

WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!



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From Berkeley to UCLA

Students fight tuition hikes

By Caleb T. Maupin

In the early hours of the afternoon of Nov. 19, more than 2,000 students stood outside the office of the University of California's Board of Regents. As it became clear that a motion to raise UC tuition by 32 percent had passed, the students screamed in outrage. Outside the meeting and all across the state, students began to fight back.

From inside the building, the regents could hear the students' angry cries as they were held hostage inside the building. Because of the enraged protest at their decision to increase tuition by nearly one-third of its already steep costs, it was three hours before the regents felt they could safely leave the building. Fourteen students were arrested outside the regents' office as they defied police orders and blocked the doorways.

As the regents left the building escorted by armed police, other cops held back booing and yelling students. Students surrounded the van in which the regents were to leave, preventing it from leaving for 45 minutes.

While state and federal governments continue to bail out banks and provide other subsidies to the wealthy, the UC system budget has been cut by more than \$800 million. Two thousand university employees have been laid off amid the economic crisis, and it seems things will only get worse as further tuition hikes, fee increases and layoffs ensue.

Hundreds of students walked out of school at UC Berkeley in protest of the increase. Three students were arrested on the morning of Nov. 21 for "burglary" at Wheeler Hall, the largest classroom building on the campus. Then 41 other students occupied a classroom all morning and afternoon, hanging a banner out the window that read "32% Hike, 1900 Layoffs, NO Class." Late that evening, police had to remove the classroom door from its hinges to get inside and arrest all 41 people, who exited the building to a cheering crowd of hundreds who had gathered outside and demonstrated in solidarity the entire day. Police, in full riot gear, used rubber bullets and night sticks to "maintain control" over the huge crowd.

Elsewhere at UCLA, two dozen students barricaded themselves inside Campbell Hall shortly after the vote was announced. The students, still occupying the hall as of Nov. 22, have renamed the building "Carter-Huggins

Hall"—in memory of Bunchy Carter and John Huggins, two leaders of the Black Panther Party who were gunned down inside the building in 1969 under provocation from the FBI.

The statement from the UCLA students who have occupied the building proclaims, "We choose to fight back, to resist, where we find ourselves, the place where we live and work, our university." They continue to hold their ground despite being Tasered and tear-gassed. One student's leg was reportedly broken during police-initiated violence, according to an internet blog published from inside the occupied building.

At UC Santa Cruz, two buildings are under student occupation. The occupiers have issued a list of 32 demands on the administration, including the end of Taser use by campus security officers and an official apology from the board for the recent drastic decision. (www.studentactivism.net)

An occupation is also taking place at UC Davis, where students have taken control of Mrak hall. Dozens have reportedly been arrested at this campus.

In solidarity with students at the UC schools, students walked out at Fresno State University, while others briefly took control of a building at San Francisco State University.

A call for a National Day of Action to Defend Education on March 4 continues to gain support. Student groups across the country, as well as academic organizations and educators' associations, have endorsed the call for mass protests on that date.

The revolts taking place across California today may be preparation for the massive revolts soon to come, as students demand their right to education, which is under attack by the forces of finance capital and the federal, state, and local governments they control.

The writer is a Fight Imperialism, Stand Together organizer in Cleveland.



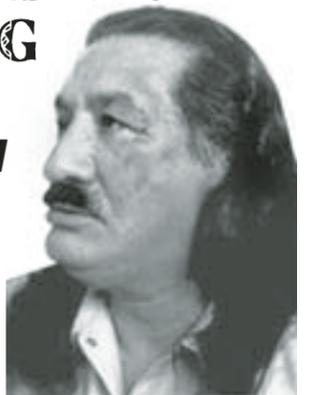
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Berkeley student protest.

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FREE Native Political Prisoner- LEONARD PELTIER



LYNNE STEWART

Unjust incarceration

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Task of a Party: Building class solidarity

WORKERS WORLD
this week...

Workers World Party held its 50th anniversary Workers World Party National Conference, Nov. 14-15, in New York City. Excerpts of plenary talks are being printed in upcoming WW issues. The following excerpts are from a talk given by WWP Secretariat member, Monica Moorehead. View this entire talk at www.workers.tv.

When I was first introduced to Workers World Party in the early 1970s in Norfolk, Va., it was in the aftermath of the assassination of political prisoner George Jackson, the Attica rebellion and the COINTELPRO genocidal war on the Black Panther Party.

While my involvement with the Norfolk Party branch was educational and rewarding, especially where the struggle against racism was concerned, there was something holding me back from taking a leap forward in becoming a Party member.

Then came along a life-altering moment that forced me to look at Workers World Party in a whole different light. That moment was the 1974 March Against Racism in Boston, because I began to understand why a revolutionary party is needed.

The Party saw Boston as an important battleground in the ongoing struggle against racism within U.S. capitalist society. And therefore, the Party understood the necessity of mounting a political struggle against the forces of racist reaction not only in South Boston but throughout the country. The Party wanted to send a clear message with this mobilization that wherever racism rears its ugly head, it will be militantly opposed.

Workers World Party understood that in order to go against this growing tide of racism, where buses filled with Black school children were being stoned by white racists, where Black men were being beaten in broad daylight in the streets, that it would take a broad multinational united effort to turn this situation around. This involved a national campaign to show that the Black community of Boston and its allies were not isolated and alone.

Workers World Party did not let its modest numbers of cadre or lack of resources stop it from doing what was necessary to not only fight against racism just because it was the right thing to do, which of course it is. Fighting racism also means building class solidarity in order to advance the struggle for real economic justice and eventually class emancipation.

Activists put aside any political differences under the banner of "Say No to Racism" and defending the right of Black people to go to any school they want without fear of racist attack. The Party had taken these political demands and put into practice the Leninist conception of defending the right of self-determination of an oppressed nation.

The Boston march was the defining moment for me that helped me to take a gigantic leap forward to join the Party in 1975. The Boston march and countless other examples go to the heart of what a revolutionary, working-class party should be all about—doing everything that is necessary to unite and hold our class together even if it means going against the tide of political reaction; even if it means going it alone in certain situations. This is the acid test of a revolutionary party.

Our founding members who are no longer with us—Sam Marcy, Vince Copeland and Dorothy Ballan—left this powerful legacy of doing everything in our power to show by example what it takes to build and maintain a revolutionary party with all the ebbs and flows of de-



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Monica Moorehead

velopment. It was never a question of picking which legitimate struggle to defend or support when it involved the struggles of workers and the oppressed in this country or around the world. It was never a question of whether the leaders of these struggles shared a common world view or not with us or other like-minded formations. It was about and remains today primarily about which side you are on—is it the side of the bosses and bankers, who view the world as their private domain to make profits at the expense of human needs, or is it on the side of those fighting for their democratic rights, for their national liberation, for sovereignty and even for socialism.

Other examples of class solidarity

Fighting for working-class solidarity is the antithesis of racism, national oppression, women's oppression and lesbian, gay, bi and trans oppression—all of which are dangers to building solidarity within our class. And for a Marxist-Leninist party to abandon this principle of fighting for class solidarity, especially the right to self-determination of oppressed nations, is tantamount to falling prey to opportunism, class collaboration, sectarianism and demoralization.

Our Party has avoided these dangerous traps throughout our 50-year existence, like organizing a defense committee in support of Black activists Robert Williams and Mae Mallory, who defended their right to armed self-defense against the KKK in North Carolina back in the early 1960s.

Our Party was the first left tendency in the U.S. to hold a solidarity demonstration for Palestine during the June 1967 war against Arab countries launched by the Zionist state of Israel backed by U.S. imperialism. This demonstration, which was viciously attacked by pro-Zionists, was held in virtual isolation when anti-war movement forces refused to support a call for unity initiated by our Party chairperson, Sam Marcy, to support Palestine's right to self-determination.

And it is Workers World Party that can both defend an African-American president against racist and neofascist attacks and, at the same time, not let this historic moment for the Black masses stop us from calling for all the U.S. troops to leave Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq and at the same time defend colonized peoples fighting by any means necessary to get imperialism off their backs.

There is another important aspect to building class solidarity and that is without dedicated, class-conscious revolutionaries, there would be no party. But revolutionaries are first and foremost human beings living under a class society and are subject to all kinds of prejudices, contradictions and backwardness similar to our class. But just because revolutionaries are not perfect, does it mean that they can't make a contribution to the class struggle within a party? Many people join a workers' party, including myself, not because we have read all of the writings of Marx or Lenin or because we can speak with great confidence or because we understand every important development.

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The mis-incarceration of Lynne Stewart

By Iyanna "Nana Soul" Jones
New York

On Nov. 19, longtime civil rights attorney Lynne Stewart was ordered by Judge John G. Koeltl to turn herself in to begin serving a prison sentence for her 2006 conviction for conspiracy and providing material support to terrorists.

Amidst a backdrop of chants of "Free Lynne Stewart!" and "We love you Lynne!" and swarmed by supporters, friends and family members, Stewart issued a statement outside the U.S. District Court in New York before being taken into custody.

On Nov. 17, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit had revoked her bail and ordered her to surrender forthwith, but stayed the order until 5 p.m., allowing Stewart's attorneys to file an application for a stay. The application was denied. The three-judge panel of the Second Circuit also vacated the original 28-month sentence imposed on Stewart and remanded the case to the original trial court with an order for the trial judge to consider additional factors in Stewart's case that could lead to the imposition of a much longer sentence.

Upon hearing the news Stewart replied: "Okay, we're going to prison, folks! I want to remind you all that today was the day that Joe Hill was executed. And you know what he said? Don't mourn me, organize!"

The trial of Joe Hill—a union organizer and activist executed before a firing squad for the alleged murders of two men—was reportedly fraught with inconsistencies and miscarriages of justice, paralleling the case of modern-day political prisoner and death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal, whom Stewart also supports.

In attendance at the Stewart rally Nov. 19 were roughly 300 protesters from a variety of organizations including International Action Center, WBAI, Artists and Activists United for Peace and

the Bail Out the People Movement. The sendoff was also attended by City Councilmember and longtime supporter of Lynne Stewart, Charles Barron.

"Lynne Stewart would never do anything that would lead to the harm of any human being on this planet," said Barron. "Lynne Stewart will always be free no matter how much you imprison her because you can jail a revolutionary but you can't jail the revolution."

Also in attendance was Attorney Leonard Weinglass, who said: "The Lynne Stewart case is the case that's going to mark this era as the era of the war on terrorists, which includes the war on lawyers who defend those who are accused of terrorism. To put her behind bars when no one was injured, no one was harmed, when those who produced the torture memos, those who produced the war are going free and even prospering is really the irony of our time."

While the demonstration resonated with a contagious fighting spirit, a few tears mingled with the farewells. Stewart's soulmate of several decades, Ralph Poynter, who is also co-founder of the New Abolitionist Movement, kept a positive outlook for those who turned out to say goodbye to the radical "People's Attorney." Poynter said: "It's a sad moment for me and a sad moment for the Black community and the poor and for anyone who needed representation by a lawyer and could not afford it. We are all hurting but we will continue to struggle until Lynne is back to carry that struggle for us."

Many see Stewart's incarceration as a boon, particularly for those who are behind bars without adequate legal representation. And though she was disbarred upon her indictment, Stewart will undoubtedly play the role of jailhouse lawyer, acting as a mentor and advocate to those on the inside for whom justice is hard won if at all.



Ralph Poynter, Lynne Stewart, IAC's Sara Flounders.

Pam Africa, Minister of Confrontation for MOVE and co-chair of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, both headquartered in Philadelphia, was optimistic. "These people made a huge mistake but it's a plus for the movement. She will be the voice of the voiceless while she's in there."

Others are angry that Stewart, a grandmother, is serving any time at all, due to her recent 70th birthday, her battle with breast cancer and her partner Ralph's battle with skin cancer. With the upcoming holiday season, it would seem that the decision is somewhat vindictive.

Stewart believes her case is a trumped-up maneuver to warn attorneys with a penchant for social justice away from taking on the government. Says Stewart: "I believe the larger implications are that this is a warning shot for other lawyers. Don't advocate for your clients in a vigorous, strong way or you will end up like she did. Disbarred and in jail."

But there is little fear that the plan will work. In fact, the consensus is that

it will achieve the opposite effect: inspiring more lawyers to stand up to a fundamentally flawed legal system, fight against racism and classism, partner with grassroots community-based organizations, hold the justice system up to the standards it professes to adhere to, and most importantly, follow in the footsteps of Lynne Stewart.

For many, this is not a goodbye. Rather, it is a new beginning in a continuous struggle for justice against oppression, and, as has been the case for decades, Lynne is at the helm, rendering the bars that seek to contain her voice and influence invisible.

Before she went into the courthouse someone asked whether she had the medicine she needed for her cancer treatment. Lynne replied: "I have the love of you good people and your strength and support. It will be all the medicine I need."

For more information on Lynne Stewart visit lynne-stewart.org. Iyanna Jones can be reached at iyannajones@blackwax.com.

While U.S. Attorney General speaks in Detroit

Activists protest killing of Muslim leader

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder was the keynote speaker in downtown Detroit on Nov. 19 at the first awards dinner for the Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust, an organization that consists of 50 groups representing the Arab, Muslim, African-American, Asian and civil-rights constituencies along with 50 officials from local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies.

For 13 years, ALPACT has promoted itself as a medium for dialogue between the Detroit community and law-enforcement officials. The ALPACT dinner was co-chaired by FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew Arena of the Detroit Field Office and Nabih Ayad, chair of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The dinner came in the aftermath of the assassination of African-American Muslim leader Imam Luqman Ameen Abdullah, who was killed by FBI agents in Dearborn, Mich., on Oct. 28.

Another 10 members of the Masjid Al-Haqq mosque, led by Imam Abdullah, have been indicted on criminal charges alleging illegal firearms possession, dealing in stolen goods and tampering with vehicle identification numbers. A 44-page criminal complaint issued by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern

District contained language which described Imam Abdullah as a radical with links to political prisoner Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown.

Imam Al-Amin is currently serving a life sentence in federal prison after being framed in 2000 for the killing of a deputy sheriff in Georgia. Al-Amin was the former chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during 1967-68, and was a victim of the FBI's counterintelligence program—COINTELPRO.

Outside the ALPACT dinner, Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice members, the Detroit MLK Committee, Latinos Unidos, family and

friends of Imam Abdullah, members of Masjid Al-Haqq and others protested against the killing of the Muslim leader and the government prosecution of the other defendants.

Imam Luqman's son, Omar Regan, expressed his appreciation for the work being done by MECAWI in organizing a political response to the assassination. Members of the family of Imam Luqman have set up a Web site, Detroit10.org, to build a legal defense campaign in support of the defendants.

In its call, MECAWI proclaimed: "We Don't Dine With FBI Killers! The ALPACT dinner at the Ren Cen comes at a time when the FBI has shot down a re-

spected Detroit Muslim leader. ... They have arrested 10 other Muslims on wild charges and media hysteria reminiscent of the Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) that tried to destroy Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement and others."

This statement went on: "United States jails are filled with victims of frame-ups, and death row inmates are legally lynched. Political prisoners languish in lock-up such as Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier and the Cuban 5—all victims of police frame-ups. This is no time to break bread with the FBI."

Continued on page 5



Picture the Homeless

Ten years of struggle for housing

Picture the Homeless held a fundraising public meeting at Judson Memorial Church in New York City on Nov. 17, PTH's 10th anniversary. Hundreds of supporters came out to support this dynamic grassroots organization. PTH advocates direct action such as takeovers of abandoned buildings to reinforce the demand that housing is a right, not a privilege.

The main slogan of PTH, whose leadership includes homeless people, is: "Organizing for justice and respect: Don't talk about us. Talk with us."

The meeting honored three activists, including the late Lewis Haggins, a PTH founder; Jean Rice, a PTH board member; and Brenda Stokely, a leader of the New York City Coalition in Solidarity with Katrina/Rita Survivors. New York City Councilperson Charles Barron presented Stokely citations from Councilperson Letitia James and New York State Assemblyperson Inez Barron, for her longtime work for housing rights.

—Report & photo by Monica Moorehead

First 'cash-for-kids,' now 'cash-for-jobs'

By **Betsey Piette**

As if the "cash-for-kids" scandal that has two former Luzerne County judges under indictment on racketeering charges wasn't enough, now reports of another pay-back scheme are surfacing—this one elsewhere in northeastern Pennsylvania's coal region, where prospective teachers were forced to shell out up to \$5,000 to secure a job.

So far six school board members in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Hanover Area School District have either pleaded guilty or are under indictment on charges that they accepted bribes for hiring teachers and other employees in their districts. In an economy where jobs are hard to come by, this apparently long-standing practice meant that prospective teachers had to either pay board members or look elsewhere for work.

Thomas Baldino, a political science teacher at Wilkes-Barre University for 20 years, and Robert Wolensky, a Luzerne County native who now teaches sociology at the University of Wisconsin, linked this patronage system to the coal companies that once dominated this region. (Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 16)

"The Depression started here early, when the coal companies started laying off the miners in the 1920s," Wolensky said. "People became desperate for jobs, and the only jobs were with the local governments."

Patronage, where local politicians hand out jobs to relatives and friends, is a widespread practice. In this case, Baldino said, "Patronage moved into pocket-lining."

"This is an outgrowth of the fact that every coal company had to have its own town so it could control laws and taxes," Wolensky said. "These towns survive today, and each is a little fiefdom. ... Many

public jobs are expected to be given only after a bribe. If you don't put the thousand dollars in the envelope, someone else will because they are as desperate as you."

Meanwhile, former judges Mark A. Ciavarella Jr. and Michael T. Conohan face 48 federal racketeering and related charges after receiving \$2.8 million from a developer of two privately run juvenile detention facilities in Luzerne County. The two allegedly accepted these kickbacks in exchange for conducting perfunctory hearings that sent thousands of teenagers to these facilities for minor offenses.

On Oct. 29, a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling tossed out 6,500 juvenile-court cases tainted by this scheme, after finding that the rights of these young people, including access to lawyers, were systematically trampled. A state commission was also established to investigate what the panel labeled "a conspiracy of silence"

among lawyers, court employees and school officials that enabled the judges.

In February 2009 the judges were given 87-month prison sentences after they agreed to plead guilty to honest-services fraud and tax evasion in a deal with prosecutors. However, in October a federal judge rejected the agreement on grounds that the former judges were not fully accepting responsibility for their crimes.

The jurists then switched their pleas to not guilty. They were later indicted. They now await trial on racketeering charges.

Whether they will ever be brought to full justice remains to be seen. On Nov. 20 U.S. District Court Judge A. Richard Caputo ruled that Ciavarella was immune from civil lawsuits in the alleged kickback scheme because much of his conduct occurred inside a courtroom. Currently more than 400 plaintiffs are named in a class-action case seeking monetary damages. □

Disabled activists fight service cuts

DETROIT

At a Nov. 18 news conference called by the disabled rights organization Warriors on Wheels, members of the group spoke out against the Detroit Department of Transportation using unsafe transportation providers for seniors and disabled residents.

By failing to pay the Metro Lift contractor Veolia Transportation, the City has instituted a replacement operation of small subcontractors and taxicabs that not only downgraded service, but will mean the loss of jobs of more than 100 para-transit drivers, most of whom live in Detroit. Outside the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Warriors on Wheels were joined by blue-uniformed drivers, officials from Teamsters Local 243 and the Rev. Bullock from Rainbow-PUSH.

The city of Detroit's actions are the tip of the privatization iceberg slamming into the city work force. Small, independent, non-union subcontractors, favorites of the current city administration and the banks, are demanding cuts despite the desperate situation faced by Detroit residents. These cuts continue the push to lower wages and income for working people.

—Report and photo by **Cheryl LaBash**



Where is our economic bill of rights & justice for all?

By **Dolores Cox**

A famous U.S. patriot of the Revolutionary War against Britain, Thomas Paine, is quoted as saying, "These are the times that try men's souls." But for millions of oppressed people in the U.S. and globally, these times are also a continuation of the realities of their lives that have existed for eons. Today's economic crisis and political situation are just another chapter in the history of their injuries.

The end of U.S. pre-emptive wars of aggression and occupation is nowhere in sight. Neither is the end of poverty or racism. The rights of workers, Indigenous peoples and lesbian, gay, bi and trans people continue to be ignored.

New U.S. federal laws have been enacted to curtail civil liberties, and the average

person can now be designated a "terrorist." U.S. political prisoners are referred to as enemies of the state when fighting for their civil and human rights. Entitlements to housing, jobs, quality health care and a decent education are viewed as privileges reserved only for some, not as human rights for all.

So while the imperialist U.S. government engages in wars in the Middle East, including embargoes, and threats to Latin America, Africa and elsewhere, the war economy and capitalist greed here at home have created the biggest crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

During World War II, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt made a proposal to Congress in his January 1944 address. He suggested that it was time to implement what he called "The Economic Bill

of Rights." It is also known as the "Second Bill of Rights," with reference to the Bill of Rights contained in the U.S. Constitution.

Roosevelt, a politician from a ruling-class family who made some concessions to U.S. workers in order to rescue the capitalist system, saw the existing constitution as proving inadequate to assure equality in the pursuit of happiness. His solution was an economic bill of rights which would raise the standard of living for the disenfranchised and marginalized and would establish prosperity for all regardless of "station, race or creed."

He saw that there were people in the country who were "ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and insecure." He said that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence; that people in need who were hungry and

without a job were not free.

Contained in President Roosevelt's Economic Bill of Rights are the following: the right to a useful and remunerative job, and to earn enough to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation; the right of farmers to earn a decent living for their families; and of small businesses to be free from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad; the right of every family to a decent home, adequate medical care, and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health; the right to adequate economic protection in old age, sickness, accident and unemployment; and the right to a good education.

Roosevelt's bill of rights was never implemented prior to his death in the spring of 1945 or since. Where do we go from here? According to Roosevelt, "After the war is won, we must be prepared to move forward in implementing these rights." Well, we can't afford to wait until after current wars are over. And because these times are truly trying, now is the time to move forward to demand our rights.

Now is the time to end poverty, stop foreclosures and evictions, fight for housing rights, and for the rights of all workers to living wages. We can't wait for some future date for quality health care and education, nor wait for the rights of undocumented workers to be protected. We must say No to institutional racism, and the oppression of women, LGBT people and Indigenous peoples worldwide. We have to continue fighting for the freedom of political prisoners. And demanding the end of the wars that are draining our economy is a must! □

Windsor, Ont.

Auto workers demand pay, target Comerica Bank

By **Bryan G. Pfeifer**
Detroit

Workers from the Canadian Auto Workers Local 195 and their allies blockaded two plants by forming a human chain on Nov. 16 in Windsor, Ontario, to prevent the viewing of machines by potential buyers. The next day the workers physically shut down a scheduled auction for the machines at a local hotel by taking over the auction room. Windsor is right across the border from Detroit.

Catalina Precision Products had abruptly shut down the two plants, named Aramco and Aradco, last March and at that time the CAW workers occupied their plant in an effort to get wages and severance pay that was owed to them. The plants made parts for Chrysler. The worker's struggle at that time won them \$400,000 (Cdn.), but the 80 workers from the two plants are still owed \$2.4 million (Cdn.) according to the CAW.

The CAW members and allies are presently monitoring the two plants 24 hours a

day, seven days a week, to ensure that the multimillion dollar machines inside the plant aren't taken out.

Because of the CAW's direct action, there is now a temporary suspension of the auction. The workers are stepping up the pressure to get the money owed them. Denying the funds is a violation of Ontario labor law. The CAW is also demanding that the workers should be the first creditors—the first to be paid—and not the main bank Comerica.

Continued on page 10

On the Picket Line

Two-day strike of grad teaching assistants wins in Ill.

The Graduate Employees Organization, Local 6300 of the American Federation of Teachers/Illinois Federation of Teachers, voted Nov. 17 to end its two-day strike at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The GEO won a tentative agreement, which must still be approved by 2,600 GEO members, with gains in all four of GEO's contract demands. The contract provides for a 10-percent wage increase over three years, raises in the minimum salary, increases in UIUC's contribution to health-care premiums reaching 75 percent in the third year, and an additional two weeks of unpaid parental leave. GEO negotiators forced UIUC to drop regressive proposals for furloughs, "in-kind" payment, rescission of grievances related to discrimination, and a "scope of agreement" clause that would have prevented GEO from reopening bargaining if there were changes in employment conditions. GEO negotiators also pushed back UIUC's attempt to further erode tuition waivers for GEO members. Calling this "a major victory for labor in the state of Illinois and the United States," GEO also took a stand "with higher education labor unions across the nation opposing the ongoing corporatization and privatization of our public higher education system." (www.uigeo.org)

Part-time faculty win historic first contract in Md.

It took members of Services Employees Local 500 bargaining committee, which represents part-time faculty at Maryland's Montgomery College, two years of organizing and negotiating to win a decent contract. By mid-November they had won raises in compensation, job security and a new commitment to address pay inequity and lack of benefits. Part-time faculty teach nearly half of all classes at the college. As part-time English professor and Local 500 bargaining team member Victoria Baldassano told the Nov. 18 Union City, online newsletter of the Metro Washington AFL-CIO, "Together we're changing the status quo and standing up for ourselves and for the students who depend on us." The contract is the first collective-bargaining agreement for part-time faculty in any institution of higher education in Maryland.

Workers protest Bissell firing after voting union

After 70 warehouse workers in Joliet, Ill., told Bissell vacuum cleaner bosses on Oct. 29 that they had voted for representation by the United Electrical Workers, they were all fired on Nov. 6. The workers, with the help of UE and its affiliate Warehouse Workers for Justice, have filed state and federal charges against Bissell for violations of workers' rights, including minimum wage laws. "This company has no respect for our rights," said forklift driver Daniel Millan. "We will fight to force Bissell ... to follow the law and treat workers with dignity." The workers have been organizing rallies, pickets and defense meetings throughout Illinois. Supporters even picketed Bissell headquarters in Grand Rapids, Mich. Though Bissell has said it will continue to pay the workers through Jan. 9 to comply with federal laws mandating severance pay, the workers are determined to win their jobs back. To sign a petition demanding the workers' reinstatement, visit ueunion.org.

Anti-sweatshop movement wins fight for Honduran workers

The anti-sweatshop student movement in this country won a huge victory for international solidarity on Nov. 17, when sportswear company Russell Athletic agreed to rehire 1,200 Honduran workers after closing its factory last January when the workers unionized. Since then United Students Against Sweatshops had lined up 89 colleges and universities to sever or suspend licensing agreements with Russell—some worth more than \$1 million. Among many other activities, USAS picketed the NBA finals to protest the league's licensing agreement with Russell and knocked on Warren Buffett's door in Omaha, Neb., because his company owns Fruit of the Loom, Russell's par-

A job is a right

Lessons from Pittsburgh

Excerpts from a talk by Sharon Black at the WWP National Conference, Nov. 14. View this entire talk at www.workers.tv.

A job is a right! We're going to fight, fight, fight!

This is more than just a demand.

It is a concept based on the fact that we, the working class, produce everything. There isn't a single thing in this auditorium that wasn't made or built by workers. It is our social, collective labor that gives everything its value.

It's on this basis that a job is a property right.

It is the contradiction between this socialized labor and the privately owned means of production by a parasitic class—for profit only—that is at the very root of the present economic crisis.

We have a right to seize and occupy the plants and the workplaces!

We have a right to stay in our homes rather than let the banks foreclose them!

In 1937, Frances Perkins, Franklin D. Roosevelt's Labor secretary, recognized that workers had a property right to their job. She was responding towards the latter part of the sit-down strikes and plant occupations of that period. She proclaimed this under the hot breath of the mass struggle.

On our Party's 50th anniversary it's important to reflect on how our legacy guides us in today's struggles, especially the recent Jobs March and Tent City at the G-20 Summit.

One of the keys to its success that is so much a part of our Party's legacy was grasping the connection between the national question and the class question.

There is so much that can be said about all of the work that went into community outreach: the door-to-door distributions, the meetings with key Black activists, and of course the mobilization's relationship with the Rev. Tom Smith of the Monumental Baptist Church—particularly his courageous act of opening up the church grounds for the Tent City in the historic Hill District—Pittsburgh's African-American community.

There was a complex political strategy involved that called for opening up and facilitating the involvement

and leadership of the Black community itself.

Reviving Dr. King's legacy for full employment gave those in the Black community who wanted to struggle around jobs an avenue to do so during a period when the historic election of the first Black president weighs heavily in people's consciousness.

That was one aspect of the question. The other was about challenging the movement—particularly the anti-war and anti-globalization forces. Initially the challenge was to take on the struggle for jobs—but ultimately it was about "Who would come to the Hill and stand in solidarity with the community?"

In essence the jobs march was not only about jobs—it was also an anti-racist march.

Challenging the movement, whether mild in manner or bold, turned out to be the right thing and it should be noted that even if their numbers were small, the very best of the movement did come, including many white youth who were attracted on the basis of what we stood for.

Understanding the national question and the fight against racism will become even more important as the capitalist crisis deepens in this country and virulent racism and anti-immigrant sentiments are whipped up by the ultraright.

We ourselves have to be keenly aware of it as we deepen our fight against the capitalist government—that we will simultaneously need to be ready to be on the front lines of fighting racism directed against Obama, who symbolizes for the right wing the gains made by Black people.

What the Tent City highlighted is that the best way of conducting the class struggle is to be aggressive in fighting racism and promoting the leadership of the most oppressed.

It's as Comrade Sam Marcy said a long time ago, "If white revolutionaries fight hardest against racism and in support of the national question, it will afford the oppressed comrades the opportunity to push the class struggle harder."

This same formulation can be equally extended to the masses.

The Jobs March and Tent City



Sharon Black

WW PHOTO G. DUNKEL

brought together poor white Southern workers, who were newly jobless and homeless, with Black workers. This was probably the first time in their lives that the whites had marched under a Dr. King banner. It was in the crucible of the struggle that unity was forged.

We cannot leave the white workers to the racists and the ultraright!

The fact is that the entire working class is deeply indebted to the most oppressed, whether it is the immigrant workers who revived May Day along with the militant tactic of sitting in and occupying the Republic Windows and Doors factory, or the revolutionary Black workers who forged the fight in the auto plants and so much more.

In the book, "Solidarity Divided," there is a story about an exchange between a Service Employees International Union staff member and a representative of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. To the question of what is the role of the unions, the SEIU delegate exclaimed, "To represent the interest of its members." The COSATU member diplomatically corrected him, "The role of the union is to represent the entire working class."

Workers can no longer afford to fight alone industry by industry, region by region, or even country by country in an era of capitalism that has gone global.

The unions must fight for the entire working class. □

ent company. The Workers Rights Consortium, which represents USAS members at 170 universities, negotiated the agreement with Russell in tandem with union leaders in Honduras. Russell also agreed to stop opposing unionization at its seven other plants there. This victory comes after 10 years of organizing by USAS to get universities to adopt detailed codes of conduct for the factories used by licensees like Russell. As Moises Alvarado, president of the Honduran union, told the Nov. 18 New York Times: "For us, it was very important to receive the support of the universities. We are impressed by the social conscience of the students in the United States." In light of the current political crisis in Honduras, with sham elections set to take place supported by U.S. imperialism, this victory is a welcome development. □

Protest killing of Muslim leader

Continued from page 3

The MECAWI statement demanded justice for Imam Abdullah and a real independent investigation into his death; freedom for the Detroit 10; an end to the ICE raids and deportations; freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, the Cuban 5 and all political prisoners; and the end to racial profiling, harassment and police killings.

The Nov. 19 protest was covered by the Detroit Free Press, Michigan Public Radio, the Michigan Citizen, the Huffington Post and a film crew from Eastern Michigan University that is shooting a documentary on the life of Imam Abdullah.

Inside the ALPACT dinner, Attorney General Holder was reported to have emphasized the Obama administration's opposition to racial profiling and the targeting of Muslims for

selective prosecutions and frame-ups. However, Holder refused a request from the Council on American-Islamic Relations for a special meeting to discuss the killing of Imam Luqman and other issues. Holder said that he had a scheduling conflict that did not allow him to meet with the community leaders.

Imam Dawud Walid, the executive director of the CAIR Michigan office, stated on the "Fighting for Justice" Nov. 22 radio program aired over 1310 AM, "We had sent a letter to Attorney General Holder requesting a meeting."

MECAWI is working with the Abdullah family to launch an online petition campaign demanding justice for the late Muslim leader as well as dropping all charges against the Detroit 10.

Read more at panafricannews.blogspot.com.

Local initiatives, coalition building, national actions for jobs not war

Excerpts from a talk by John Parker from Los Angeles to the WWP National Conference, Nov. 14. View this entire talk at www.workers.tv.

My state of California and city of Los Angeles both had a terrible unemployment rate of 5 percent in 1999. As of September of this year it's gotten worse with 12.3 percent in the state and 10.4 percent in Los Angeles. These are record high numbers and it's a national phenomenon that must be addressed.

A major role of communists throughout history has not necessarily been fixated on building a large party, but one that was capable of leading the working class in a direction towards revolution.

One of our tasks must be to help our class win its confidence back through struggles for its immediate needs, not only to defend our class against those who threaten the survival of its members, but also to help fight off attempts at dividing our class.

How does that play out locally? The comrades in Detroit can attest to the fact that after successfully fighting off an eviction, the neighborhood participants get galvanized. Even folks who once may have looked at each other as strangers or maybe even adversaries can't help but feel a close connection after such a win and want to continue fighting together. We've also had that experience in Los Angeles with some of the few battles we've won fighting off foreclosures.

But, if strengthening our class confidence and even desire for unity were solely based on the number of evictions we can fight it would not be successful. For every one that we win probably thousands more occur during this unprecedented

economic crisis.

However, these battles are part of the broader political struggles representing more than just those individual workers but in fact our entire class. By fighting for a moratorium against foreclosures and evictions along with providing some immediate needs for those fighting to stay in their homes we make the few resources in time, people and money far greater than their sum.

In Los Angeles, we have been successful in helping to lead one of the largest union locals of the Service Employees International Union in that direction and there exists the opportunity to expand that struggle into city council chambers and perhaps the mayor's office demanding an immediate moratorium. Whether we are successful or not, the struggle will strengthen our class and be a healthy contribution to the building of a national march for jobs in Washington.

In addition to our own initiatives we must begin building coalitions of sincere progressive organizations searching for a way to effectively come to the defense of our class.

In some cases, a coalition of just three organizations that have a base in our class can become a powerful force in any city and a basis for rapid growth with actions that reach farthest in visibility and influence.

Our class also needs to be able to recognize its friends and allies. Our class needs to recognize its members here in this country as well as in its reflection cast in overseas waters.



John Parker

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Building international solidarity has great potential in Los Angeles. This is where coalition building could be most productive because there are so many immigrant rights coalitions that should be working together, whose members are most acutely effected by the jobs crisis, whose family members are part of unions like SEIU and the hospital workers unions, and who have family members extorted into joining the military to gain either citizenship status or supposed economic security and who, like their Black sisters and brothers, are militarily occupied in their communities by racist police. All of these communities have their oppressions exacerbated by a lack of jobs. And, given our history in helping to build Black and Brown unity, we have the respect and trust necessary to initiate united action.

We know how successful we were in building a national coalition against the war after 2001. This was started with the

building of local coalitions against the war, sometimes with different names, but in many cases with our leadership. With our party's excellent analysis of what was most needed for our class at that time, the best of the progressive movement joined with us to form a national coalition which was able to incorporate the strengths of each participating organization and focus our energies—making the effectiveness of that coalition great.

Now, however, and partly because of actions of some organizations in the anti-war movement refusing to build more deeply into the working class, the media have been able to dampen the anti-war movement by ignoring it.

Building local Bail Out the People Movement chapters not only can make a powerful national organization with great influence. It is a way to effectively build the forces that will stop the war. When we have a march for jobs that makes it clear that the main obstacle to spending on jobs is spending on war, now you've got the remedy to rebuild the anti-war movement—a movement fortified with the steel of workers, especially workers of color, especially women workers, especially LGBTQ workers.

Our class needs to behave more like a disciplined army which engages in battles not simply based on desire to engage the enemy anytime and anywhere, but to calculate and coordinate the most effective actions.

Our leadership is powerful. We utilize the knowledge acquired from classless, communal society through slave, feudal and capitalist society culminating in the science of Marxism. We are well-equipped to help guide our class tactically and strategically towards revolution. □

Women workers and the capitalist crisis

Excerpts from a talk by Phebe Eckfeldt from Boston at the WWP National Conference, Nov. 14. View this entire talk at www.workers.tv.

The economic crisis is hitting women hard, particularly because they are already starting out with lower pay, mostly part-time work, few or no benefits and long hours. Women make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes, but African-American women make only 63 percent of what white men make and Latinas make 54 percent of what white men make. Thirty-nine percent of poor people in the U.S. are women. And no wonder, women comprise 68 percent of workers making minimum wage or lower. Add to this the increasing costs of childcare, food, transportation, utilities and health care, and women are struggling to survive, and not only economically. Without a job or income many women are forced to remain in abusive relationships. The stress of living under capitalism means struggling with depression and other mental health issues.

I would like to use Harvard University, where I work, to illustrate how the current capitalist economic crisis is affecting women. To do so we have to go back a few years to the reign of Lawrence Summers, who was president from 2001 to 2006. This is the same Lawrence Summers who insulted Black professors and said that women were not smart enough to understand math and science. The same person, who was head of the World Bank,

and is now an economic czar in Obama's administration.

Summers opened up the doors of Harvard to the likes of Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, who ran like pigs to the trough and began gobbling up Harvard's \$37 billion endowment fund. Funds that were supposed to be used for education were gambled away on the stock market. The Harvard Management Co., which manages the endowment, functioned like a Wall Street trading operation. A high-level Harvard Management Co. manager could make \$35 million in a good year. During this exact same period, maintenance workers at Harvard were eating in soup kitchens and picking food out of garbage cans for their families because they were not paid enough to live on. This was all exposed because of the struggle of the Living Wage Campaign, a coalition of workers and students.

But their orgy of speculation came to an end in 2008 when the economic crisis hit and the bubble burst. Goldman Sachs and Citigroup lost \$11 billion in endowment funds. This is when the war against the workers stepped up. Even though they still had \$26 billion in the endowment fund, Harvard began crying poverty. To protect their profits and save money, they began to take it out of the hides of the workers.

In June, 275 workers in our union, the Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local



Phebe Eckfeldt

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

3650), were laid off. Many of them were women and many were older workers, some of whom were months away from retirement. Workers began telling our No Layoffs Campaign (a group that activists within our union formed) that if you were a person who stood up in the workplace, you were first on the list for layoffs. One Black woman worker who came to a No Layoffs Campaign protest rally was two months shy of retirement when she was laid off. She was targeted, she said, because she had fought back when her manager had called her a racist slur.

A climate was set where racist manag-

ers had free reign, attempting to divide the workers and misdirect their anger. The No Layoffs Campaign is fighting for justice for Ravi Raj, an immigrant from India who has been the victim of racist abuse by his manager. He was recently framed up and fired by this manager.

About one month after the layoffs, newspaper headlines proclaimed that Goldman Sachs had doled out billions in bonuses to their executives. Layoffs equal profits was the lesson.

On top of layoffs, if a worker left they were not replaced and this meant one person doing the job of two or three workers. Staff assistants used to work for one faculty person, maybe two at most, but now they are at the beck and call of four or more faculty. One or two maintenance workers now have to clean entire buildings by themselves, sometimes without access to elevators or air conditioning. Temps who receive no benefits have had their terms extended over and over in violation of our union contract. Work that used to be done by full-time unionized workers is now being done by students.

The aim of the No Layoffs Campaign is to build a coalition that includes labor, the community, students and the left. We need this kind of coalition nationwide. We need to unleash the force of militant, class-conscious women. We need to bring our sisters into the struggle—into the Women's Fightback Network, the Bail Out the People Movement and Workers World Party. □

INDIA

Militant autoworkers disrupt 'global value chain'

By Martha Grevatt

Recently, at three General Motors and Ford plants in the U.S. and Canada, production was temporarily brought to a standstill. This time, however, the cause was not sagging car sales but an event halfway around the world.

Workers at Rico Auto Industries, Ltd.—a 25-year-old Indian auto parts manufacturer that aspires “to be preferred supplier to Original Equipment manufacturers across the globe” and “to be [a] billion dollar enterprise by 2011”—held a 45-day strike that ended this month. (ricoauto.com)

The strike began in September, with union recognition topping the list of demands. The union, formed by the All India Trade Union Congress, also demanded higher wages, better food in the cafeteria, and an end to the hiring of temporary employees. While permanent, full-time workers at Rico earn an average of 11,000 rupees (less than \$250) per month, temporaries only make 4,000 rupees per month.

From 1990 to 2006 wages in India rose only eight-tenths of 1 percent, while productivity increased almost 5 percent. Between 2006 and 2007 prices rose 9 percent.

“How can [workers] secure themselves, educate their children and feed their families on such meager wages?” asked strike

leader Prem Kumar. (Bloomberg News, Nov. 13)

When the strike began, Rico had scabs running production, and the company was able to supply its customers. However, on Oct. 18 fighting broke out between strikers and those crossing the picket line, and a union supporter was killed. From then until the strike's end there was no more production.

New worker demands included the arrest of company officials responsible for the killing, 2.5 million rupees in compensation to the deceased worker's family, and rehiring 16 workers fired for the strike.

On Oct. 20, some 80,000 workers at 60 companies in the Gurgaon-Manesar industrial belt staged a one-day sympathy strike to support the workers' demands. Worker militancy in India as a whole is rising, with 1.5 million workers involved in strikes in 2008, compared to 1 million in 2007. Last year and again this year an auto parts manager was beaten to death by angry workers.

The strike ended Nov. 5 with an agreement to reinstate nine fired workers and to sit down and discuss the other issues.

Links in the capitalist "global value chain"

Labor costs in the Indian auto parts industry are low, about one-tenth of what U.S. auto parts workers make. Companies like Rico currently export about \$3.5

billion worth of products, an amount the Indian government hopes to increase sevenfold by 2015.

Labor resistance may upset the exploiters' apple cart, however.

“People”—i.e. corporate people—“are suddenly looking at India with an eye of suspicion and concern,” said Vikas Sehgal, a Chicago-based partner at Booz & Co. “When a single company's strike jeopardizes the global value chain, the country suffers in the long run.” (Bloomberg News, Nov. 13)

What is this fragile “global value chain?” In the recent book “Low Wage Capitalism,” Fred Goldstein explains that “the basis for the new global restructuring is the creation of hundreds of thousands of large, medium, and small capitalist firms that compete to serve the giant monopolies. These suppliers are linked to the giant corporations in a variety of relationships. Some serve to make one or a few components. Others make entire commodities and are committed to only one monopoly or one industry. Others do design or engineering work. Still others do partial or even complete assembly work, and so on.

“But what they all have in common is that they are modern-day vassals of the giant lords of capital. They are vassals in the sense that they are dependents. Their relationship to the monopolies may be contractual, but they are as much an inte-

gral part of the global corporate empires of the companies they serve as if they were owned directly by them.

“Like the vassals of the feudal lords, they gather around IBM, General Electric, Motorola, Procter & Gamble, Nike, Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, and most of the Fortune 500, in addition to the European and Japanese transnationals, and are granted a share of the surplus value—i.e., profit—extracted from the growing global networks of wage slaves.”

For autoworkers here, the existence of this vast supply chain means that on any given vehicle rolling off the line are the fingerprints of hundreds of thousands of workers around the world. Any component on that vehicle—even the tooling and machinery that produce that component—can be made anywhere in the world. This gives the bosses tremendous leverage against the working class. By threatening to move production across borders and oceans they can scare union workers into giving up concessions and scare unorganized workers away from unions altogether.

On the other hand, the Indian autoworkers have demonstrated that the levers work both ways. Workers at one plant who manufacture a certain necessary component—in this case a single transmission bracket—were able to close three entire plants of two Fortune 500 manufacturers on the other side of the world. □

Striking Canadian miners take the struggle global

By Gavrielle Gemma

Nearly five months into a strike of 3,500 nickel workers at the Vale operations in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, the struggle is moving to New York City. The United Steelworkers is asking for everyone to join a busload of striking miners at a protest at the Waldorf Astoria, Park Avenue and 50th Street, on Dec. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m., when Vale CEO Roger Agnelli is receiving a “Global Citizenship Award” from the Business Council for International Understanding.

Brazil-based Vale is the second largest mining company in the world. It has \$22 billion cash assets. Vale made \$13.2 billion in after-tax profits and \$4.1 billion in profits from the labor of the Canadian miners and processors (all in U.S. dollars).

The 30-degrees-below-zero temperatures in Sudbury will begin soon, but miners, families and communities are pledging to heat up the fight—globally. Thousands of other workers have lost jobs because the mining and processing operations are the center of the economy in Sudbury, Ontario; Colborne, Ontario; and Voisey's Bay, Newfoundland.

Vale, which bought the operation from Inco several years ago, has attacked seniority, wages, defined pension benefits and the “nickel bonus” and insists on a two-tier contract for newer employees.

The “nickel bonus” is a profit-sharing contractual benefit when profits rise above a certain percentage. This bonus got miners, their families and the communities through tough times over the decades. Though Vale was making a profit in Canada, workers were denied the bonus.

The workers and union have proven the issue is not profitability. Vale's position is to decrease wages to workers in Canada to the lowest levels elsewhere. The union's position is to raise Vale workers' wages around the world.

This is the heart of capitalism's drive: Raise productivity, reap huge profits, destroy workers' living standards and run to any part of the world where they can maximize profits. If Vale succeeds in Canada it will begin a new worldwide assault to keep lowering wages and working conditions.

The stakes are big for all workers around the world as this strike is attempting to challenge that capitalist process, which has gone on unstopped for decades. The workers are not only fighting the Vale Co. but also the capitalist governments, federal and provincial, which have encouraged its attacks.

Vale is moving ahead with an unsafe, scab operation protected by the government. Union pickets have been targeted with investigations, subpoenas on 40 workers and firings. Strikers on sick leave have been told they will lose benefits unless they scab. Office workers have also been threatened to force them to scab.

Vale said miners from Brazil were coming up to scab. The USW knew this was a lie because it had been in communication with the Brazilian miners' unions from the beginning and rejected the company's

attempts to whip up prejudice.

The USW is now an international union, having merged with UNITE, a union in England and Ireland. It has joined the International Metalworkers Federation and the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers Union, and works closely with CUT in Brazil. The USW is moving ahead with a still larger union federation called Workers Uniting that is building ties around the world.

USW President Leo Gerard—originally from the Sudbury mines—said: “Globalization has given financiers license to exploit workers in developing countries at the expense of our members in the developed world. Only global solidarity among workers can overcome this sort of global exploitation wherever it occurs.”

Derek Simpson, general secretary of UNITE, points out that Vale is backed by Wall Street. He said, “Our mission is to advance the interests of millions of workers throughout the world who are being shamefully exploited.”

There have been anti-Vale protests in Brazil, Mexico, Seoul, Madrid, Germany, Sweden, London, New Caledonia, Indo-

nesia, Mozambique, New York and Australia. Information on the strike is posted in four languages on the IMF Web site. The USW Web site has resolutions against U.S. military aid to Columbia, to Free the Cuban 5 and many other issues.

There is no question this is a genuine attempt to break through the previous confines of narrow trade unionism in the U.S. and it and the Vale strike both deserve the support of all progressives. Such a breakthrough is inevitable as the global socialization of labor comes into sharper and sharper conflict with the private ownership of the means of production under capitalism.

If Vale and the banks refuse to resolve the strike and the capitalist state intervenes to protect private property and prevents the workers from stopping the scabs, new strategies and tactics will have to develop to meet that challenge. This could be sitting in, massive intervention by workers, coordinated strikes against Vale or other steps.

Information for this article came from FairDealNow.ca (Vale strike), and the Web sites of the USW, IMF, the UCEM and Labor Notes.

LOW-WAGE CAPITALISM by Fred Goldstein

What the new globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle in the U.S.

Timely new book describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect of new technology on the working class and global capitalism's restructuring in the post Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx's law of wages and other findings to show that these developments not only continue to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval and the end of working-class compromise and retreat, and must end up in a profound revival of the struggle against capital.

HIGH TECH, LOW PAY by Sam Marcy with introduction by Fred Goldstein

A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

Re-issued for WWP's 50th anniversary. As wages fall and joblessness rises, this book is as on target today as when it was first published in 1986. Marcy explained how the high-tech revolution destroyed high-paying jobs while it changed the social composition of the working class, bringing more of the oppressed into workplaces, raising the potential for more solidarity and struggle.

The new introduction by the author of **Low-Wage Capitalism** explains the roots of the current economic crisis, with its disastrous unemployment, which has heightened the need for a working-class resurgence.

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“With the capitalist system demonstrably unfair, it is useful, indeed refreshing, to see a Marxist analysis of globalization and its effects on working people. Fred Goldstein does exactly that.”

—Howard Zinn, author of
A People's History of the United States

Low-Wage Capitalism

Fred Goldstein

Colossus with feet of clay:
What the new globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle in the U.S.

Tour depicts Israel's Kafkaesque punishment for Palestinians

By Audrey Hoak
Philadelphia

A national tour organized to highlight the use of administrative detention, an inhumane punishment aimed at Palestinian political prisoners, visited a number of U.S. cities from Nov. 3 to Nov. 20. Administrative detention is a cruel form of arrest that offers the accused man, woman or even child no charges to dispute, no trial and no limit to their maximum sentence.

Organized by the Palestinian Community Network and the Palestine Solidarity Group, the tour featured Ala Jaradat, program manager of Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association based in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

On Nov. 13, Jaradat gave a presentation in Philadelphia entitled, "Israel's Palestinian Prisoners, America's other Guantánamo: A Report on the Conditions of Palestinian Prisoners." Jaradat's reference to the U.S. stems from its annual contributions of \$2.25 billion in military aid to Israel, a huge subsidy which helps cover the costs of military courts that oversee administrative detention.

Jaradat, a former political prisoner, provided an informative and in-depth look at the use of arbitrary torture, isolation and other forms of political repression. The focus of his talk was Israel's use of this cruel and unusual punishment against nearly 1 million Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories since 1967.

This practice was initiated by the British in 1945 and used against both Jews and Palestinians in the occupied territory. The Israeli state finely honed its depraved edge to be used against Palestinians after the June 1967 war, during which Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza.

Administrative detention is a convenient way to round up civil and political activists, teachers and union leaders. Although it shares similarities with regular arrests that include the possible demolition of homes and use of torture, it differs in its totally arbitrary nature. Neither type of incarceration rules out use of the other and many people have experienced both.

Here's how it works: A military order is issued against a person and the arrest is made. There is an eight-day window for interrogation, which routinely involves

some form of torture. A judicial hearing is then held, presided over by a military judge and attended by the military prosecutor, the accused individual and their lawyer, if they have one.

The charges are often secret or based upon secret information and therefore no defense is possible. A sentence of up to six months can be imposed with no cap on the number of times it can be extended. Since not all extensions are accompanied by a hearing, the prisoner may be the last to learn of it.

For example, a prisoner who has served a total of six years on extended sentences, each of three months, has experienced 24 chances for release. Even when released there is no guarantee that the next order for arrest won't be made just outside the prison gate or at the first roadblock checkpoint. That's a lot of dashed hopes for the prisoner and her or his loved ones.

There is a system of appeals. However, in 2007 detainees submitted 2,368 appeals. The courts accepted only 33. By comparison the prosecution submitted appeals in 241 cases and the court accepted 161. Franz Kafka's novel "The Trial"

could hardly evoke a greater nightmare.

Like conditions for most prisoners in Israeli jails, conditions for those held under administrative detention are deplorable. Prisoners suffer from inedible food, poor health care and little protection from the elements in open-air prisons. The clothing they wear is what they were arrested in, often stained with their own blood. Visitation rules are arbitrary and subject to transmutation by the Israeli military, and visitation requests are frequently denied.

The impact of administrative detention on the prisoners is pretty clear, but the crippling impact on communities is also a terrible burden. Families gather to welcome a detained loved one, only to have an extension block their homecoming. The hopes, dreams and work of communities striving for basic human rights are disrupted and derailed. Clearly it's a form of collective punishment.

Held at the University of Pennsylvania, the meeting was co-sponsored by Penn for Palestine, and endorsed by the Philadelphia International Action Center, Sustain, Philadelphia Jews for a Just Peace, Philadelphia Against War and Socialist Action. □

Palestine and the global class struggle

The following excerpts are from a talk by Bill Cecil at the WWP National Conference, Nov. 14. View the entire talk at www.workers.tv.

Perhaps no international struggle is more intertwined with our Party's history than that of the people of Palestine. In the 1960s and 1970s, we and the most militant Black liberation forces stood almost alone in the U.S. in defending the Palestinian and Arab people against the U.S.-armed and -funded Israeli war machine.

We went to giant anti-war demonstrations, whose leaders refused to criticize Israel, with banners and flyers condemning the war against Palestine. We fought off Zionist gangs that attacked our events with lead pipes and gas bombs and, in the face of media-fanned anti-Arab hysteria, we distributed hundreds of thousands of flyers explaining the Palestinian people's struggle on the streets of New York and other major cities.

Why did we take this question so seriously? Because no people on earth have been more attacked and vilified by the U.S. ruling class and its media than the people of Palestine and the Arab and Islamic world in general.

In the 61 years since they were driven from their homes by European settlers who called themselves "Israelis," the Palestinian people have been occupied,

massacred, bombed, imprisoned and called "terrorists and fanatics" for simply wanting to go home, for wanting to live in peace and freedom in their own land.

For 61 years, the racist, apartheid settler state called "Israel," erected on the ruins of their towns and villages, has been supplied with an endless stream of dollars and sophisticated weapons of mass destruction by both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Look at Gaza, where we traveled in July with the Viva Palestina medical aid convoy: this small island of freedom that is at the same time the biggest prison on earth. A small sliver of land where 1.6 million Palestinian women, children and men are denied food, medicine and the right to travel by an international conspiracy between the U.S., Israel, Western Europe and U.S.-allied Arab regimes; an array of forces not unlike that faced by revolutionary Haiti in 1804 or the workers of Paris in 1871.

Look at the rain of U.S.-made bombs and missiles unleashed on Gaza in December and January, a slaughter that even the U.N.'s Goldstone Commission was forced to condemn as a war crime, and look how the U.S. Congress and administration rushed to condemn and block any action on that report.

Look how former U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney was kidnapped at sea by Israeli commandos for trying to bring



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Bill Cecil

aid to the people of Gaza, and both the White House and the U.S. media were completely silent about this brazen act of international piracy. All because the Palestinians of Gaza dared to practice democracy, to cast their votes for Hamas, a party that refuses to relinquish the Palestinian people's Right to Return.

What crime have Palestinians committed? Like the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, of Somalia and Iran, they were born in a region that holds three-fifths of the known reserves of oil, the world's most profitable commodity, a region that corporate America must keep oppressed and divided.

Arab and Iranian oil once provided 60 percent of the overseas profits of the Fortune 500; it made ExxonMobil, BP and ChevronTexaco the richest companies on earth. Today the same Wall Street bankers that plunder the U.S. Treasury while throwing workers out of their homes suck trillions of dollars in tribute from the corrupt feudal regimes of the Arabian Peninsula. The big arms contractors depend on sales to that part of the world.

But any Arab regime could be swept away by the people as suddenly as the Shah of Iran was in 1979. Instead of enriching Wall Street bankers, their oil wealth could build schools and hospitals, as it did in Iraq before the U.S. invasion, as it has done in Iran since 1979 or is doing in Venezuela today. It could provide the material basis not only for an independent, unified Arab nation but also for an ALBA-type alliance of the entire African-Asian region.

To maintain its obsolescent position at the center of the global capitalist economy, the U.S. capitalist class can only rely on force and destruction. Israel is nothing but a giant U.S. military base dividing Asia from Africa, a loaded gun pointed at the Arab people, an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" in the words of Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state.

In the words of Hugo Chávez, "Why was the state of Israel created? ... To divide. To impede the unity of the Arab world. To assure the presence of the North American empire in all these lands."

When the Palestinian people demand their right to return home, they not only challenge U.S. control over the entire region. They raise an issue that shakes the very foundations of monopoly capitalist power: the fundamental right of a dispossessed people to take back what was stolen from them. This is the right the people of Zimbabwe and South Africa are also fighting for. It is the right of Native and Black and Mexicano people in this country, of workers whose homes and jobs have been stolen by the banks.

The cause of Palestine is the cause of the workers and oppressed everywhere! □



WW PHOTO: BRENDA SANDBURG

Dr. Adel Samara

Palestinian analyst addresses NYC meetings

Dr. Adel Samara, editor-in-chief of the quarterly magazine Kanaan, veteran writer and leading Arab-Palestinian thinker, spoke to meetings at the Solidarity Center in New York on Nov. 19 to address the question: "A Year After the Gaza Massacre: Where Is the Struggle For Palestine Heading?"

Dr. Samara took up the relationship of forces in the world and in the Middle East region, including an examination of the poli-

cies of the Israeli state, of the relationship between U.S. imperialism and Israel, and of internal developments of the class struggle in Palestine. Al-Awda New York sponsored the meeting.

The following night Dr. Samara spoke at a Workers World forum in the same venue, focusing on a class analysis of the situation in Palestine.

—John Catalinotto

Despite worldwide condemnation

Sham elections proceed in Honduras

By Teresa Gutierrez

On Nov. 29, the illegal “government” of Honduras will hold national elections in total violation of all norms by which democratic and legal elections are held.

It is clear to all that conditions for fair, free and transparent elections do not exist in Honduras.

The elections occur after five months of a political and social crisis that came as a result of the illegal ouster of democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya on June 28. In his place the coup installed a reactionary ruling-class representative, Roberto Micheletti.

Since then, the National Front of Resistance Against the Coup has led a massive people’s resistance that has lasted continuously for more than 146 days. It demands not only the restoration of President Zelaya, but a new constitutional assembly that reflects the interests of the masses, not the multinational corporations.

The Zelaya administration had oriented itself toward Venezuela and Cuba, not Washington, forever earning the ire of Wall Street and the Pentagon.

The November elections take place with the full complicity of the U.S. government. In fact, without the heavy-handed intervention of the State Department, the elections might not have proceeded at all.

After several months of negotiations that included many national and international sectors, neither the Constitution nor President Zelaya were ever restored. The elections continue despite this chaos.

In October, the State Department hurriedly sent a delegation to Honduras, brought Micheletti back to the table

and brokered a “National Reconciliation Agreement.”

The agreement required the reinstatement of President Zelaya by Nov. 5. But just a few days later, the State Department reversed its position, declaring that Washington would recognize the election results with or without the restoration of President Zelaya.

This is a complete slap in the face of not only President Zelaya and the heroic Honduran people, but of progressive and justice-loving people everywhere.

The U.S. government has taken a huge step backward in presenting a façade of support for even bourgeois democratic values. It has raised the question of whether Washington is reverting to policies resonant of the most archaic and colonial-type mentality of the period of “manifest destiny” in the early 1800s.

How can the U.S. government support elections held under a gun, where most candidates, who never even had a chance to campaign, are now withdrawing out of embarrassment?

The Republican and right-wing hawks are in a tizzy over this position. South Carolina Senator Jim DeMint announced on Nov. 5 that he was withdrawing his opposition to two State Department nominees as a result of President Barack Obama’s reversal of his administration’s “misguided Honduran policy.”

For the most part, the Democrats are not much better. Just as on health-care reform or jobs, they cave in to the right and raise hardly a peep, with an exception here or there. Case in point is the statement by a key ally and friend of the Clintons, Lanny Davis.

Davis is a former special counsel to President Bill Clinton, represents the Honduran Latin American Business Council, and lobbied Secretary of State Hillary Clinton heavily on Honduras. He has spent much media time demonizing and ridiculing President Zelaya, blaming him for the crisis. His characterizations often have a racist tone and are out-and-out lies about Honduras.

Davis wrote in the Nov. 9 Wall Street Journal: “The U.S. government needs to ... endorse the results of the Nov. 29 presidential elections. ... Once that happens, Mr. Zelaya will be irrelevant, a footnote as a president who thought he was above the constitution. And then, on Jan. 27, a new president will be sworn into office. ... That will restore to normalcy the proud little constitutional republic that has always been a loyal and reliable friend of the United States.”

Davis is wrong. Honduras is not the country it was before June 28. It will never return to the days Davis longs for.

Progressive and revolutionary forces in and out of the country all remark on the new level of consciousness and militancy of the movement in Honduras today. There is no going back for the Honduran masses.

But there is considerable danger in Honduras. In a Nov. 14 letter to President Obama, President Zelaya stated that he would not legitimize the elections by coming back in. He wrote: “Thirty-five



WW PHOTO: LEILANI DOWELL

hundred people detained in 100 days, over 600 people beaten and injured in hospitals, more than a hundred murders, and countless numbers of people subjected to torture directed against citizens who dare to

oppose the regime and express their ideas about freedom and justice in peaceful demonstrations. All this converts the November election into an anti-democratic exercise under an uncertain state of lawlessness with military intimidation for large sections of our people.”

The National Front Against the Coup has called for a boycott of the elections. Candidates are withdrawing left and right.

At the same time, Micheletti has threatened those encouraging the boycott with lengthy prison terms. The military is demanding that mayors compile a list of people who are against the coup, amounting to a systematic profiling of resistance.

Most Latin American governments are refusing to recognize the elections. What was the U.S. response to that?

W. Lewis Amselem, the Obama representative to the Organization of American States, said, “I’m not trying to be a wiseguy, but what does that mean ... in the real world, not in the world of magical realism?”

That is a racist comment. Latin Americans and the workers and oppressed of the world are building a new reality. It is one the U.S. had better get used to; there is nothing magical about it. □

Health care in crisis

The urgency of reform and socialized medicine

The following excerpts are from a talk given by *Fight Imperialism, Stand Together* organizer, David Hoskins, at the WWP National Conference, Nov. 14. View this entire talk at www.workers.tv.

On Feb. 25, 2007, 12-year-old Deamonte Driver died in Maryland after infection from an abscessed tooth spread to his brain. His mother, Alyce Driver, had spent a considerable amount of time prior to his death trying to find dental care for her children.

Although Alyce Driver was a working mother, none of her jobs in a bakery, construction or home health care provided insurance for her family.

On June 19, 2008, 49-year-old Esmin Green was videotaped as she writhed and then died on the floor of a Brooklyn psychiatric emergency waiting room where she had been waiting for 24 hours to be seen by a doctor.

There is a desperate need for quality universal health reform in the United States. Almost every statistic you can imagine points to the dire crisis in health care.

More than 50 million people living in the U.S. lack basic health insurance. Another 25 million are underinsured.

A July report from Families USA detailed how rising insurance premiums and increased unemployment have intersected to push the number of uninsured up by 44,230 people each week.

The examples of Deamonte Driver and Esmin Green illustrate that every single number has a human face.

Given the severity of the crisis, many in the progressive movement hoped that the election of President Obama and the new

Democratic supermajorities in the House and Senate would open the way for meaningful health care reform.

One year after the historic 2008 election we now know that these hopes for change have very little chance of being realized in the halls of Congress. The House recently passed a severely flawed bill that redistributes tax money away from poor and working class people into the coffers of the big insurance companies, mandates millions of the uninsured to purchase private insurance, thus delivering insurance companies a captive market, and yet still manages to leave 17 million uninsured.

Despite the disappointment in the health reform legislation making its way through Congress, there is a valuable lesson for workers and the oppressed when evaluating the actions of the present government.

The Democratic Party is not the answer. It is not a vehicle for reform and electing Democrats is not a strategy for advancing working class demands. With a popular first-term president, a filibuster-proof Senate and a 79-seat advantage in the House, the only reason the Democrats have not waged a serious fight for meaningful health care reform, the only reason they haven’t used their majorities to pass health reform, is because they do not want to, because they are a capitalist party and it is not in their interest to do so.

At our Party’s 50th anniversary conference it is appropriate to say that there is a party worth building that can lead a fight for free quality health care for all and that is Workers World Party.

There are reforms worth fighting for. One such reform is Improved Medicare



David Hoskins

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

for All, which is a single-payer system of national health insurance that removes private insurance companies as arbiters of who does and does not receive adequate care.

H.R. 676 is the Improved Medicare for All bill. It has 88 congressional co-sponsors and labor endorsements from 308 union organizations in 44 states, including 22 state AFL-CIO affiliates.

It is a progressive piece of legislation, and its passage would represent a big victory for workers and the oppressed. The proposed program covers everyone with comprehensive medical services and prescription drug coverage. The patient is not charged any co-pays or deductibles.

Single-payer represents a minimum de-

mand and it is the right demand for right now. The maximum demand is a system that can only come with working-class power—and that is socialist medicine.

Socialist medicine is what workers deserve

Socialist medicine is a medical care system that is publicly financed and administered. Hospitals and clinics are state-operated with doctors and nurses working as public employees.

The Cuban Revolution in 1959 set the stage for socialist medicine in that country.

Cuba’s Constitution guarantees free health care as a right of all citizens. Cuba’s infant mortality rate of five deaths per thousand live births is lower than that of the U.S., where there are seven deaths per thousand. Cuba has twice as many physicians per capita as the U.S. and life expectancy there is two years higher than the average for all of the Americas.

Socialist medicine in Cuba has accomplished all this while spending just \$251 per capita on health care compared to \$7,129 per capita in the U.S. Cuba has protected the integrity of its health care system even while enduring a punitive economic blockade by the U.S.

These achievements by Cuba demonstrate that only socialist medicine—and by way of getting there socialism itself—can provide workers with the health care revolution they deserve.

We invite you on the 50th anniversary of Workers World Party and the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, to stand with us and demand free quality health care for all. □

Job loss and rise of hunger

If the test of any society is its ability to care for those most in need, U.S. capitalism is failing dismally. Not only are over 15 million adults suffering from record unemployment, but a Department of Agriculture report released on Nov. 16 found 17 million U.S. children unable to consistently get enough to eat.

A separate study published in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine in November found that about half of the children in the U.S. will be on food stamps at some point during their childhood. The study states, "One in three children and 90 percent of all black children—ages 1 through 20—will use the program."

In all, the USDA study found 49 million people are hungry and getting hungrier. This is nearly 15 percent of all households, the largest number recorded since the agency began collecting data in 1995. Among these numbers, 12 million adults and 5.2 million children experience severe hunger, going days without eating.

The study found that the number of households in which children face "very low food security"—government-speak for being forced to skip meals by lack of money—is up to 506,000. This is a 56 percent increase over the previous year.

Women are among those hardest hit. The USDA statistics show that households with children headed by single mothers have the highest rate of hunger-related problems.

Drexel University hunger expert Marianna Chilton said: "This is a catastrophe. This is not a blip. This recession will be in the bodies of our children." (Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 17)

The impact of record unemployment is also being felt in the housing market where one in seven loans is now in fore-

closure. This is up from one in 10 at the start of 2009, and the highest on record since 1972 when the Mortgage Bankers Association began keeping track. Rising unemployment, not subprime loans, appears to be driving the increase.

These statistics show the impact of a succession of jobless economic recoveries in 2000, 2002 and under way today. While corporate profits and productivity are at all-time highs, record numbers of U.S. workers and their families are sinking deeper into poverty, primarily due to the lack of jobs at a living wage.

While the crisis of abject hunger is global—a UNICEF convention this week found nearly 200 million children are chronically malnourished—the statistics for the U.S. may be the most astounding simply because of the vast wealth generated here compared to underdeveloped and even some other developed nations.

In many underdeveloped nations, widespread hunger may be attributed to the lack of food resources, but more often it results from World Bank and International Monetary Fund policies that turn food-producing countries into food importers to benefit agribusiness in the U.S. Under globalization, agricultural land has also been diverted for other uses.

In the U.S., however, it appears to be a case of hunger in the midst of plenty. There is no shortage of food on supermarket shelves—only an ever increasing shortage of jobs that would allow workers to afford to buy it.

If ever there was a time for a massive jobs program like the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression of the 1930s, which put millions back to work and paid them enough to put nutritious food on the table, that time is NOW. □

Windsor, Ont.

Auto workers demand pay

Continued from page 4

"Ontario labor standards afford the right to severance and termination pay in circumstance such as these. However, the inaction of the Ontario government to enforce the provision of the legislation is a disgrace," said Gerry Farnham, president of CAW Local 195.

The workers' next major action will be a press conference and rally at Comerica Bank, 500 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, on Nov. 24 at noon. Members of labor-community-student organizations in Metro Detroit and beyond are mobilizing to build this internationalist event.

"We are targeting Comerica because they are the ones holding the purse strings for Catalina. Comerica is the ma-

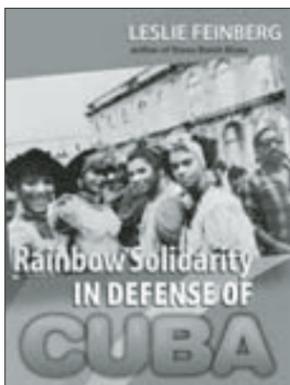
ior creditor, looking to sell off or auction off the assets in both of these facilities in order to attempt to recoup any debt Catalina owes them. Yet the workers, both union and salary staff, have not received a penny from this employer or Comerica," said Farnham.

Comerica received \$2.3 billion in bailout funds from the federal government in 2008 through the Troubled Assets Relief Program.

Solidarity statements can be e-mailed to pres@cawlocal195.com or called in to 1-519-253-1107. See <http://www.cawlocal.ca/195/> for more information. Supporters can also call Comerica at 1-800-292-1300 to demand that the CAW workers be paid. □

Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

This new book is a compilation of 25 articles by Leslie Feinberg about how the Cuban Revolution has worked to overturn prejudice against same-sex love from the colonial and imperial eras. The articles are part of the Lavender & Red series from Workers World weekly newspaper. The never-before-compiled information offers a factual vista on the trajectory of progress of the Cuban Revolution. It's a must-read to understand the revolutionary process required to uproot prejudice.



Available from Leftbooks.com or bookstores around the country

How China became a world power

Excerpts from a talk given by WWP Secretariat member, Deirdre Griswold, at the WWP National Conference, Nov. 14. View the entire talk at www.workers.tv.

It was an earthshaking event when, on Oct. 1, 1949, after the defeat of the U.S.-supported Kuomintang army, Mao Zedong addressed a huge crowd in Tiananmen Square and said, "The Chinese people have stood up." The revolutionary war had liberated the peasants from the tyranny of the landlords and the workers from capitalist exploitation. It had an enormous impact on world events—and on Workers World Party.

While our party was officially formed a decade later, the worldview of its founders was first expressed in a 1950 document by Sam Marcy on the global class war.

At that time, the Soviet Union was considered the leader of the international communist movement. Both the USSR and People's China were helping defend the Democratic People's Republic of Korea against a massive invasion and war by U.S. imperialism.

Marcy's document recognized that the Chinese Revolution represented a fundamental change in class forces and that the new state rested on the working class and was oriented toward the building of socialism.

The working class of China was then very small. In the course of the revolutionary war, the Communist Party had built what it called a "bloc of four classes" that included not only the workers, peasants and petty bourgeoisie but also elements of the capitalist class not aligned with either Japanese or Western imperialism.

Marcy argued in the left movement here at the time that all who were for socialism, for workers' power, should stand with China and the other workers' states against domestic reaction and imperialist intervention.

Marcy's analysis proved correct. The Chinese Communist Party moved forward with expropriating the propertied classes. It inspired the masses of people to create social forms of production in the countryside as well as the cities.

The first issue of Workers World newspaper in 1959 contained an article on China titled "Hail the Communes!" The communes were a tremendous step forward in the effort to raise up the peasantry and increase productivity so that China could feed its hundreds of millions of people.

After liberation from the bloodsucking landlords, farmers had begun to build collectives where labor was pooled and their product shared. But the communes went much further. They were a higher form of social organization. They brought schools and clinics to the countryside. They provided child care and made it possible for women to join social life on an equal basis after centuries of the deepest oppression. They incorporated small manufacturing with agriculture and taught new skills. The communes provided the elemental necessities of life—food, shelter, clothing—from the cradle to the grave.

In the 1960s, China kept moving to the left under the leadership of Mao Zedong. Eventually it would launch the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, an attempt to uproot privilege and a growing bureaucracy. At the same time, it championed revolutionary movements, especially in the many countries trying to break the bonds of colonialism and neocolonialism.

To understand why this leftward movement was thwarted and China moved to



Deirdre Griswold

the right under Deng Xiaoping, you have to see the world context.

Beginning in the 1950s, the U.S. threatened both China and the Soviet Union with nuclear war. By the mid-1950s, the USSR under Khrushchev tried to bring about an accommodation with the U.S. under the slogan "peaceful coexistence." Relations between the two huge socialist countries became strained as Moscow made agreements with Washington on nuclear arms at the expense of China.

In 1960 Soviet technicians who had been helping China with many infrastructure projects were suddenly withdrawn.

By 1962, the U.S. was already waging war against the revolutionary movements in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The Chinese Communist Party by this time had opened a debate with the Soviet leaders, accusing them of watering down Leninist doctrine on the rapacious nature of imperialism and failing to give the liberation movements the help they needed.

Here in the U.S., China's attempts to revive revolutionary Marxism and Leninism and champion the national liberation struggles won adherents, especially among the youth and in the Black movement. Our party vigorously supported China on these questions.

But the split in the world movement took its toll. The Chinese leaders made a grave error when they took their polemic against the policies of the Soviet leaders much further and characterized the USSR as "social-imperialist." This derailed much of the world movement. It precluded any efforts to have a united front against the real imperialists and actually laid the basis for a turn to the right inside China itself.

In the 1970s, while the war in Vietnam was still raging, China invited President Richard Nixon to Beijing. It was a move that shocked and demoralized many in the movement here. It was a prelude to China's later "opening" to Western investment and allowing the capitalist market to operate there.

A revolutionary workers' party cannot close its eyes to political issues like these, particularly a party in the very center of world imperialism. What happens in China is of the greatest consequence to the workers and the oppressed peoples here.

In this world capitalist economic crisis, capitalist demagogues like Lou Dobbs get paid to make sure that the workers' anger is turned against immigrants and China instead of against the bosses here who lay them off or cut their wages.

China's growth in the last two decades has been the most dynamic in the world. The working class has grown by several hundred million people. The standard of living of the masses has risen, but so has the wealth of the new bourgeoisie.

Who do we credit for this rapid devel-

opment? The capitalists who invested in China to make a quick buck? Or the revolutionaries who pulled China out of the middle ages, ended illiteracy, achieved the beginnings of industrialization, and brought millions out of famine and an early death by organizing the masses to change their conditions of life?

China's rapid growth is proof that a centralized and planned economy, even one that has allowed market forces to operate, is vastly superior to capitalist anarchy. Not only has production soared but the infrastructure is being modernized, including medical care. In the current world H1N1 epidemic, China has registered 30 flu deaths, compared to 4,000 in the U.S. Such quick action is impossible when medical care is shackled to producing profits for private corporations.

The leaders of the Chinese Communist Party have gambled that they can contain the growing capitalist class and keep it under control. But the world capitalist economic crisis is affecting China, especially in its export-oriented businesses. However, China's stimulus plan, which goes directly to producing jobs, has softened the effects of the crisis.

At the same time, the class struggle has also surged in China as workers fight against layoffs and poor working conditions—especially in the privately owned sector of the economy. Strikes and demonstrations are on the rise, along with plant occupations and even direct action by workers against their bosses and managers.

We continue to stand with China against imperialist threats, attempts to carve off areas like Tibet and Taiwan, and domestic reaction. And we stand with the Chinese workers, who have become bolder in fighting for their rights.

We say no to China-bashing, whether it comes from CNN or from backward elements in the union movement here. Above all, we are dedicated to building a revolutionary workers' movement in the U.S. that can undo this highly militarized, imperialist regime that is holding back all humanity, so that our class everywhere will be free to control its own destiny and build a workers' world. □

From Africa to the Americas

A need for a revolutionary response to the current crisis

Excerpts from a talk by Abayomi Azikiwe from Detroit at the WWP National Conference, Nov. 14. View this entire talk at www.workers.tv.

African-American people have borne the brunt of the burgeoning economic downturn. A recent report issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics states, "Since the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons has risen by 8.2 million, and the unemployment rate has grown by 5.3 percentage points."

This same report goes on to point out: "Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (10.7 percent) and whites (9.5 percent) rose in October. The jobless rates for adult women (8.1 percent), teenagers (27.6 percent), blacks (15.7 percent), and Hispanics (13.1 percent) were little changed over the month. The unemployment rate for Asians was 7.5 percent, not seasonally adjusted."

Therefore, we see that changes in the labor market as a direct result of the crisis have maintained the historically higher unemployment rate among African Americans but at the same time narrowed the traditional gap between unemployment rates between African Americans and whites in the U.S.

The higher unemployment rate for African Americans is closely related to the disproportional impact of the so-called "subprime mortgage problem," which exposed the façade of capitalist expansion during the previous decade and accelerated the near-collapse of the international system of finance capital during 2008. In the majority Black city of Detroit, people have been severely affected by the decline of the auto industry and the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the state of



Abayomi Azikiwe

WWW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Michigan during the present decade.

An article published in *The Nation* points out, "Black homeowners have been hit particularly hard by the mortgage crisis, largely because predatory lenders have been steering them toward subprime loans for years, even when they could afford prime rates."

With the rise of unemployment, foreclosure and eviction rates among African Americans, we have also seen an increase in repressive actions carried out as state policy. There has been an epidemic of African Americans who have been brutalized and killed by law enforcement, including Oscar Grant in Oakland, the Jena 6 in Louisiana, Robert Mitchell in Detroit and the brutal assassination of Imam Luqman Ameen Abdullah, which took place outside Detroit.

There are over 1 million African Americans imprisoned in the U.S. Black and Latino/a women and men constitute well over half of the prison population in the U.S. Racial profiling is conducted as normal law-enforcement procedure where even prominent African Americans in government, business, entertainment and even law enforcement are subjected to harassment and possible serious injury or death.

The ongoing attacks against the Muslim community in the U.S. are justified by the state and corporate media utilizing the false notion of "Islamic extremism." Imam Luqman's assassination and the trumped-up charges brought against members of his mosque are carried out in an effort to justify the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, and the spreading of the wars into Pakistan as well as the Horn of Africa and its surrounding waterways in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

The anti-war and peace movements must link the rising Pentagon budget to the intensification of the exploitation and impoverishment of the majority of working people and the oppressed inside the U.S.

The outmoded slogans utilized by unconscious elements within the labor unions which utilize national chauvinism and racism that is masked with slogans such as "Buy American" and "Protect American jobs" have done nothing to advance the interests of the working class inside the U.S.

The African condition and the world economic crisis

With reference to Africa, the current crisis in the capitalist-imperialist states has had a tremendous negative impact by thrusting over 50 million people back into poverty. With the continued dependence by the former colonial states on the foreign exchange earnings

gained through natural resource and agricultural exports, the decline in demand in the West resulting from rising unemployment and impoverishment of the working class has created massive job losses and food deficits.

This economic downturn has been the most striking in countries that are closely allied with the U.S., such as Ethiopia, Somalia, Nigeria and Egypt. Oil exports from Nigeria have not prevented social unrest or political instability. Recently this West African state, which had been for years the major exporter of crude oil from the continent to the U.S., experienced a near-collapse of its financial sector quite similar to what is taking place on Wall Street.

In Somalia, U.S. imperialist interference has resulted in a civil war, mass dislocation of civilians, and the collapse of the agricultural and fishing industries, which had sustained the population for years. The resistance movements inside Somalia that have risen up to fight against imperialist domination have prompted the U.S. to organize the largest military and naval build-up around the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean in the region's history. Under the guise of fighting "piracy" and "terrorism," the U.S. has established a military base in Djibouti and dispatched flotillas of warships off the coast of the Horn of Africa.

The U.S. Africa Command (Africom) recently coordinated war games in Gabon and the Gulf of Guinea. Multinational oil firms are competing among themselves to prevent the People's Republic of China from making significant investments in the exploration and export of the recently discovered oil deposits belonging to the nation of Ghana.

The only solution to the problems of underdevelopment and exploitation in Africa is for the workers and farmers to break with imperialism. Promises made by the U.S., Britain, France, the European Union, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have proved worthless. Aid agencies based in the imperialist states cannot solve the problems of food deficits and the lack of health care services without a fundamental transformation of the post-colonial societies and their subordinate relationship with the capitalist states and the multinational corporations.

Our focus in the coming period must be centered on the demands related to shutting down the war machine in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Korea, Latin America and throughout the globe. In taking a clear position against all forms of U.S. militarism we inevitably enhance the alliances between workers and the oppressed in both the capitalist states and the post-colonial nations.

Domestically we must continue our support for labor actions such as the sit-in that took place last year at the Republic Windows and Doors plant in Chicago. In Detroit we linked the struggle against foreclosures in the case of Loren Parker, who was threatened with eviction by the Bank of America, with the plant occupation carried by the UE workers.

If we have learned anything from our experiences with the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and the Bail Out the People Movement in the present period, we will understand that there is no substitute for the difficult work of addressing the concrete needs of the people. When we do this, there will be a qualitative leap in our efforts to end the current economic crisis and to build a socialist society and world. □

Task of a Party:

Building class solidarity

Continued from page 2

The main criteria for joining a party is not solely because of our hatred for the capitalist and imperialist system and everything that is rotten about it but because we want to fight tooth and nail against this barbaric system, not as individuals but as one, until this system is finally overthrown by the workers of all nationalities and in its place will be a humane system of socialism where every human need will be met in the absence of racism, war and poverty.

Being a comrade in Workers World Party means not taking our relationships for granted but rather being sensitive to each other's special oppressions and challenges and to find positive ways to build and strengthen class solidarity from within. Sam, Vince and Dotty were exemplary examples of what it takes to build a fight-

ing workers' party inside the most powerful imperialist country in the world, which ain't easy. Many others gallantly have tried and failed.

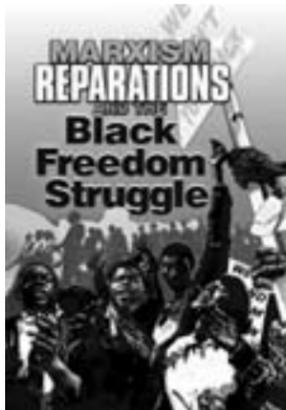
We are about taking the lessons we have learned from those before us and using them to push today's struggles forward as we face the biggest political crisis ever, which rests upon the biggest capitalist depression since the 1930s. Our Party can't carry out this challenge alone, just as the movement can't do it alone. It will take an historic upsurge of the working class to turn around the mood of pessimism and reaction. But the workers cannot carry out their historic mission of seizing power in a spontaneous way. They will need a workers' party with class conscious leadership, and political and organizational tools to help lead the way. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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Problemas políticos y el potencial revolucionario

Extracto de la charla pronunciada por Fred Goldstein, miembro del Secretariado, durante la Conferencia Nacional del Partido Workers World / Mundo Obrero en Nueva York Nov. 14-15.

Somos un partido de luchadores/as, pero también debemos analizar cuidadosamente lo que está pasando a nuestro alrededor y la dirección en que las cosas se dirigen.

Utilizando el Marxismo es la guía más segura. Marx nos mostró hace más de 150 años que conforme el capitalismo crece, llevaría a más y más trabajadores a una red de producción socializada en todo el mundo. Pero toda la economía, los medios de producción y los servicios serían propiedad privada y manejada para las ganancias de los dueños.

Marx mostró que la tendencia de los capitalistas en búsqueda del máximo de ganancias era hacer más y más eficiente la maquinaria—más tecnología, computadores, programas para computadores, robots, etc.; poner más destrezas de los/as obreros/as en las maquinarias, reduciendo así la necesidad de éstos/as y reduciendo también las destrezas necesarias para entonces pagarles menos y obtener más producción. De esta manera logran más y más plusvalía.

Marx también mostró que esta tendencia histórica del capitalismo llevaría a la eventual pauperización de los/as obreros/as y sus familias y tarde o temprano pondría más presión sobre el sistema terminando en un colapso y en condiciones para una revolución.

¡Este es el proceso que ahora estamos viendo!

El sistema capitalista en realidad nunca tuvo una recuperación económica normal desde la Gran Depresión. Sobrevivió un movimiento de huelga pre revolucionario entre los/as trabajadores/as yendo a una guerra mundial catastrófica la cual mató a más de 50 millones.

Ahora mismo hay una recuperación sin empleos profunda, y esto es sólo el comienzo. Hay muchas crisis más en el horizonte.

Para tener una idea de hacia dónde va la crisis capitalista para los/as trabajadores/as y para la sociedad en general, tomemos el ejemplo de la recuperación de la Ford Motors. La Ford fue de una pérdida de miles de millones de dólares a amontonar mil millones en ganancias durante el último trimestre. Recordemos sin embargo que estas ganancias subieron

mientras las ventas bajaron.

¿Cómo puede suceder esto? En parte fue el programa 'Efectivo por Chatarras' subsidiado por el gobierno. Pero la gran noticia es que Ford despidió a 53.000 trabajadores/as y cerró quince plantas desde el 2006. Lo cual quiere decir que para poder mantener las ganancias, la industria automovilística está reduciendo la producción porque no pueden vender obteniendo ganancias.

¿Pero qué pasa cuando la industria automotriz cierra sus plantas? Significa que los vendedores de automóviles cierran. Las comunidades son destruidas. Más que esto—se pierden trabajos en las fábricas de repuestos, acero, caucho, vidrio, plástico, pintura, telas, microchips, producción de robots y demás. Los mecánicos, vendedores y trabajadores/as de oficinas pierden sus empleos.

Este efecto vicioso afecta a casi todas las industrias, cadenas de tiendas, centros comerciales, restaurantes, porque el sistema de ganancias ha alcanzado el punto donde los/as obreros/as se han hechos tan productivos/as en la creación de riquezas que son despedidos/as de sus empleos. Conforme el capitalismo pauperiza a los/as trabajadores/as, ¿quién va a comprar los automóviles? El sistema destruye sus propios mercados. El capitalismo está alcanzando el límite del sistema de explotación.

El gobierno y los expertos buscan incesantemente señales positivas. Una señal positiva para ellos es que "sólo" 510.000 trabajadores/as perdieron sus empleos el mes pasado. Pero ellos no dicen cómo cerca de 30 millones de trabajadores/as o sub empleados/as serán puestos a trabajar en una economía en contracción.

Esto afecta no sólo a los obreros/as empleados/as, sino a los/as jóvenes, madres solteras recibiendo beneficios públicos, los/as envejecientes; afecta a todos/as aquellos/as que no son propietarios/as. Para los capitalistas los jóvenes, en especial los jóvenes negros/as y latinos/as, son completamente superfluos/as. Los patronos no tienen empleos para ellos/as. Ellos/as no pueden ser explotados/as para obtener ganancias. De modo que el capitalismo no se preocupa por ellos/as.

Las madres que reciben beneficios estatales, que están haciendo el servicio de incalculable valor de criar a sus hijos, una función sin la que nuestra sociedad no



Fred Goldstein

MO FOTO: G. DUNKEL

podiera existir, están fuera de la cadena de producción y no son una fuente de ganancias, entonces los capitalistas las dejan al margen. Todo tiene que ver con las ganancias.

¿Qué hace que esta crisis sea diferente a las crisis previas en los pasados 70 años desde la Gran Depresión? En el pasado los capitalistas han usado expendios militares, recortes de los sueldos, inversiones de dinero en los bancos, creación de burbujas—la burbuja de la tecnología, la burbuja de la vivienda, y otras aventuras capitalistas. Pero estos medios de solucionar la crisis han sido agotados. Eso es lo que es diferente.

Los problemas

Regresando al presente: Cuando la sociedad se hace más y más pobre, y la crisis se profundiza para los/as trabajadores/as y las comunidades, la base material de rebelión y lucha está siendo creada.

Pero a causa de las décadas de ataque y por la severidad de la crisis, toma tiempo para que los/as trabajadores/as y oprimidos/as se rebelen en gran escala. Nadie sabe cuándo ni dónde esa rebelión va a empezar. Pero a causa de la demora, las corporaciones y las fuerzas reaccionarias, racistas, anti-mujer, anti-lesbiana, anti-gay, -bi y -trans, están ganando la mayoría de las luchas políticas y económicas.

Sobre todo, está el constante atentado del establecimiento capitalista que teme una rebelión, de dividir a la clase trabajadora incitando al racismo, sexismo, la intolerancia y el chauvinismo anti-inmigrante.

Todos estos problemas surgen del hecho de que los/as trabajadores/as y el movimiento en general no están todavía

en una campaña que amenaza al establecimiento capitalista.

El inevitable despertar

Todos estos ataques inevitablemente fomentarán un despertar de la lucha. Ya debajo de la nube oscura de la reacción hay rayos de luz empezando a brillar. La lucha de los/as trabajadores/as de Republic Windows and Doors que ocuparon su fábrica fue una gran inspiración y un modelo para el futuro. Tuvo un impacto sobre los trabajadores/as de todas partes, no solamente en los Estados Unidos. La larga y heroica lucha de los/as trabajadores/as de Stella D'Oro demostró el espíritu de resistir. Los/as trabajadores/as del transporte de SEPTA en Filadelfia han ganado una victoria, así como también los/as trabajadores/as de la SK Tools después de una lucha de nueve semanas del Local 743 de los Teamsters.

El Movimiento pro Rescate del Pueblo llevó a cabo la Marcha por Empleos en Pittsburgh durante el G-20 para llevar la crisis del desempleo a la conferencia del G-20. Eso fue seguido por una Marcha por Empleos en Boston. Hubo una marcha de unas miles de personas organizada por los sindicatos que irrumpió una reunión de la Asociación Americana de Banqueros en Chicago.

El movimiento estudiantil está empezando a organizarse en la lucha en contra de los recortes en el presupuesto de educación, y redes de estudiantes-trabajadores/as están empezando a organizarse.

Las tareas

La tarea de nuestro partido es ponernos a la altura de las circunstancias para enfrentarnos a los retos de esta nueva época de crisis profunda y del despertar de la lucha. Nuestro objetivo ha sido siempre el de construir un partido de la clase trabajadora. Es la clase trabajadora la que hace que todo se mueva, hace todo lo de valor.

Queremos hacer todo lo posible para fomentar la resistencia a la crisis, la lucha por empleos, la lucha contra las ejecuciones hipotecarias, y la lucha por el cuidado de salud, la educación y para salvar el medio ambiente. Pero el propósito principal es siempre para socavar el orden social capitalista.

Para el sistema capitalista no hay otra salida a la crisis que profundizarla. Para la clase trabajadora y los/as oprimidos/as hay una salida, el camino de la lucha y la movilización de las masas.

Nuestra tarea como partido es luchar por un nuevo orden socialista en el cual este enorme aparato productivo global será propiedad y se operará por las manos de los/as trabajadores/as, la fuente de toda riqueza, y su propósito será para las necesidades humanas y no para ganancias.

¡Abajo con el capitalismo! ¡Viva el socialismo! ¡A construir el Partido Mundo Obrero y construir un mundo de los/as trabajadores/as!

Ver www.lowwagecapitalism.com para la presentación completa.

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Libertad para los cinco compatriotas cubanos que defendieron a su país del terrorismo y que ahora están presos en EE.UU. por evitar muertes en la isla.



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Rene González Sehwerert, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez y Fernando González Llort.