped with the development of labor productivity and changing property relations — and accompanied by enormous, and extended, conflict and violence — then it’s no more permanent than the property and social relations that preceded it. …

The fight today to eradicate women’s subordinate status is not reduced to simply a “woman question,” Reed explained. It is an integral part of the working-class struggle for power, the battle for socialism.

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Working people need our own party to fight for political power

Working people confront a choice. Either organize to take power into our own hands by making a socialist revolution or face a future of calamity — economic crises, with ruinous inflation and mass unemployment, along with social upheavals and devastating imperialist wars. The capitalist system runs by and for their exploitation by a tiny ruling class who use all the resources and markets in ruthless conflicts with their rivals and deepen their exploitation of our labor with utter disregard for the consequences.

The only class capable of charting a course to prevent this is the working class. With communist leadership, workers have shown we can win all the key complex battles of the 20th century — from a mighty movement of millions to take power into our own hands. This is the lesson of the two great revolutions of the 20th century — in Russia in 1917 and Cuba’s socialist revolution in 1959.

Emulating their example requires building our own party, a labor party, led by the most self-sacrificing, disciplined and class-conscious working-class fighters. Join the Socialist Workers Party to build such a party today!

Help build working-class support in fight for women’s right to abortion

Continued from front page

all,” and anyone who chooses to have a family should be able to do so. But women must also have the undeniable right to determine whether or when to have a child, and abortion needs to be a legal option.

The backlash against Roe v. Wade has been at the center of assaults on the social and economic gains of women ever since. It’s part of the broader attack on the rights and living conditions of working people.

These attacks on women’s rights were made easier by the character and content of the Roe v. Wade decision. It wasn’t based on the 14th Amendment, adopted to bolster the Civil War victory over slavery, that saying no state can “deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

In 1971 the Supreme Court affirmed that women were entitled to the same degree of “equal protection.” That ruling was a product of victories won in the streets in the 1950s and ’60s by millions of fighters for Black rights, which spurred a new wave of active opposition to the war.

But the Roe v. Wade ruling did not take that 14th Amendment as its starting point. Instead, it issued what one former U.S. solicitor general called “a set of hospitalized germ babies get aborted, tied to fetal viability. And it assigned the decision not to the woman herself, but to her doctor. By forcing that ruling to be followed by the raging debate that was taking place on this question was decisively settled, the justices ensured it would be followed by a relentless assault on women’s right to choose abortion.

New York Times columnist Ross Douthat hit the nail on the head in a discussion with other op-ed writers the day the decision was announced: “This is a ‘bold and successful' rulings from the Supreme Court “seem — as with same-sex marriage, so far — to follow dramatic and unlikely-to-reverse shifts in public opinion rather than trying to end an unpopular war.”

The character of Roe v. Wade gave an opening for immediate and continual attack, no matter whether Democrats or Republicans were in the White House. Within three years of the Roe v. Wade ruling, Congress passed the Hyde amendment in 1976 barring Medicaid funds for abortions. State governments have loaded on more than 1,300 restrictions, continually cutting back on women’s ability to exercise their constitutional rights. These anti-abortion measures have taken a heavy toll. By 2017 there wasn’t a single medical facility providing abortions in nearly 90 percent of U.S. counties.

The women who pay the highest price for this are those who can’t afford to travel greater and greater distances to find a location to get the procedure. Women in the upper classes can find willing doctors or fly to where the medical procedure is legal.

Before abortion was decriminalized, for most women who sought to end their pregnancies their only choice was an illegal, often life-threatening attempt to end a pregnancy. In the 1960s, thousands were maimed and hundreds died as a result of botched abortions. In 1969 in New York, 200,000 women were admitted to hospitals for complications of illegal abortions.

Since this onslaught by opponents of women’s rights began in 1973, liberal-led women’s organizations have refused to take a stand for women’s reproductive rights to elect Democrats to take care of everything, keeping workers within the trap of lesser-evil politics.

In the Times op-ed writers’ discussion, Michelle Goldberg, a prominent voice of the “anti-Trump resistance” she hopes will reverse the anti-Trump resistance, notes that upholding the Mississippi law will be to rekindle “the anti- Trump resistance” she hopes will reverse Democrats’ declining electoral fortunes.

For women, the right to choose whether or when to have a child is theirs alone, a precondition for deciding what to do with their lives.

Women can’t rely on the flawed Roe v. Wade decision to defend their rights. Instead, working people and our unions should lead and win back the need for women’s right to family planning services, including birth control and safe and secure abortion. It’s a right that’s fundamental to winning full social, economic and political equality, to unite and strengthen the working class.

Working people need the discussion that was cut short by the passage of Roe v. Wade. We can’t leave this question in the hands of the bosses, their parties, or their court. We need to launch a nationwide battle to lead a thoroughgoing discussion about the rights of women and the political stakes involved for our class and carry that discussion through to the end.

— Where fights are being organized worldwide — like in Argentina, Ireland and elsewhere millions are being won over and gains are being made.

Such a fight here, including public meetings and door-to-door canvassing, is a way for the United Workers to start to organize. And this is the road to forging the unity our class needs to take on the bigger battles that lie ahead.

Moscow moves to crush Memorial rights group

Continued from page 3

pression because of its defense of opposition politician Aleksei Navalny, who was poisoned by government thugs, and the punk band Pussy Riot, whose members were jailed for their criticism of Putin and speaking as its first chair until his death in 1989.

The attempt to shut down Memorial “is an attack on historical memory [of the Stalinist Gulag], but also on a highly respected organization which has had courage to tell the truth,” said matéria about Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, its crimes in Chechnya and much more,” Halya Coynash, a member of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, Memo- rial, told the BBC.

Moscow claims Memorial is “justifying terrorism and extremism,” when it defends political prisoners, she said. “This has a very direct impact for occupied Crimea, and particularly the persecution of Crimean Tatars.” Putin’s force closed down Memorial, a hu- man rights organization in Crimea, and jailed opponents of Russian rule on trumped-up terrorism charges.

Memorial was established in the late 1980s. Soviet dissident and physician Andrei Sakharov served as its first chairman. Under his leadership the organization became a powerful left-right opposition group which launched many attacks on the Kremlin’s policies, erupted as landlords andHUD officials evicted hundreds of families from public apartments until they jeans all.” The trial on the banning of the International Memorial Society res- umes Dec. 14.

The Militant December 20, 2021

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