



End police attacks everywhere Defend Occupy Wall Street!

Joint statement of Workers World Party and Workers World Editorial Staff.

Our movement is under attack. We must mobilize to defend it.

The Occupy Wall Street movement seemed to spring up from nowhere. Its program was unclear. But its very existence was a thorn in the side of world capitalism, angering the super-rich on their own turf, and making OWS a pole of attraction for the other 99 percent.

Starting Nov. 11, local governments in Oakland, Calif.; Chapel Hill, N.C.; Portland, Ore.; Denver and other cities had their cops clear the encampments. Then billionaire Mayor Mike Bloomberg struck at the movement's heart at Zuccotti Park near Wall Street itself. Hundreds were arrested as cops tore apart the park after 1 a.m. on Nov. 15 and trashed the tents, books and belongings of the campers/protesters. And the courts have ruled against Occupy Wall Street, blocking the right of the protesters to set up tents, proving once again that the courts work hand-in-hand with the police and super-rich politicians like Bloomberg.

The simultaneous moves to break up encampments in a half dozen major cities show that those who rule the U.S. want to crush hope while it's still young.

But our movement is regrouping. Hundreds of OWS activists were back in Zuccotti Park by the evening of Nov. 15.

Then in two days, on Nov. 17, we in WWP will be joining students and workers from various universities and

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SHOWDOWN AT ZUCCOTTI PARK

Movement enters new phase

By Tony Murphy
New York

Nov. 15 — As the political character of Occupy Wall Street has grown sharper, with its movement increasingly targeting foreclosures and union-busting, the ruling class made a decision: Cut off the movement at the head.

After Occupy encampments in Portland, Denver, and Oakland were shut down, New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg ordered the New York Police Department to clear out Zuccotti Park — the site of Occupy Wall Street, which since Sept. 17 has spawned a worldwide movement against the ravages of capitalism. Police in riot gear went into Zuccotti Park at 1 a.m. on Nov. 15 and violently evicted protesters, with about 70 arrested at last count.

By 6 p.m. the same night, protesters were back in Zuccotti Park.

The goal of Billionaire Bloomberg and his cohorts on Wall Street remains the same: to decapitate the movement. As protesters reentered the square, they did so under heavy police presence, with onerous rules such as no tents, sleeping bags,

backpacks and so on. People with medical equipment were denied access.

Whether OWS will be able to regain momentum is an open question. However, the accomplishment of elevating the movement remains. What began as an encampment in one section of Manhattan became thousands of encampments, a shutdown for a day of the country's fifth-largest port in Oakland, and an increasingly pro-worker movement that has put the tactic of occupation on the table and breathed new life into the culture of resistance.

This last week has seen corporate media coverage swing decisively against the Occupy movement. Even as more details of the outrageous Penn State scandal were surfacing, it was the Occupy movement that was being treated as dirty and dangerous, public enemy #1. The racist New York Post led the charge against OWS, dubbing an off-duty cop who physically attacked an OWS protester a "hero."

The movement now enters a new stage. The New York establishment may have weakened the encampment at Zuccotti Park itself. But the new fighting people's movement is here to stay. □

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Longshore leader applauds OCCUPY OAKLAND



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Protesters march back to Zuccotti Park, Nov. 15. WW PHOTO: TONY MURPHY; WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN



SYRACUSE, N.Y.

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With jobs at Depression levels

Native people need more than a proclamation

By Dolores Cox

The U.S. government has for two decades designated November as “National Native American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.” According to the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs, it was “established to recognize the significant contributions the First Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S.”

November is also the month of the national holiday celebration of so-called “Thanksgiving,” a day portraying the myth of peaceful European colonizers breaking bread with Indigenous people. However, the reality is that the genocide of millions of Native people took place, as did the wholesale attempt to destroy their cultures and steal their lands.

Designations and proclamations do not put food on the table, guarantee living-wage jobs, provide adequate health care or uphold housing rights. Native people continue to struggle to survive the legacy of past and present-day racism, oppression and marginalization.

For many Native people, financial hardship has been a way of life. According to the Economic Policy Institute, about half of Native Americans nationally are unemployed or are not even counted among the unemployed because they are “discouraged workers” who have given up looking for a job.

Race matters. The economic crisis in the U.S. has worsened racial disparities in employment, wages and income for people of color, who have historically faced job market inequities.

The recession has only increased the hardships faced by Indigenous people. Their unemployment rates continue to rise. Due to employers’ discrimination, the jobs

that are open to them are usually low paying and have few benefits. Some of the largest disparities in employment between Indigenous peoples and whites are in Alaska and the Northern Plains, areas where the employment situation is best for whites. For instance, in the first half of 2010, only 44 percent of Native workers in the Northern Plains were employed, the worst employment rate for Native Americans regionally.

Especially hard-hit, Indigenous people living on reservations and in rural areas must often move off the reservation to find work, leaving their families for long periods. Those who are college educated are also forced to leave their communities due to lack of local job opportunities.

There are glaring disparities in monetary wealth between Indigenous people and those of the dominant culture. For Native people, though, wealth consists not only of quantifiable assets like land and money but also non-tangible assets like culture, language, spirituality and kinship networks.

Federal government policies have subjugated and exploited Indigenous peoples for centuries. Yet, in the face of this, Native people have pressured, pushed and demanded greater political power and influence and more support for policies that respect self-determination.

In order to end this structural inequality, there has to be increased federal aid to bridge the racial wealth divide. The Indian Services Program must increase funding and accessibility to medical facilities and channel federal and state funds for social services through tribal governments in order to give tribes a fair shake in accessing economic recovery funds.

Unless targeted policies address these inequities, Native and other communities of color will continue to bear the brunt for generations to come. □

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Commemorate a National Day of Mourning

on the U.S. “thanksgiving” holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. “Thanksgiving” is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of their lands and the relentless assault on their culture. Honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today.

Join Us NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING Thursday . November 24 . Noon

Cole’s Hill (above Plymouth Rock) Plymouth, Mass.
 Pot-luck social to follow

Travel on the International Action Center bus to this important event; it will leave from the New York office at 6:00 a.m. on Nov. 24 and return by 9:30 p.m. that day. Pick up tickets (\$40/\$30) Mon.-Fri. 2-8 p.m., at the IAC, 55 W. 17 St., 5th floor, Manhattan. For information, call: 212-633-6646.

FREE LEONARD PELTIER



Demand the release of our brother, Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Add your voice to the millions worldwide who demand his freedom. Help our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally. Help shatter the false image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, the oppression of lesbian/gay/bi/trans people and war.

Contact: **United American Indians of New England/LPSG**
 Phone 617-522-6626
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Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young & old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed, undocumented & students.

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Miss. voters uphold abortion rights, but

Reproductive justice under pervasive attack

By Sue Davis

Initiative 26 was trounced 58-42 percent by voters in Mississippi on Nov. 8. It would have outlawed all abortions, many forms of birth control, fertility treatments and stem-cell research and possibly have criminalized women who had ectopic pregnancies or miscarriages.

Known as the “egg-as-personhood” referendum, its defeat is an unexpected victory for women in the most conservative state in the U.S. It’s also a real setback for all who seek to deny women their full human rights by denying them control over their own bodies.

This pro-choice victory was not predicted even two weeks before the election. Polls showed passage was a done deal. The Oct. 26 New York Times reported both candidates for governor supported passage and quoted people in favor of or undecided about it.

What turned things around was a massive eleventh-hour, grassroots effort mounted by Mississippians for Healthy Families, National Advocates for Pregnant Women, the Feminist Majority Foundation and the NAACP. Mississippi now joins Colorado and South Dakota in rejecting “personhood” laws — twice in both those states. But new campaigns are said to be planned in Nevada, Georgia, Florida, Montana, Ohio, California, Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin and South Dakota (yet again).

Meanwhile, anti-choice laws have

spread like a rabid virus in many states. They include bans on insurance coverage for abortion; laws mandating that women who seek abortions must visit a “crisis pregnancy center” for an anti-abortion lecture by religious zealots; and laws that require a woman to view a sonogram of the fetus before having an abortion. Other laws seek to deny public funding to Planned Parenthood because it is the country’s largest abortion provider, even though millions of poor women rely on its facilities for their primary health care. Those who would be deprived are disproportionately women of color, young and living in rural areas.

But the most far-reaching attack on women’s reproductive rights occurred at the federal level on Oct. 13, with the endorsement and blessing of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Family Research Council. By a vote of 251 to 172, the House of Representatives passed the horribly misnamed “Protect Life Act.” Among its many anti-women, anti-health and anti-life provisions was one that would allow doctors, other health care providers and hospitals to “exercise their conscience” and let pregnant women who need emergency medical care die.

No wonder women’s rights and progressive legal groups called it the “Let Women Die Bill,” while thoroughly opposing it. During debate before the vote, Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) denounced the bill, saying that “had this law been in effect 20 years ago she might not be here,

because she was one of those women who needed an emergency abortion to save her life.” (rhrealitycheck.org, Oct. 13)

Among its provisions, which would deprive millions of women of benefits they receive today, the law would force insurance companies to drop comprehensive coverage in state health insurance exchanges. This would prevent women from paying for health insurance, even with their own money, if it includes abortion coverage. And it would allow states to pass laws stipulating that health plans can refuse to cover preventive services, including birth control, even though the Department of Health and Human Services announced Aug. 1 that all preventive care for women, including birth control, should be provided at no extra cost in insurance plans.

All the major women’s health and rights organizations are fighting the good fight. For instance, the Center for Reproductive Rights won injunctions in Oklahoma, North Carolina and Texas to stop anti-choice laws from going into effect. Planned Parenthood has mounted an information campaign asserting that though it is a major abortion provider, no government funding is used to pay for abortions.

United fightback needed

But more is needed to defend women’s rights and ensure reproductive justice for all women in this climate of political reaction. Nowadays, lawmakers would rather use state power to impose paternalistic,

life-threatening limits on women’s right to life and health than to pass bills that create real jobs or that tax millionaires.

It’s instructive to note that in an essay posted Oct. 27 on rhrealitycheck.org, Loretta Ross, an African American who has devoted 35 years to the struggle for reproductive justice, advocated that the coalition fighting Initiative 26 link that struggle with the fight against Initiative 27, which mandated government-issued identification in order to vote. The Feminist Majority Foundation calculated that passage of similar laws nationally could prevent 35 million women from voting. Ross raised the slogan: “Two no’s make a right.” Unfortunately, that didn’t happen and the voter ID exclusion act passed.

After calling the defeat of Initiative 26 “a peoples’ victory, a triumph in which people of all backgrounds, races, professions and religions came together,” Ross wrote in the Nov. 9 rhrealitycheck.org, “Millions of dollars of staff and resources poured into Mississippi from around the country to defeat 26. ... What if those same resources had been equally devoted to defeating 27? ... Could we have saved the right to vote in Mississippi at the same time we saved (at least temporarily) the right to obtain an abortion?”

It’s time to link the fight for women’s rights with today’s fightback movement led by Occupy Wall Street, the unions and community groups. A broad-based, united struggle is needed to win justice on all issues for all people. □

Ohio voters trash anti-union bill

By Martha Grevatt

How things change when the workers are in motion.

Last January, governors across the country announced their agenda: slash human services, destroy public education and break unions. State legislatures passed numerous bills. Among the most unpopular were those that limited or eliminated collective bargaining for public workers.

One such bill just suffered a crushing defeat at the polls. Ohio Senate Bill 5, one of the most far-reaching of the bills that would deny collective bargaining to all public workers, was voted down 2-1.

Unions began mobilizing to defeat SB5 the moment Gov. John Kasich proposed it. “When the bill was introduced in January, we started to pour into Co-

lumbus,” explained Susan Schnur, a bus driver with Cleveland’s Regional Transit Authority. “The inspiration came from Wisconsin. Trips organized by my union, Amalgamated Transit, took Ohio members to Madison.”

Schnur represents 120 paratransit drivers on the Executive Board of ATU Local 268. They drive elderly and physically challenged residents to doctor appointments, work, school, church, the supermarket and more. They get people out of their homes.

Their job is one example of the necessary services that public workers provide. These workers are now portrayed — like autoworkers during the General Motors/Chrysler bailout — as lazy and overpaid.

“There were over 300 pages to the bill, and workers didn’t care about the minutiae,” Schnur added. “We just saw an at-

tempt to get rid of unions and rip us off even more. That is why private sector unionists worked just as hard on defeating SB5 as public workers.

“My co-workers took off work and went to Columbus when we were doing daylong occupations of the State House. Some of the older workers remembered the sit-ins during the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. All of us knew that if we lost, we would be toast. Attacking seniority — hire and fire at will — was a major plank of the anti-union attack. There were discussions on the bus trips about how ‘they’ — the ruling class — will use you and then toss you out like used toilet paper.

“The biggest attacks were on the teacher unions, which are majority women. The struggle to save our unions brought the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers closer.

“The demonstrations were quite diverse. Many of the participants, especially from rural areas, were veterans who were mad at being treated bad like the rest of us.

“The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community took a very active role. The Human Rights Campaign sent organizers. Only with a union contract do LGBT people get job protection and spousal benefits, which unions won for workers in Ohio universities.

“Rallies in northeast Ohio and Columbus had great participation from the African-American community, including ministers, elected officials and the workers themselves,” Schnur added. A large percentage of public servants, including paratransit drivers, are workers of color.

Once the odious bill was passed, state unions began a petition drive to put SB5

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Pickets rattle racist cemetery managers

By Dee Knight
Bronx, New York

“Bury Racism, Not Workers!” was a main chant as close to 200 unionists and community activists picketed Woodlawn Cemetery here on Nov. 12, making life uncomfortable for the plantation-like managers of the sprawling burial ground.

Strong delegations came from city administration workers in Communication Workers union Local 1180; Sotheby’s auction house workers in Teamsters union Local 814; city transit employees in Transit Workers Union Local 100; Service Employees union Local 32BJ/Schools Division; Freedom Party chapters from the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens; the Bail Out the People Movement; and the South Bronx Community Congress.

Called by the Labor-Community Forum

of the South Bronx Community Congress, the protest attracted media coverage from numerous Bronx newspapers and Bronx 12 TV News, as well as ABC Channel 2. The message to Woodlawn management was simple: Keep up with your plantation-style practices and you will get no peace.

“This is an opening shot in a new campaign,” said Ramon Jimenez of the South Bronx Community Congress and the Bronx Freedom Party. “We’ll keep the pressure on until Woodlawn stops with its racist abuse of the workers.” Gavrielle Gemma of the Bail Out the People Movement said, “No matter how long it takes, we’ll win.”

Some speakers connected the current struggle to their personal experiences with Woodlawn Cemetery’s management. Allan Janczewski, whose father was a New York City firefighter killed in 1958 and whose mother is buried at Woodlawn



WW PHOTOS: ELLEN CATALINOTTO

Many unions supported cemetery workers’ march against racist harassment.

Cemetery, told the spellbound listeners of his bitter memories of official cynicism and hypocrisy. He said his mother would be proud that he was protesting the racism of Woodlawn management. Cemetery worker Frank Russo, who has job-related cancer, told how Woodlawn management

has punished him for standing with the union and against racism.

Other speakers included Nadya Stevens, assistant to the president of CWA Local 1180; Andrew Smith of Occupy Wall Street; Jose Alfaro of Occupy the Bronx; and a leader of the workers at Sotheby’s. □

Socialist Summit set for Philadelphia

The Philadelphia branch of Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero will hold a Socialist Summit on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Calvary Church, located in the southwest part of the city at the intersection of 48th Street and Baltimore Avenue.

One of the main purposes of the conference is to address some of the crucial questions that have been raised at the Occupy Philly (OP) site in City Hall's Dilworth Plaza. The Occupy Movement has changed the political climate in this country. It has exposed the criminal nature of the capitalist state, both in how the state defends the rich exploiters against the poor and exploited masses of workers and, in many cities, how it has brought brutal police repression down upon the movement.

This movement, launched by mostly white youth who do not see a future for themselves, has opened a door to the possibility of an enormous jump in class consciousness. It has exposed the great class divide that exists with its slogan of "the 99% versus the 1%." The youth have shown great courage in initiating the occupations.

The revolutionary forces can contrib-

ute by broadening the political perspective in order to reach out to the rest of the working class and help bring in elements of the communities who have been absent in the movement and who are essential to its success.

This is the time to address clearly, in a popular way, what the role of the state is and why racism, anti-LGBT bigotry, sexism and anti-immigrant sentiments are enemies of working class unity. Above all, we need to discuss what can replace capitalism and how only a socialist system can bring real economic and social justice.

In Philadelphia, WWP/PMO members have been part of Occupy Philly from day one and have been engaging many people in lively discussions about a variety of topics.

This city is the home of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has spent three decades in prison after being framed for the death of a cop by the infamous Philadelphia police and the city's ruling class. His case must be part of OP's agenda, which must take up the pervasive racism in a city where the majority are people of color. The struggle of the immigrant community, both documented and undocumented

workers, should also be part of the OP's demands.

These are only some of the topics that will be reflected in the program of this socialist conference. However, the main overall topic will be about the absolute bankruptcy of the capitalist system and the need for socialism, which is not only possible in this country but inevitable, given the high level of productivity. International solidarity and an end to U.S. wars and occupations abroad are also essential to the masses in this country.

Two members of WWP/PMO's Secretariat will speak at the conference: First Secretary Larry Holmes and Secretariat member Fred Goldstein, author of "Low-Wage Capitalism." Other speakers will include Pam Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and Susan Abulhawa, Palestinian author of "Mornings in Jenin."

For more information about the conference, please call 610-931-2615 or 267-257-7742 (Español) or email WWPhilly@peoplesmail.net.

— Berta Joubert-Ceci

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WWP leaders
Larry Holmes
& Fred Goldstein
will be the featured
speakers.

As politicians conspire with energy bosses

New studies show dangerous effects of 'fracking'

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

As the natural gas industry expands hydraulic fracturing — "fracking" — across the U.S., concerns surface almost daily that call into question the safety of this process. At the same time, legislative actions that would pave the way for further industry expansion are being met with a rising number of protests.

On Nov. 9, the Environmental Protection Agency released results of testing in two environmental-monitoring water wells in Pavillion, Wyo., that found "benzene at 50 times the level that is considered safe for people, as well as phenols (another dangerous human carcinogen) and acetone, toluene, naphthalene and traces of diesel fuel." (Abraham Lustgarten, ProPublica, Nov. 10)

According to Lustgarten, the chemical compounds detected by the EPA are "consistent with those produced from the drilling processes," including a solvent called 2-Butoxyethanol (2-BE), widely used in hydraulic fracturing. The carcinogen 2-BE is implicated in a rare, deadly cancer. The EPA established no link between these chemicals and those used in agriculture or other industrial activities.

The EPA findings were consistent with water samples it has collected from 42 homes in the Pavillion area since 2008, when ProPublica began reporting on health concerns there. Hundreds of natural gas wells have been drilled around Pavillion over the past 20 years.

Lustgarten reported that Pavillion residents have been complaining for a decade that fracking has "caused their water to turn black and smell like gasoline."

The EPA report found water samples "were saturated with methane gas that matched the deep layers of natural gas being drilled for energy. The gas did not match the shallower methane that the gas industry says naturally occurs in water."

Lustgarten cited disturbingly similar reports in Susquehanna and Bradford counties in Pennsylvania, including in the town of Dimock. More than a dozen residents there, even though they won lawsuits against gas drillers after their water

wells were poisoned, remain without a reliable source of safe drinking water.

As in Wyoming, Lustgarten noted that residents in areas of Pennsylvania where fracking has rapidly expanded in recent years suffer "neurological impairments, loss of smell and nerve pain" linked to exposure to pollutants.

The reaction of Pennsylvania state officials, including Gov. Tom Corbett, who is clearly in the pockets of the natural gas industry giants, has been to ignore residents' cries for help.

Corbett is pushing to limit local control over the natural gas industry. A bill introduced in the Pennsylvania House on Nov. 1 would implement most of the legislative recommendations of the governor's appointed Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission, which is heavily weighted with gas industry spokespeople.

The bill targets several Pennsylvania cities, including Pittsburgh, which have passed legislation limiting or banning fracking. Pointing to similar legislation in Ohio that negated local bans on drilling, Corbett in a letter to the Legislature played the "create jobs" card, implying that Pennsylvania must be driller-friendly in order to keep Ohio from "luring" away jobs.

This is the same Corbett whose draconian budget led to the elimination of thousands of public employee jobs across the state earlier this year. Most jobs associated with drilling in Pennsylvania are either temporary or already held by skilled workers from states with a long history of drilling activity.

But local governments are fighting back. Because of public outcry, several local officials are signing on to a response letter that will be distributed to the General Assembly in Harrisburg on Nov. 14 in defense of the right of municipal governments to protect their residents. (cleanwater.org)

They are taking heart from the delay of the \$7 billion Keystone XL Pipeline until a new environmental review can be done. If finished, the pipeline would carry the dirtiest grade of oil all the way from Alberta, Canada, to Texas.

Borrowing from a platform of the Occupy Wall Street movement, several govern-

ment watchdog groups held a press conference in Harrisburg earlier in November to detail how a total of \$747 million in campaign and lobbying contributions from the natural gas industry financed Corbett's campaign for governor and Pat Toomey's campaign for the U.S. Senate.

On Nov. 21, protesters will gather in Trenton, N.J., to call on the Delaware River Basin Commission not to lift a ban on fracking that has been in place for three years.

The Delaware River Watershed provides drinking water to 15 million people in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

It took more than half a century to clean up damage to the Delaware River Basin from an earlier industrial age. One major tributary — the Schuylkill River — "once ran almost black with coal dust." As recently as 1940, the Delaware River "was an open sewer." (Philadelphia City Paper, Nov. 10) It took the 1973 Clean Water Act to upgrade municipal water treatment plants.

Today the DRBC is under heavy pressure from the natural gas industry and their political cronies to open the watershed to fracking for the first time. The proposed rule changes would allow nearly 20,000 fracking wells to be drilled in the Delaware River Basin.

Fracking and earthquakes

Oklahoma, a state known more for nasty tornadoes, was seriously shaken on Nov. 4 by earthquakes, one of an unexpected 5.6 magnitude centered in Lincoln County. Until two years ago, Oklahoma typically had about 50 earthquakes a year, but in 2010, 1,047 quakes shook the state. Many scientists have linked the Nov. 4 quake, and more than 1,000 small earthquakes in Arkansas as well as a series of quakes in Texas and West Virginia, to a waste disposal practice connected to fracking.

Fracking involves the injection of millions of gallons of water, mixed with more than 200 chemicals and sand, deep into underground shale formations to drive natural gas to the surface. The process leaves millions of gallons of gas-drilling waste so toxic that there is no safe way to dispose of it.

In the last few years, drillers disposed of fracking "flowback" by reinjecting it into deep "injection" wells. There are 181 injection wells in Lincoln County, where most of the Nov. 4 earthquakes occurred.

While scientists in Oklahoma will not confirm the connections, studies by the British Geological Survey of similar unusual earthquake activity in areas with a high concentration of fracking led to Britain suspending drilling operations in 2009.

The Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission identified four disposal wells that it recommended shutting down after swarms of earthquakes, as many as two dozen in one day, shook the state in spring 2010. Arkansas ordered a moratorium on new disposal wells. After the ban, earthquake activity dropped by two-thirds.

Concerns have also been raised about potential damage to the expanding network of natural gas pipelines that run through the areas now experiencing quakes.

The link between injection wells to dispose of toxic substances and higher incidents of earthquake activity is not new. The U.S. Army's Rocky Mountain Arsenal drilled a deep well for disposing of very salty water that included metals, chlorides, waste water and toxic organics in 1962. The Army discontinued use of the well in February 1966 because of the possibility that the fluid injection triggered earthquakes in the area. (OilPrice.com)

In 1990, a study of RMA events, "Earthquake Hazard Associated with Deep Well Injection — A Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," released by Craig Nicholson and R.I. Wesson, also established the link.

In July 2001, the EPA released an 87-page study that concluded that "in 1967 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey determined that a deep, hazardous waste disposal well at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal was causing significant seismic events in the vicinity of Denver."

Despite these studies and earlier warnings, the ability of the natural gas industry to insure politicians' silence and complicity through campaign contributions has allowed the industry to continue its hazardous practices. □

MILWAUKEE

Black & Brown Unity march hits segregation

A youth-led Black & Brown Unity march and rally took to the streets of Milwaukee on Nov. 12. A Latino/a contingent marching north from M&I Bank and an African-American contingent marching south after a protest at U.S. Bank converged on the 27th Street Bridge. They then marched together with allies to Mitchell Park, where they convened for cultural presentations and a powerful speakout of oppressed peoples from throughout Metro Milwaukee and beyond.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Milwaukee has become a city with a majority of people of color. Black and Brown people make up more than 60 percent of the population.

The sponsoring groups, Occupy the Hood and Decolonize the Hood, in their call for the action, pointed out that "Milwaukee has some of the highest racial disparities in unemployment, health care, education, prison rates and much more. It



is also the number one segregated city in the nation. We believe identifying socio-economic and social injustices shared by Black and Brown communities helps draw

attention to the ills caused by disenfranchisement and exploitation. Therefore, November 12th, a National Day of Action in Milwaukee, will be a collaborative effort

by both Black and Brown communities to join forces to fight against these social and institutional forces of oppression."

—Report and photos by Bryan G. Pfeifer

Smokin' Joe Frazier, one of a kind

By Larry Hales

Relentless, overused and indeed clichéd, but "Smokin'" is the most suitable word to describe Smokin' Joe Frazier in the boxing ring. The fighter, who passed away on Nov. 7 at the age of 67, nearly two months after being diagnosed with liver cancer, was never big for a heavyweight. It was his aggressive style when fighting, coming forward, ducking under his opponents' punches, either shooting a stiff jab or letting go with his signature left hook, that was feared by opponents and lauded by spectators.

That aggression and heart, the tendency to pick himself up, is on display against the intimidating, lumbering and muscled George Foreman, one of the hardest punchers in the history of the sport, after Foreman had knocked Frazier down five times. Frazier still stalked, ducking, shooting the jab and letting go with his left hook. In the end it was his corner that threw in the towel, knowing that Frazier would rise again and again, to his detriment, until being knocked unconscious.

He is the fighter who first defeated Muhammad Ali, known as "the Greatest" for his accomplishments in the ring and out of it; the fighter who did not fear getting back into the ring with George Foreman after Foreman knocked him out in the second round. And, ultimately, when it comes to his fighting career, he will forever be linked to Ali, for being his foil and toughest opponent for the fight of the millennium, "the Thrilla in Manila." Ali said this fight, their first, was the closest thing to death. In the Manila fight, legendary trainer Eddie Futch, who passed away in 2001, had to stop the fight in the 14th round because both of Frazier's eyes were swollen shut — nevertheless, Frazier still

wished to continue and had to be saved from his instincts.

It is near to impossible to think about Joe Frazier without considering Ali. They will forever be linked in the fight game because of their differing stances. Joe Frazier was courted by elements who hated Ali's stance on the Vietnam War and his brave and righteous refusal to be drafted. These same elements despised the Black Liberation struggle, the entire progressive, revolutionary and militant struggles happening in the U.S. and around the world. They wanted Frazier to be Ali's cultural foil as well as his opponent in the ring, a symbol of their ideals. In a sense, these "pro-American" establishment types who wanted things to remain the same, though history dictates change is constant, wanted Frazier to be "the good one." Unfortunately Frazier accommodated.

A struggle to escape poverty, racism

Joe Frazier grew up poor in Beaufort, S.C., one of 13 children. He reportedly left home at 15 because he couldn't abide by the rules of the Deep South in the 1950s. It was his inability to cower to a white man on whose farm he worked that led to his decision and his family's to send him north. After working for Coca-Cola loading trucks and on a work crew building Parris Island, the Marine base, Joe boarded a bus for New York to live with an older brother.

It is in the North where his amateur career as a fighter began; a career that would see him win an Olympic gold medal in 1964.

Frazier's only training before going to New York was hitting a burlap sack that he filled with Spanish moss, a brick in the middle and other ingredients.

Frazier may have been a natural or his



Joe Frazier

upbringing made him the perfect student. The ring gave him the opportunity to display his aggression.

It has been suggested that Frazier considered Ali to be a bully, and the man who protected smaller people when he was younger and in Beaufort hated bullies. They, nevertheless, became friends. Frazier helped Ali financially after Ali was banned from boxing. Frazier could have ignored Ali altogether and didn't have to fight him. But they did and the rest, as is said, is history.

Frazier taunted Ali for refusing to fight in Vietnam. Frazier claimed to love his country and accepted an invitation to speak to the South Carolina state Legis-

lature after having defeated Ali in 1971, basking in front of a Confederate flag. South Carolina didn't remove that flag until 2000 after mass pressure from the Black masses.

His accommodating and accepting the role as "the good one" was part show and part real. He was most likely hurt by Ali's taunts and he partly wanted acceptance.

Joe Frazier died poor and for many years lived above his boxing gym. He seemingly lived in Ali's shadow, and the media depicted him as bitter and hateful, yet in the documentary "Facing Ali" Frazier did praise him and his abilities.

Philadelphia would build a statue, not of the man who made the city his adopted home and who is revered by the many fighters who come from the place that produced so many that it has its own style, but of a fictional white fighter, Rocky Balboa.

Joe Frazier, though, was the Champ, a workman-like fighter who embodies all the qualities of the toiling Black, all the oppressed and working masses. He refused to quit, wouldn't give in and despite his contradictions, was, as Ali said, "a great champion."

Read the entire article at www.workers.org.

ALL OUT FOR MUMIA Fri., Dec. 9 • Philadelphia

The 30th anniversary of his incarceration and frameup

Constitution Center, 525 Arch St, Philadelphia
7:30 p.m. sharp - 10:30 pm, (doors open at 7 p.m.)

No To Life In Prison, Free Mumia Now!!!
No to the Racist Death Penalty, No to the Prison Industrial Complex,
No to Police Terrorism, No to U.S. Wars at Home and Abroad,
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, OCCUPY WALL STREET

HEAR: Cornel West, Immortal Technique, Ramona Africa, Vijay Prashad, Michelle Alexander (by video), Amina & Amiri Baraka, IMPACT Youth Repertory, African Drum & Dance Ensemble, Attorney Michael Coard

Pick up palm cards at Solidarity Center, 55 W. 17th St., 5th Floor, 212-633-6646 anytime after 2 p.m. weekdays. Call 212-330-8029 for bus tickets and other locations for pickup of palm cards.

Buses leave New York City at 3 p.m., \$20 roundtrip from 33rd St. and 8th Ave.

Come to a joint meeting of the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition and the International Action Center on 'The importance of Mumia Abu-Jamal's 30 years of being tortured'

Hear new legal information and the strategies for building for Dec. 9

MON., NOV. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

at the SOLIDARITY CENTER, 55 W. 17th St., 5th Floor New York, NY

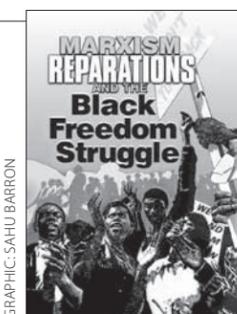


MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

Anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes:

- **Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes
 - **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy
 - **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** Leilani Dowell
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 - **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad
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 - **Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion** John Parker
 - **Racism and Poverty in the Delta** Larry Hales
- Available at Amazon.com & bookstores around the country www.workers.org/reparations/



OWS AND The ongoing struggle against capitalism

By Tony Murphy

The next time you hear about how terrible things were or are in some socialist country, think about the war being spread right now in the media against the Occupy movement.

Police have cleared out encampments in Denver, Oakland, New York, Salt Lake City — and are threatening to clear out Occupy encampments across the country, citing their concerns for sanitary conditions or the potential for violence.

On Nov. 10, in the vicinity of Occupy Oakland, a man was fatally shot. The coverage of the Oakland shooting by the San Jose Mercury News on Nov. 11 stated: “This is the first slaying near the camp, but there have been fights, reports of sexual assaults, rat infestations and other unsafe and unhealthy conditions at the site.”

All the problems listed here pervade other sectors of society — especially sexual assaults, which are usually ignored or made to seem like the victim’s fault.

This spring two New York cops were cleared of sexual assault charges even after being caught on tape visiting the woman’s apartment repeatedly during the same night and explaining away their behavior with the most difficult-to-believe stories.

At that point there was no hue and cry in the media to shut down the NYPD. Given its daily crimes — of stop-and-frisk, wholesale occupation of poor communities, the assassinations of mostly Black people, the violent attacks on OWS and other protesters — that would have been a righteous call.

The movement spawned by OWS is growing more political, taking on everything from union-busting to foreclosures. That is why the media, politicians and police are threatening OWS. It has nothing to do with any problems, some of which might be very real, that exist in the Occupy encampments.

Whatever problems the Occupy movement has, its existence — which by defying private property has given birth to a fighting people’s movement — represents a step forward for the fight for justice.

Example of socialist countries

With minor modifications, that same sentence could be applied to the countries that had socialist revolutions. Their achievement — societies where finance capital could not call the shots — was a progressive advance for humanity.

From the Soviet Union to Cuba to China, socialist revolutions were heroic struggles waged by millions of workers who overturned capitalism and established states that put their needs first.

But these countries were under attack from day one. The Soviet Union was invaded by 14 imperialist countries in the first two years of its existence. Tiny Cuba to

Commentary

this day is under the U.S. blockade established in 1962, which prevents companies from trading with the island, depriving it of medical supplies and food.

Just as important as the military war against these countries has been the political and ideological war. In order to tear these countries down — which it did in many cases — the centers of imperialism lie, slander and from every angle try to invalidate societies that established health care, jobs and education as the people’s rights.

Despite their accomplishments, some socialist countries had or still have real problems. But to see those problems as emanating from socialism itself, or to take those problems out of the context of the difficult struggle against capitalism, is to be taken in by those who want to tear down workers’ achievements — like the New York Post, whose front page attacks OWS for being unsanitary, but doesn’t attack the NYPD for seizing the encampment’s generators.

It also doesn’t report how OWS protesters coped with the lack of power by using bicycle-powered electricity. This brings to mind Cuba importing thousands of bicycles from China in the early nineties, after the dismantling of the USSR combined with the blockade left Cuba without fuel for vehicles.

The attack on the Occupy movement is being waged by the same forces of finance capital that want to defeat the revolution in Cuba. And their headquarters are on Wall Street. □



OCCUPY WALL STREET

Historic Harvard Yard

By Ed Childs
Cambridge, Mass.

On Nov. 9, some 400 students, workers, faculty and their supporters rallied at Harvard University with plans to occupy historic Harvard Yard. The administration responded by shutting down the Yard and locking all the gates, allowing no one in or out.

Harvard Yard, besides being where all the first-year students live, is the nerve center for the university’s top administration. The university president, the deans and the Harvard Corporation — its seven members all representatives of the ruling class — all have offices in the Yard, where they direct Harvard as the major school of the U.S. capitalist elite.

The students, unions and supporters rallied all evening despite the lockdown,

until they got to erect an occupation camp of 20 tents.

UNITE-HERE Local 26, representing 600 dining hall workers, and Service Employees union Local 615, representing the guards and custodians, are a center of this movement. Grievances by both unions helped spark the demands of the students. Harvard has called for an austerity program to cut benefits and enforce speedups. The unions have responded with militant actions.

The Harvard Corporation is made up of former executives of Goldman Sachs, Bank of America and Citigroup. They have pilfered Harvard’s huge endowment fund and now demand takebacks from the workers and students.

The mission statement of the Harvard occupation is to “make Harvard a school for the 99%, not the 1%.” The occupation

OCCUPY ROCHESTER

Mayor forced to back off

Occupy Rochester won a stunning victory on Nov. 9 when Mayor Tom Richards agreed to let protesters camp in Washington Square Park 24/7. This represented a complete reversal of his earlier policy of enforcing an 11 p.m. curfew at the park, which led to the arrest of 50 people. The mayor himself came to the park, renamed Liberation Square, accompanied by the chief of police to sign the agreement.

The mayor, a former CEO of Rochester Gas & Electric and a millionaire, was required to cool his heels in front of the TV cameras while the General Assembly proceeded with its agenda. Thus, he was forced to listen to a Latina woman who related how she and her family are about to be evicted from their foreclosed home and to a decision passed by Occupy Rochester to support physical resistance to the eviction.

The agreement with the mayor was negotiated by the local ACLU, which had previously announced its intention of filing a lawsuit contesting the legality of the 11 p.m. curfew on constitutional grounds.

On Nov. 11, Occupy Rochester held a Veterans Day march from Liberation Square to the Liberty Pole across from Bank of America. A large number of anti-war veterans attended, including Vets for Peace and Iraq Veterans against the War. They spoke to march participants about



the abysmal treatment of veterans and the role of the banks in fomenting war. Many signs and speeches referred to Pfc. Bradley Manning, currently being held in solitary confinement in a military prison, charged with revealing documentary evidence of U.S. war crimes to the Wikileaks organization.

— Lydia Bayoneta & Gene Clancy

PHOTOS: AL BRUNDAGE



Chanting ‘Another world is possible, we are unstoppable,’ protesters march to Zuccotti Park, Nov. 15.

WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN



WW PHOTO: TONY MURPHY

Newest chapter in a militant history

Longshore workers applaud Occupy Oakland's port shutdown

By Clarence Thomas

The eyes of the world were on the city of Oakland and the massive people's march to the nation's fifth-largest container port on Nov. 2 for the General Strike and Day of Mass Action called by Occupy Oakland.

The unprecedented outpouring of a broad cross-section of the community numbering in the tens of thousands is the most significant independent people's mobilization in the U.S. thus far in the 21st century.

This call for a General Strike was in response to the coordinated military-style attack by 18 police agencies in the Bay Area that attempted to evict the encampment of Occupy Oakland at Oscar Grant Plaza, where U.S. veteran Scott Olsen, who served two tours of duty in Iraq, was critically wounded by a teargas canister shot to his head by Oakland police.

This call for a General Strike was not called by labor, and perhaps rightfully so, because only 12.9 percent of the overall workforce is unionized. In fact, in the private sector just 7.2 percent of the workers are unionized. This is the lowest percentage since 1900.

While it is true that it would take more than a week to organize a General Strike in this country, the fact of the matter is that organized labor would not get the blessing of their Democratic Party masters to take such an action. Remember, the Republican and Democratic parties are controlled by Wall Street and the 1%.

The rank and file of labor is ready to take militant action at the point of production or service. Service Employees Lo-

cal 1021 was able to get their city workers the day off to either participate in the "stop work" action or not to be required to come to work for health and safety reasons.

The Port of Oakland's last two shutdowns came as the result of ILWU Local 10 members taking solidarity action. The first was the Justice for Oscar Grant — "Stop Police Brutality, Jail Killer Cops" — action, where longshore workers closed five Bay Area ports on Oct. 23, 2010.

The second Port of Oakland shutdown was the April 4, 2011, voluntary rank-and-file action to shut down the Port of Oakland for 24 hours on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in solidarity with the Wisconsin public sector workers' fight for collective bargaining.

The resolution by the Occupy Oakland Strike Assembly states on its website www.occupyoakland.org the reason for shutting down the Port of Oakland:

"We are doing this in order to block the flow of capital on the day of the General Strike, as well as to show our commitment to solidarity with Longshore workers in their struggle against EGT in Longview, Wash. EGT is an international grain exporter which is attempting to rupture longshore jurisdiction. The driving force behind EGT is Bunge LTD, a leading agribusiness and food company which reported \$2.4 billion in profit in 2010; this company has strong ties to Wall Street. This is but one example of Wall Street's corporate attack on workers. The Oakland General Strike will demonstrate the wide-reaching implications of the Occupy

Wall Street movement. The entire world is fed up with the huge disparity of wealth caused by the present system. Now is the time that the people are doing something about it. The Oakland General Strike is a warning shot to the 1% — their wealth only exists because the 99% creates it for them."

The importance of the Port of Oakland shutdown was that it linked up labor, the community and Occupy Oakland in a strategic action at the point of production. Not only was the Port of Oakland shutdown impacting the movement of cargo in the Pacific Rim, it also disrupted rail schedules, trucking scheduling and "just in time delivery" services for companies such as Wal-Mart, on Nov. 2.

The labor movement must take a leading role in building a broad-based, working-class movement that challenges corporate rule and power by putting forward a people's agenda.

The Nov. 2 General Strike and Day of Mass Action in Oakland was more than just a day of protest against corporate rule, power and police repression. It was a day of resistance interrupting the flow of commerce, and the closure of banks and the Port. It sets the example for other Occupy movements throughout the country to follow. The General Assembly of Occupy Dallas has already called for a Dallas General Strike on Nov. 30.

Thomas is an International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 Executive Board member and national co-chair of the Million Worker March Movement. For the complete text of his statement, go to workers.org.

Occupied

shows that Harvard may bring in students from the 99%, but its research and education are geared to produce mostly what Wall Street wants. The Business and Law schools dominate Harvard and lead it in Wall Street's direction.

It has been pointed out by faculty that if Harvard were to be used for the good of the 99%, many major crises in the world, especially around health care and the AIDS epidemic, would be closer to eradication.

Reflecting the strength of the occupation, hundreds of custodians, led by International President Mary Kay Henry and with support from students and other unions, have voted to strike Harvard if the administration continues its austerity attack during contract negotiations.

Ed Childs is a chief steward with UNITE-HERE Local 26.

Curfew



OAKLAND, BERKELEY

Activists defy shutdowns

Occupy Oakland was temporarily shut down on Nov. 14 after being served eviction notices by the police, as instructed by Mayor Jean Quan. Activists defied the shutdown by marching back to Oscar Grant Plaza, site of Occupy Oakland, where a general assembly was held. The shooting death of a young Black man, which occurred near OGP, was cited as the rea-

son for the eviction. Occupy Oakland had called on union sisters and brothers to start a picket line around the camp Nov. 13 to show solidarity with the encampment and discourage any police attack.

Occupy Oakland had a march led by veterans on Nov. 11. Another march the next day was in solidarity with Cairo and Tahrir Square as part of an international solidarity day with Egypt. People from Tahrir Square had sent solidarity messages to Occupy Oakland after the brutal police attack on Oct. 25.

A march and rally are being planned

for Nov. 19 as a follow-up to last week's successful shutdown of the Oakland port. The demands are centered on meeting people's needs, particularly jobs, housing, education and health care. It is being jointly planned with a number of local union representatives.

The Occupy Berkeley encampment was brutally raided by the police on Nov. 9. The students have responded with a call for an open university general strike on Nov. 15. Classes will be held outside along with teach-outs and interactivism.

— Report and photo by Terri Kay

ITALY, GREECE

Bankers' coup puts anti-worker 'technocrats' in charge

By John Catalinotto

Thousands booed rightist billionaire and media magnate Silvio Berlusconi following his resignation as Italy's prime minister on Nov. 11. A week earlier, Prime Minister George Papandreou, whose popular support plummeted after he agreed to austerity measures, was forced to resign from the leadership of Greece, ending a political dynasty that had lasted for three generations.

These powerful politicians were pushed out of office not by popular upheaval, however, but by order of the imperialist banks that dominate Europe and the United States. They had shown they were incapable of executing austerity measures that the bankers needed in order to make the working class pay all the costs of the financial crisis.

The so-called technocrats named to form new governments in both countries will be even more under the thumb of finance capital than billionaire Berlusconi and the compliant Papandreou. The technocrats' task is to impose austerity measures that will cut workers' social benefits and wages as they allow the payment of usurious interest rates to these same banks.

Power of finance capital

In the Nov. 3 Workers World, Deirdre Griswold wrote that researchers in Zurich, Switzerland, had done an analysis

using a powerful computer database with information on millions of global financial transactions. The analysis showed that "a mere 147 companies controlled nearly 40 percent of the monetary value of all transnational corporations," thus placing the world capitalist economy in the hands of fewer financiers than ever.

This concentration brings with it political power. Look at who the replacement prime ministers are.

In Greece, it's Lukos Papademos. Educated in the U.S., he was a governor of the Bank of Greece from 1994 to 2002 and vice president of the European Central Bank from 2002 to 2010.

In Italy, it's Mario Monti, an economist and former member of the European Commission. Like most "technocrats" brought in during these kinds of crises, he has a reputation of being "honest." That means he has not been caught stealing from his banker bosses.

Papademos and Monti are both members of the Trilateral Commission, which U.S. banker David Rockefeller founded in 1973 for discussions among leaders of the imperialist U.S., Western Europe and Japan, and the Bilderberg Group, which organizes an annual conference of about 140 business and political leaders of North America and Western Europe.

Their membership in these elite and exclusive groups shows that both are ac-

ceptable to banking circles in both Europe and the U.S. Neither has a popular political following in the countries they will lead — more proof that the imperialist ruling class has little use for even formal democracy when it comes to the really big questions, like paying interest to the banks.

With the crisis so severe, the imperialist bankers put their own employees in government office, rather than a slightly less reliable politician. These unelected governments plan to pass austerity plans that — if not resisted — will inflict pain on the working class for at least the next 10 years.

As November began, Papandreou had raised the possibility that Greece would hold a referendum to consult the Greek people on the austerity agreement he had made with the French and German leaders. This provoked an apoplectic response from the Euro heads. They screamed, "No, no, no!" Papandreou withdrew the referendum and was on his way out.

Big Lie obscures cause of crisis

The corporate media, not just in Europe but in the U.S., have promoted a Big Lie to explain the Euro crisis. But the crisis is not the fault of "lazy workers" in the Mediterranean countries (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece) nor of high spending on social services in those countries. The capitalists and their pundits promote this lie in an attempt to divide the workers of northern from southern Europe while attacking all social benefits, including health care, pensions and even education.

The world capitalist downturn that began with the bursting of the housing bubble in the U.S. in 2007 and the financial near-collapse in the fall of 2008 caused an economic downturn throughout Europe. It hurt the economies of Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy more than those of Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

The banks started charging higher interest rates for loans to countries with the weaker economies, claiming that the risk of default was greater there. The big banks in France and Germany saw these loans as a source of higher profit, and counted on a bailout if default loomed. The U.S. investment firm Goldman Sachs got in on the deal too, creating investment instru-

ments that hid the extent of Greek debt.

By 2009, Greece had to agree to an austerity plan that the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund — now called "the Troika" — imposed on it. The result was layoffs, as cuts in spending led to closed schools and hospitals, a new recession and an unemployment rate now more than 16 percent. By this fall, default loomed again.

Not only the European banks but also Greece's own banks and capitalists were responsible. Besides avoiding taxes, in the last few years 2,000 businesses that had been located in Greece moved to Bulgaria, where labor costs were one-quarter that in Greece. Another 800 will leave in 2011. That's how the capitalist market rules.

No one expects the world economy to suddenly have a major upsurge, certainly not one that reverses unemployment.

Should Italy, whose economy is seven times as large as Greece's, fail to pay the debt, this would have a much larger impact on the big imperialist banks, on the eurozone and on the European Union's future. Accordingly, news of Italy is starting to dominate the media, which had been focused on Greece.

Workers' fightback

Resistance to this new assault on the working class is the order of the day in both countries. In Greece, where the workers' resistance has been at a higher level than elsewhere in Europe, there have been dozens of general strikes and demonstrations over the past two years.

These forces — which mainly follow the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) and the union federation PAME — have already rallied against the new "national unity" bankers' regime, made up of Papandreou's PASOK party, the rightist New Democracy and the small, fascist-like Laos Party.

Of the parties in Parliament, only the KKE and the more reformist left grouping, Syriza, have refused to join the government.

In Italy, the severe austerity is just beginning. The new planned belt-tightening will cause more unemployment as well as a loss of social services. Resistance can be expected. □

Portuguese workers protest cuts

Warming up for a general strike on Nov. 24, workers held two great and combative demonstrations in Lisbon, Portugal, on Nov. 12. They were protesting the same Europe-wide capitalist offensive that in Italy and Greece has taken the form of installing banker-led governments. More than 180,000 teachers, along with local and central government workers of all kinds, marched down the main boulevard one day after the Assembly approved most of a brutal new anti-worker national budget. In addition, some 10,000 troops, and non-commissioned and commissioned officers marched from Rossio Square in downtown Lisbon to the Ministry of Fi-



nance making similar demands against cutbacks and expressing a determination to defend the Portuguese Constitution. (www.pcp.pt)

— John Catalinotto

U.S.-inspired report foments war against Iran

By Gene Clancy

Under the cover of a bogus report by a United Nations agency, the U.S. and its allies are laying the groundwork for an armed attack on Iran. The agency in question, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is supposed to be a neutral investigator of nuclear development around the world. But it has failed to live up to its responsibilities, becoming instead a tool for imperialist aggression.

The IAEA report, released on Nov. 8, purports to show that "Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear device" despite the government's constant assertions to the contrary. (IAEA.org)

According to the New York Times, the document presents "new evidence" and constitutes "the harshest judgment that the [IAEA] has ever issued" with regard to the Iranian nuclear program. (Nov. 9)

The document is being used by the U.S. and its allies to threaten all-out war.

Weeks before the report was released, the U.S. and Israel were threatening a military strike as a direct response to the supposedly secret document.

The use of such a report as a pretext for war is preposterous on its face. The U.S. has more than 10,000 nuclear weapons; Israel has an estimated 300. Iran has none. The U.S. remains the only country in the world that has actually used nuclear weapons. Both the U.S. and Israel have a long history of invading and occupying other countries.

Beginning in late October, Israeli media began widely speculating that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was heavily lobbying for military strikes against Iran's nuclear sites.

On Nov. 2, Israel test-fired a missile said to be capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and reaching Iranian territory.

Britain and the U.S. reportedly stepped up contingency planning for potential military action against Iran.

These developments followed widely

challenged U.S. allegations of an Iranian plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the U.S. Meanwhile, the Pentagon was hard at work strengthening its military alliance with Persian Gulf states that, together with U.S.-occupied Iraq and Afghanistan, form a military semicircle around Iran.

Fraudulent document from a biased agency

A close look at the latest IAEA report reveals that it is manifestly not true. Rather it is a biased rehash of old charges with very little factual support.

Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, called the new report "a historic mistake" by IAEA chief Yukiya Amano. Iran had already "removed any ambiguity whatsoever," Soltanieh said, making the issues detailed in the report "obsolete and repetitive."

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also slammed the report. "This nation won't retreat one iota from the path it is going," Ahmadinejad told thousands of people in Shahr-e-Kord in central Iran. "Why are you

ruining the prestige of the [U.N. nuclear] agency for absurd U.S. claims?" (AP, Nov. 9)

Iranian officials are not the only ones to question the report. Robert Kelly is a nuclear scientist and a former director and inspector for the IAEA. "It's very thin, I thought there would be a lot more there," said Kelley about the most recent report. "It's certainly old news; it's really quite stunning how little new information is in there." (Christian Science Monitor, Nov. 9)

It appears that the IAEA decided to issue a biased report in conjunction with an escalation of U.S. and Israeli war plans. Why would an international agency do this?

The answer may lie in its director, Yukiya Amano, a former Japanese diplomat who in 2009 took over as head of the U.N. agency from Mohamed ElBaradei, an Egyptian national. Secret documents released by Wikileaks reveal that U.S. diplomats described him as "director general of all states, but in agreement with us." (The Guardian, Nov. 30, 2010)

Continued on page 9

U.S. & French air strikes raise human toll in Somalia

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

United States and French military involvement in Africa is taking a deadly toll in the country of Somalia. Despite Washington's denials, the people of this nation are suffering under the impact of yet another imperialist-driven war.

Kenyan army units crossed over into southern Somalia in October in an operation aimed at eliminating the bases of the Al-Shabaab Islamic resistance movement, which controls large sections of this Horn of Africa nation.

French military spokesperson Col. Thierry Burkhard confirmed recently that Paris was flying in airborne equipment to reinforce the Kenyan soldiers. France in recent months has been involved in overthrowing the government of Ivory Coast, regime change in Libya and curbing "piracy" in the Gulf of Guinea off West Africa.

The Somalia conflict is part of ongoing campaigns by the Pentagon and NATO to secure large sections of Africa that have strategic value to U.S. and European imperialism. The White House has justified its aggression by labeling Al-Shabaab a

"terrorist organization" affiliated with Al-Qaeda. Two U.S. administrations have armed and financed the so-called African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), which has 9,000 troops in Mogadishu protecting a Washington-backed regime.

U.S. drones massacre Somali civilians

Daily drone attacks in Somalia have reportedly resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths in recent weeks. Press TV reported that "79 more people have been killed in U.S. assassination drone attacks in southern Somalia, bringing the deaths to 146 over the past two days. The U.S. military launched terror drone attacks on Bilis Qooqaani town, which is located 278 miles southwest of the Somali capital Mogadishu." (Nov. 11)

In addition, on Nov. 11, a French military helicopter crashed near the southern port city of Kismayo, killing nine people. The military chopper went down while providing cover for Kenyan military units attacking Al-Shabaab bases in the vicinity.

These increased air strikes in Somalia are related to deployment of U.S. personnel and weapons in the Horn of Africa, North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Drones are being launched in at least five other countries in these regions.

The Washington Post reported on Oct. 27 that the U.S. "has been secretly flying Reaper drones from a remote civilian airport in southern Ethiopia," spending "millions of dollars to update an airfield in Arba Minch. ... The Reapers began flying missions earlier this year over neighboring Somalia." The Pentagon has denied that the drones are armed, saying they are being used only for surveillance, but the Post article adds that the pilotless planes "can be equipped with Hellfire missiles and satellite-guided bombs."

Despite the massacres carried out by Washington in Somalia, the Al-Shabaab fighters have continued to launch operations against the Kenyan military forces. On Nov. 11, the Islamic resistance movement said it had killed 30 Kenyan troops and six military trucks in an ambush of a military convoy.

Israel is also getting into the war, and will be participating with Kenya in "intensified offensives inside neighboring Somalia." (Press TV, Nov. 14)

This further militarization of southern Somalia coincides with the spread of chol-

era in the areas of Jilib Town and Hoomboy, where 81 people have died from the waterborne disease. Somali physicians reported that within a 24-hour period starting Nov. 12, 670 children entered medical centers in Mareerey northeast of Jilib.

These areas have been severely impacted by flooding as well. River waters have rushed into districts near Jilib, destroying hundreds of homes. Doctors report increased cases of malaria as well due to the Juba and Shabelle rivers overflowing into many districts.

The AMISOM forces, composed of 9,000 troops from the U.S.-backed regimes of Uganda and Burundi, are working to prop up Somalia's Transitional Federal Government and its military and police. On Nov. 12, a grenade hit patrolling pro-TFG soldiers in Mogadishu, killing at least six.

Also in the North Mogadishu district of Huriwa, Al-Shabaab was reported to have killed 20 soldiers from TFG units in an exchange of mortar fire. In other fighting in the Dayniile district at least 14 civilians died after the shelling of a residential area from an unknown source.

The human toll from yet another imperialist-sponsored war in Africa grows daily. □

After widespread bombing of Libya

U.S./NATO scramble over the spoils

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The U.S./NATO war against the North African oil-producing state of Libya has destroyed the continent's most prosperous country. The extensive dismantling of the infrastructure and theft of the people's wealth are becoming clearer as Libyans seek redress for imperialism's crimes.

Responding to the revelations of war crimes, NATO leaders are refusing to acknowledge the unjust acts of dislocation and mass murder. Although the imperialists claimed to "protect" civilians, airstrikes killed and injured many. A bombing raid in June in Suq Juma hit a home, killing five people, although officials said it struck a military barracks. NATO finally admitted hitting the residence, but they refused to accept responsibility for the deaths.

One released U.S. document read in part: "Amano reminded [the] ambassador on several occasions that he would need to make concessions to the G-77 [the developing countries group], which correctly required him to be fair-minded and independent, but that he was solidly in the U.S. court on every key strategic decision, from high-level personnel appointments to the handling of Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program." (Guardian, Nov. 30, 2010)

While director of the IAEA, ElBaradei was sometimes at loggerheads with the U.S., particularly in the buildup to the war against Iraq. Following his service in the IAEA, he went on to participate in the Egyptian revolution that overthrew U.S.-client Hosni Mubarak.

By contrast, Amano "distinguished" himself by participating in the Japanese government's highly criticized handling of the Fukushima nuclear accident.

It is important that peace-loving people around the world resist the efforts of U.S. and Israeli imperialism to foment war against Iran. □

The Royal United Services Institute, a British think tank, claims only 100 people died from all U.S./NATO airstrikes since March 19, but Moammar Gadhafi's government asserted that thousands of civilians died.

Britain, a leading NATO country involved in this war, will profit immensely. Press TV stated that Britain could make "profits of up to 200 billion [pounds] gained from contracts to put Libya together ... [and] had made an excellent investment by spending nearly 300 million [pounds] bombing Libya." (Nov. 14)

British Defense Secretary Philip Hammond noted, "Libya is a relatively wealthy country with oil reserves. ... [T]here will be opportunities for British ... [and] other companies to get involved in the reconstruction of Libya."

John Pilger, London-based journalist, said, "The West is establishing another client in Libya. Libya [has] more oil than any other country in Africa, including Nigeria. The National Transitional Council told the French that if they sent in their airplanes they would give Total 35 percent of the oil reserves. There's so much evidence for what this thing really is."

NTC leaders target loyalist forces

The NTC regime is persecuting members of Gadhafi's government. U.S. lawyer Franklin Lamb writes that "disappearance squads" are targeting "family members ... associates, even former domestic employees ... and household staff of former regime affiliates. ... Torture has become the ... means to elicit" the locations of Gadhafi supporters. (Hamsayeh.net, Nov. 13)

Exposure of these crimes against the Libyan people will make it harder to claim that the NTC rebels are building a so-called "democratic" government. Some worry they will be targeted by international bodies for torture and targeted assassinations. This is why the NTC rebels want Gadhafi's supporters captured, killed or forced out of the country.

Lamb wrote that NTC members are approaching Western lawyers who are helping victims of NATO crimes in Libya about possible International Criminal Court prosecution. He said this is why "rumors that Seif al-Islam [will] surrender to the ICC are false. Seif is being advised to wait ... because the ICC case will collapse as more facts of NATO crimes surface."

NTC regime begins to unravel

After imperialist leaders promoted Interim Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril to lead Libya's neocolonial regime, he resigned. According to the Hamsayeh.net report, Jibril claims he opposed Gadhafi's assassination and that he wanted him alive to stand trial inside the country.

After his resignation, Jibril said that "a third party, maybe a state or a president or leader wanted Gadhafi killed" so he couldn't reveal secrets.

Jibril, a U.S.-educated former professor, traveled to Europe to encourage the Gadhafi government's overthrow. He now says that Gadhafi was "killed based on a request by a ... foreign power." (Bloomberg, Nov. 15)

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was in Libya two days before Gadhafi's assassination. She told NTC officials and the corporate media that he should be captured or killed. After his lynching on Oct. 20, Clinton claimed to be surprised that he was executed, saying there should be an investigation into his death.

Jibril said foreign powers have designs on exploiting Libya's wealth. He said this includes the Gulf monarchy of Qatar, a staunch U.S. ally. Qatari Special Forces participated in the war, and they are part of a new imperialist-backed alliance, the "Friends of Libya." It will replace NATO as the occupying force, since the military alliance's mission ended on Oct. 31.

Jibril's resignation comes amid escalating conflicts within the NTC rebel forces. Shoot-outs in and near Tripoli between rival militia groups have killed many. During the second week of November, more

than 12 NTC rebels were reportedly killed in internecine conflicts.

Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, NTC leader, openly admitted that he is incapable of disarming the militias.

Africa alarmed by events in Libya

The U.S./NATO war, with its massive bombings in Libya, and the NTC terror assaults on governmental officials and civilians have troubled most African leaders. The African Union opposed the war. A.U. attempts to reach a negotiated settlement were rejected by the NTC and its imperialist supporters.

Writer Peter Dyer noted, "The United States, the United Kingdom and France engineered a 'humanitarian' intervention that was in reality an unprovoked act of war against a sovereign state. ... [T]hey invoked the United Nations Charter in order to violate it." (consortiumnews.com, Nov. 11)

Three weeks after the U.S./NATO bombing began, Libya accepted the A.U. peace plan. The imperialists and their allies in the country rebuffed it. It was falsely claimed that Gadhafi's government opposed a ceasefire.

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki said, "[T]hose who have sought to manufacture a particular outcome out of the conflict in Libya have propagated a poisonous canard aimed at discrediting African and A.U. opposition to the Libyan debacle." (SAPA, Nov. 8)

Mbeki stressed, "The A.U. ... adopted a roadmap for the negotiated resolution of the conflict in Libya. ... [T]he Security Council ignored the A.U. decision and later blocked the A.U. Panel on Libya from flying into the country to [mediate] a peaceful resolution."

Reflecting on this imperialist intervention on the continent, Mbeki noted, "Libya is an African country. ... [I]n terms of international peace and security, the conflict in that country has impacted and will continue to impact directly and negatively on a number of African countries." □

WORKERS WORLD statement

End police attacks everywhere Defend Occupy Wall Street!

Continued from page 1

unions in New York who are gathering downtown in what will undoubtedly be another moment of truth for our movement. It is urgent that tens of thousands show Bloomberg and company that when they use cops and clubs, even more of the millions of OWS sympathizers join the active resistance.

The mostly young people who gathered in Zuccotti Park on Sept. 17 created something new and fresh, an uncanny form of resistance. At last. Resistance to 30 years of unrelenting class war. A one-sided war waged by the very rich against working people, unemployed and poor, and especially against people of color, who still face racism and historical discrimination as well as exploitation.

Unionists, politically left people, anti-war activists began to visit the encampments. Many joined in or found ways to show support. If you had been looking for a fightback — here it was. And when Bloomberg first unleashed his cops on Brooklyn Bridge, arresting 700 people, and OWS came back strong, those looking said to themselves: “It’s finally happening.”

OWS spread to a thousand cities and towns. Hundreds of encampments were set up. “Mic checks” and general assemblies became part of popular culture. OWS opened up a space for struggle.

Everyone — from a foreclosed homeowner to neighborhood youths protesting “stop and frisk,” to anarchists waving a black flag, to immigrants fighting for papers, to unionists tired of shrinking membership, to Marxists agitating for the end of capitalism — can come to-

gether in this embryonic united front and fight the 1 percent who rule us all.

OWS opened not only a physical space, but an area of political thought away from the frozen, anti-working class debate among the Democratic and Republican Party professionals and the Tea Party ideologues, all pro-capitalist and one more reactionary than the other. Even the electoral arena showed the changing mood, with defeats handed to the right-wing in Ohio, Mississippi and Arizona.

There were other steps forward. Occupy Atlanta renamed its space “Troy Davis Park” after the recent innocent victim of the death penalty in Georgia. Occupy Oakland named theirs after Oscar Grant, the Black youth killed by a transit cop in 2009. Our movement was beginning to orient more toward the most oppressed sectors of the population, and was stronger for it.

Then there was Oakland’s general strike on Nov. 2, which responded to police violence by shutting down the port for a day. How important to underline the central role of the exploited working class in capitalist society.

Now the focus is back on Wall Street itself and the new brutal attack on OWS. There are tens of millions here who want this movement to grow, because they know in their bones that the old capitalist society is trapped in a dead end and that we must begin to fight our way out.

For us Marxists, the way out is the struggle for socialism. We’re ready to debate that question at any OWS encampment. But on Nov. 17, let’s all get out in the streets and defend our movement. Defend Occupy Wall Street! □

MUNDO OBRERO

Movimiento de Ocupar para Empleos

Continua de Página 12

la Asamblea del Pueblo tuviera lugar en el Colegio de Hostos, el sitio de una ocupación histórica en 1976. Ramón Jiménez, fundador del Congreso Comunitario del Sur del Bronx y participante de la ocupación, dijo que los/as estudiantes ocuparon la escuela por 20 días cuando la ciudad anunció que iba a cerrarla. Ellos/as ganaron la batalla al mantener abierto el colegio. “Ocurrió porque la gente luchó, combatió y ocupó”, dijo Jiménez.

Durante la reunión, muchas personas señalaron las luchas que están ocurriendo en este momento. Aminifu Williams, un líder de la Organización del Pueblo para el Progreso, reportó que su grupo se ha manifestado en el Centro de Newark por 130 días consecutivos exigiendo un programa nacional de empleos como el de la Administración de Proyectos para Trabajos (WPA). Lanzado por la administración de Franklin D. Roosevelt, el programa de la WPA puso a millones de personas a trabajar en la construcción de edificios, carreteras, puentes y escuelas, así como en proyectos de arte y literatura.

El Grupo de Desempleados de Ocupar Wall Street marchó hacia estaciones

del tren subterráneo el 28 de octubre para exigir que la Autoridad de Tránsito Metropolitano provea pasajes gratis a los/as desempleados/as. Y Ocupar Latinoamérica, que es parte de Ocupar Wall Street en Español, tendrá una marcha el 20 de noviembre que se enfocará en los derechos de las mujeres. Y el Grupo Trabajando por los Derechos de Inmigrantes de OWS está planeando una manifestación en el Parque Zuccotti que se enfocará en los derechos de inmigrantes.

Los/as firmantes iniciales del llamado a una Red de Ocupar para Empleos incluyen el Movimiento pro Rescate del Pueblo; Frantz Méndez, presidente de Trabajadores del Acero Local 8751 de los Choferes de Autobuses Escolares de Boston; Chris Silvera, secretario-tesorero, Teamsters Local 808; Cynthia McKinney, ex congresista; Teresa Gutiérrez, coordinadora de la Coalición Primero de Mayo por los Derechos de Trabajadores/as e Inmigrantes; Larry Adams, vicepresidente, Organización del Pueblo para el Progreso y ex-presidente del National Postal Mail Handlers Local 300; Clarence Thomas, ILWU Local 10, y el Rvdo. C.D. Witherspoon, presidente de SCLC de Baltimore. □

OCCUPY SYRACUSE

Vets say no to war

In rainy darkness, sleet and snow, Occupy Syracuse marked Veterans Day with a march through downtown Syracuse.

More than 70 people chanted past City Hall, the State Office Building and Verizon headquarters, in solidarity with negotiating workers there. The main focus of the march was the impact of the economic crisis and U.S. wars on veterans. One protester’s sign pointed out that 23 percent of U.S. homeless people are veterans. Another sign noted, “Tonight there will be 107,000 homeless veterans in the U.S.” The Veterans for Peace flag flew throughout the march.

One veteran wore her combat fatigues — her name sewn on the front pocket. On the back of her uniform, she had attached a fabric sign reading: “My enemies are not in: Iran, Venezuela, Syria, Palestine, Cuba, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya.”

The protest ended by marching past the Onondaga County War Memorial Auditorium, its walls engraved with sites of U.S. imperialist warfare around the world.



People lined up to attend a sporting event there erupted into cheers and joined in the chant, “We are the 99 percent!”

— Report and photo
by Minnie Bruce Pratt

OCCUPY ATLANTA

Veterans expose Bank of America scam

On Nov. 11, Occupy Atlanta served a hearty meal in Troy Davis Park to veterans, most of them homeless. Several of the most active participants here are former military members, from the Viet-

nam War-era to recently returned Iraq and Afghanistan vets. After a speak-out at which veterans talked about their experiences fighting in imperialist wars — how they were misled then and continue now to be given false promises of health care, education, job training and other benefits — Occupy Atlanta took to the streets.

The target was a nearby Bank of America. BOA is among the banks which had been overcharging military members and their families with hidden and illegal fees in an egregious scam involving home refinancing. Although the bank was closed for the holiday, the protest “closed” it in the name of the people by swinging shut the big metal gates that adorn the imposing entrance and double-locking them. Over the Bank of America sign high atop the doorway, a banner read “Foreclosed.” The message was repeated in large letters on a sheet covering the now-secured gates, “We the People Foreclose.”

— Dianne Mathiowetz

A NEW PAMPHLET



www.LowWageCapitalism.com

Voters trash anti-union

Continued from page 3

on the ballot, so workers could vote to overturn it. This was no small undertaking. While Ohio’s Constitution allows legislation to be placed on the ballot as a referendum, requirements are steep. Not only did unions need to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures, they had to have a certain number of them from at least half of Ohio’s 88 counties — most of which are rural. Several years ago, the United Auto Workers led a drive for a referendum on a bill attacking workers’ compensation. While union volunteers collected well over the number of signatures required, the state ruled that an insufficient number of them were registered voters.

This time the whole labor movement mobilized. Thousands of people across the state volunteered. The AFL-CIO was overwhelmed trying to fit them all into the

training meetings that were set up.

In the end, 1.3 million signatures were turned in. The 44-county requirement was more than met. Unions were jubilant over the prospect of doing what they had been calling for in Columbus, Madison and all over: “Kill that bill!” SB5 would be on the ballot as Issue 2.

“No on 2” yard signs popped up everywhere, and mailboxes were flooded with leaflets urging the same. No one does phone-banking better than the labor movement, but this was an extraordinary effort, with volunteers from across the country calling Ohio voters.

The voter turnout, 46 percent, was the largest in an “off” year — one with no national elections — since 1991. The tally was 61 percent against Issue 2, with only two counties voting in favor.

The mood was beyond celebratory when the results became clear. “We all

An important contribution of Sam Marcy

Excerpts taken from a talk given by Workers World Party Secretariat member, Monica Moorehead, at the WWP Oct. 8-9 National Conference in New York City. Go to www.workers.org for the podcast.

For those of us who have been in Workers World Party for 25 years and more, Sam Marcy has left an indelible impact on our lives as communist organizers. What has kept many of us in the Party has been the revolutionary vision and optimism of Sam Marcy, as well as other founding members like Dorothy Ballan and Vince Copeland.

Sam was a Marxist theoretician on the highest level, with objective, revolutionary interpretations of the writings of Marx, Lenin, Engels and Trotsky. Sam not only viewed Marxism as a tool to explain a historical or existing development at home or abroad, but he was also so brilliant in anticipating economic and political events because his general analysis was always on target. Sam was big on anticipating world events and finding an appropriate way to respond to them.

Sam wrote "Perestroika" in anticipation of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp 20 years ago. This collapse played itself out as a counterrevolution. And while many world struggles and movements were either decimated or put on the defensive by this development, because of Sam's foresight, our Party was not caught off guard and therefore did not

succumb to this devastating world assault on Marxism.

Sam also anticipated the capitalist restructuring of the economy and its social impact, outlined in his important book, "High Tech, Low Pay." This book, produced in 1985-1986, helped to lay the foundation for Fred Goldstein's book, "Low-Wage Capitalism," before the big outbreak of this unprecedented global capitalist economic crisis

Impact of Occupy Wall Street

Occupy Wall Street is breaking the mood of pessimism and paralysis that the workers and the movement have been suffering from for a number of years. OWS has ignited a spark around the country in large and small cities, urban and rural areas.

Would Sam have been shocked by the OWS phenomenon? No. Sam understood that youth have historically lit a fire under many significant struggles coming out of periods of reaction — the Vietnam war, the civil rights movement, the Black Panthers, the Young Lords, budget cuts and austerity. The big difference between those periods and now is the devastating economic crisis.

The workers didn't really show any signs of life in those previous epochs because their standards of living were relatively stable and high, but now, due to the global financial crisis, there has been a dramatic qualitative change. While the destruction of PATCO began a long period of defensive struggles for the trade union movement, Occupy Wall Street has



Monica Moorehead

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

the potential of helping the trade unions to go on the offensive, that is, to take on political struggles.

Sam would have been the first to say that youth's idealism is just the first step forward. That it isn't enough to hate the symbols of capitalism like Wall Street, but also necessary to understand why capitalism as a system can't be reformed and must be eradicated root and branch. Class consciousness means understanding due to special oppressions, especially national oppression. We aren't all equal. Sam would encourage these youth in motion to reach

out in a genuine way to Black, Brown, Arab, Indigenous and Asian youth, who face daily racist economic and political repression. While some of the OWS activists were out on the streets with us trying to save Troy Davis' life, the struggle has to be generalized to ending the racist death penalty for all, not just for Troy Davis.

Sam would be heartened to know that Occupy Wall Street has created openings for some of the most revolutionary class conscious forces among Black trade unionists, like TWU 100, or the Haitian movement to raising their demands in an effort to building anti-capitalist alliances. Sam viewed national liberation struggles, especially self-determination, central to the anti-capitalist, pro-socialist perspective.

Sam Marcy not only talked the talk, but he walked the walk. He believed in taking bold initiatives even when the movement and organizations weren't ready for them or even when it may have been premature. But Sam believed that when it came to the struggle, sometimes you can't play it safe. Because even if it turns out not to be successful, then how do you expect to learn from your mistakes. The time is now to do everything we can to support OWS, with all its imperfections! The time is now to put aside any political differences with other forces to build a socialist front of unity! The time is now to prepare to meet the challenges before us in new bold ways! The time is now to anticipate — like Sam Marcy — dare to struggle, dare to win! Build a Workers World! □



Steve Millies

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Excerpts taken from a talk by Steve Millies, railway worker and Workers World writer, at the Oct. 8-9, 2011, Workers World Party National Conference. Go to www.workers.org for the podcast.

The war against Black workers

The billionaire class has been on an offensive against workers and oppressed people for over 30 years. These parasites were finally able to overthrow the Soviet Union in 1991, a terrible defeat for every poor person on the planet.

This political reaction has included a fantastic drop in the number of strikes in the United States.

In 1974, there were 424 strikes involving at least a thousand workers. Thirty-five years later, in 2009, there were just five of these strikes in a country with over 300 million people.

We haven't been defeated on the battlefield. The capitalist class — through its ownership of the means of production — used the scientific-technological revolution to take so many of our battlefields away.

Thousands of strongholds of our class in basic industry and transportation have been destroyed.

This deliberate deindustrialization has been aimed at Black workers. Big capital wanted to end their dependence on Black labor.

Forty years ago, a quarter of the workers in the steel mills and auto plants were African-American.

Comrade Sam Marcy wrote about this capitalist agenda 30 years ago in a remarkable article entitled, "Lynch law in Buffalo, From the Erie Canal to the St. Lawrence Seaway."

It was written in 1980, after six Black men were lynched in Buffalo.

"The ruling class now looks at the Black population differently," Marcy wrote, "than it did in the days of the Underground Railroad, when it saw in the anti-slavery struggle a source of cheap labor. It now dares look upon the Black workers in particular as a surplus population, along with white workers and unemployed. It looks upon them with disdain, as a drain on their government budget, as a drag on their system, and as a dangerous source of social convulsions."

Yet Black workers continue to be the backbone of the labor movement. They've been joined by millions of Latina and Latino, Asian and immigrant workers who've revived May Day in the country where the holiday was born.

High tech is a cesspool of discrimination. In 1999, just 7 percent of the workers in Silicon Valley were Latina or Latino, while only 4 percent were Black.

GM and Ford haven't forgotten how Black workers shook their plants in the 1960s and 1970s.

The highest organizational expression of the Black liberation struggle was the Black Panther Party and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers in Detroit.

Big capital's answer has been to build

virtually all the new auto plants away from large concentrations of Black workers ever since GM opened its Lordstown, Ohio, plant in 1968.

Thirty years ago racist Reagan broke the PATCO strike of air traffic controllers.

But the layoffs at Chrysler were worse. It was the conscious elimination of a predominately Black workforce that was the vanguard of the U.S. working class.

This was shown on July 24, 1973, when two Black workers — Larry Carter and Isaac Shorter — turned off the power at the Jefferson Avenue assembly plant in Detroit. This was the first big sit-down strike in 36 years.

Chrysler got rid of 35,000 workers in Detroit alone. From 1979 to 1982, Chrysler's entire workforce went from 70 percent African-American to 30 percent.

The capitalist class economically destroyed Detroit, just as it later let Black people drown and starve in New Orleans.

The wholesale destruction of heavy industry in the Midwest caused the median income of African Americans to drop by 36 percent between 1978 and 1982. A reverse migration began back to the South.

The firing of hundreds of thousands of Black workers in auto, steel and other unionized occupations has gone hand-in-hand with their wholesale incarceration.

The racist character of capitalist investment can be seen in Wisconsin. Between 1977 and 1992, 55,000 manufacturing jobs were destroyed in Milwaukee County. But the rest of the state, which with a few exceptions is overwhelmingly white, gained 66,000 of these factory jobs.

Today in Wisconsin, one out of 25 African Americans is in jail.

The answer to oppression is revolution. Cutting Social Security and Medicare will not be tolerated by the masses. The jobless will fight before they starve. We have to win people to see that a socialist revolution is the only solution. □

bill in Ohio

were very exuberant, like Cleveland had just won a championship like the World Series," said Schnur. "One thing we all learned is that if we pull together, we can win. But to continue the sports analogy, we all knew that the bosses were already planning for next season — the next attack on our class, the working class."

While the capitalists have more tricks up their sleeves, they are nervous about

the mood sweeping the country and the blow they took with the Ohio vote.

Workers were buoyant even before Nov. 8. "SB5, we hope the door hits you on the way out," a worker posted on Facebook. This Election Day, labor slammed the door on capital, giving a wallop to a posterior already bruised by Occupy Wall Street and the global working-class upsurge that shows no signs of letting up. □

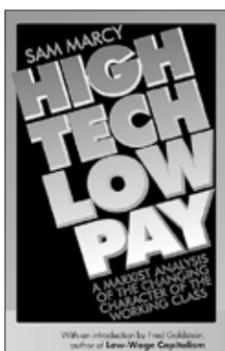
HIGH TECH, LOW PAY

A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

In 1986 Sam Marcy wrote that the scientific-technological revolution is accelerating a shift to lower-paying jobs and to more women, Black and Latino/a workers. Using Marxism as a living tool, he analyzes the trends and offers strategies for labor including the occupation of plants.

A new introduction by Fred Goldstein explains the need for a working-class resurgence.

Available at Amazon & bookstores around the country



Tras el asesinato del líder de las FARC La lucha continúa en Colombia

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Alfonso Cano, jefe de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército Popular (FARC-EP) fue muerto en combate el 4 de noviembre por el ejército colombiano en Cauca, región al suroeste del país. Durante varias horas ese día, decenas de helicópteros y aviones rodearon esta zona rural hogar de familias campesinas, y comenzaron a bombardear, destruyendo el lugar donde estaba el líder de las FARC.

La compañera de Cano, Patricia González y otro guerrillero responsable de las comunicaciones también fueron asesinados.

Según un video de Caracol Noticias, los militares habían estado siguiendo a Cano durante más de cinco años con la ayuda de Estados Unidos y tenían tropas infiltradas en la comunidad, además de interceptar llamadas de los/as compañeros/as más cercanos a Cano en un esfuerzo por rastrearlo.

TeleSUR tuvo una amplia cobertura de la masacre, informando que campesinos, algunos de cuyos hogares fueron bombardeados, estaban tratando de huir de los bombardeos que continuaron después de la muerte de Cano.

Alfonso Cano, comunista y líder de las FARC

Cano era el líder de las FARC, habiendo reemplazado al fundador de las FARC Manuel Marulanda en 2008 cuando este legendario guerrillero murió de causas naturales en la selva que lo albergó y donde luchó durante la mayor parte de su vida. En su juventud, Cano había estudiado derecho y antropología en la Universidad Nacional. Fue un militante del Partido Comunista Colombiano antes de unirse a las FARC.

Cano era uno de los fundadores del partido electoral Unión Patriótica (UP) en la década de 1980 cuando las FARC intentaron participar políticamente en la arena electoral durante una tregua en la



¡Compañero Alfonso Cano, ¡Presente!

guerra de guerrillas. Aunque la UP obtuvo muchas victorias políticas en las elecciones de 1986, los escuadrones de la muerte del estado colombiano asesinaron a más de 4.000 de sus miembros en los años siguientes, por lo que las FARC reanudaron la lucha guerrillera.

Bajo el liderazgo de Cano, las FARC reorientaron su estrategia para responder a los nuevos y feroces ataques contrainsurgentes promovidos por el Plan Colombia de Washington. Esto les recuperó terreno durante el período entre 2009 y 2011.

Muchos artículos e informes, incluyendo una declaración de la valiente ex senadora colombiana y activista por la paz, Piedad Córdoba, califican el asesinato de Cano como un serio golpe para el proceso de paz en ese atribulado país. El liderazgo de Cano ayudó a lograr la liberación de numerosas personas que el ejército guerrillero había retenido, con la esperanza de ganar la liberación de los muchos/as miembros de las FARC en cárceles de Colombia y Estados Unidos y una eventual negociación de paz que pondría fin al sufrimiento del pueblo colombiano.

El presidente colombiano Juan Manuel Santos, a quien los medios de comunicación han presentado como una figura más “moderada” en comparación con su predecesor paramilitar, Álvaro Uribe, es parte de la oligarquía y una figura guerrillera. Santos fue Ministro de Defensa de

Uribe y como tal dirigió la masacre en Sucre, en la frontera de Ecuador en el 2008 que mató al líder de las FARC Raúl Reyes, a otros miembros de las FARC, y a cuatro estudiantes mexicanos que visitaban el campamento para un estudio de investigación.

Bajo su ministerio fue iniciado el fraude de los “falsos positivos”. Los cuerpos de jóvenes mayormente, asesinados por el ejército eran luego vestidos como guerrilleros. El régimen de entonces afirmaba que los militares habían matado a “guerrilleros en combate”. Crímenes que aún permanecen impunes.

Santos afirma que trabaja por la paz. Pero en lugar de entablar negociaciones con las fuerzas insurgentes de las FARC y el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), él declara que “acabando la cabeza, termina el monstruo”. Así pretende poner fin al conflicto armado, asesinando a los líderes insurgentes.

Las FARC-EP continúan su lucha

Santos ha calculado mal la profundidad de las FARC. Ya han sido asesinados varios líderes de las FARC, Reyes, Iván Ríos, Jorge Briceño (el Mono Jojoy) y el histórico líder Marulanda, quien murió por causas naturales, y sin embargo, la lucha guerrillera ha continuado con otros líderes que asumieron la dirección. No hay ninguna razón para creer que esta vez sería diferente.

Las fuerzas beligerantes revolucionarias nacen fruto de las condiciones de extrema desigualdad e injusticia. No son terroristas, aisladas del pueblo; sino que se mantienen por las aspiraciones de un pueblo a ser libre y desarrollar su propio destino. Y como tal, tienen eco en los sectores más pobres de la nación.

En un artículo de José Antonio Gutiérrez el 14 de octubre, titulado “Santos: luz verde para la guerra sucia en Colombia”, el autor explica que los terratenientes ricos tienen intereses creados en mantener viva la guerra contra la insurgencia. Utilizan a los paramilitares para aterrorizar a

las comunidades a fin de reforzar su control sobre la tierra cuando los residentes huyen del terror de los paramilitares.

Gutiérrez cita un informe de la Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris (CNAI), una organización no gubernamental liderada por León Valencia, quien dice Gutiérrez que es cercano a Santos. Valencia incluso admite que “Paradójicamente, el que garantiza la propiedad a campesinos y colonos es un grupo armado ilegal –las FARC– y no el Estado”. (<http://anarkismo.net>)

Las FARC siguen reclutando. Están armadas. Conocen la selva. Si quisieran, podrían “escapar” y desmovilizarse como Santos ha demandado. Pero no lo han hecho. De hecho, su declaración pública tras la muerte de Cano fue: “No será esta la primera vez que los oprimidos y explotados de Colombia lloran a uno de sus grandes dirigentes. Ni tampoco la primera en que lo reemplazarán con el coraje y la convicción absoluta en la victoria. La paz en Colombia no nacerá de ninguna desmovilización guerrillera, sino de la abolición definitiva de las causas que dan nacimiento al alzamiento. Hay una política trazada y esa es la que se continuará”. (<http://www.abnnoticias.com>)

Ahora que el gobierno de Estados Unidos ha firmado el Acuerdo de Libre Comercio a pesar de los terribles abusos de los derechos humanos en Colombia, incluido el asesinato de dirigentes sindicales y activistas sociales, es probable que la pobreza y la desigualdad extrema sólo vayan a aumentar. Movilizaciones de dirigentes sindicales y activistas sociales, indígenas y estudiantiles ya están haciendo titulares con un nuevo resurgimiento del activismo social.

La resistencia armada es un reflejo y forma parte de todo el movimiento que intenta formar una nueva realidad en beneficio de las masas colombianas, cada uno con sus propias formas de lucha, armados y desarmados, pero todos hacia el mismo objetivo: la paz y la justicia social y económica.

¡Compañero Alfonso Cano, ¡Presente!

EN ASAMBLEA DEL PUEBLO

Se inicia Movimiento de Ocupar para Empleos

Por Brenda Ryan
Bronx, N.Y.

Inspirados/as por el movimiento Ocupar Wall Street, decenas de activistas han lanzado una Red de Ocupar para Empleos para exigir un programa masivo de obras públicas que sea lo suficientemente amplio como para proveer empleos con sueldos sindicales para los/as más de 30 millones de trabajadores/as desempleados/as o subempleados/as en este país.

La red fue propuesta y adoptada en una Asamblea del Pueblo que tuvo lugar el 5 de noviembre en el Colegio Comunitario de Hostos en el sur del Bronx. El evento atrajo una cantidad multinacional de activistas de organizaciones en Nueva York y de otras ciudades. Activistas de Ocupar Wall Street, Ocupar el Bronx, Ocupar Filadelfia y Ocupar Boston estuvieron entre



MO FOTO: BRENDA RYAN

quienes entusiasmadamente acogieron la formación de una red para luchar por puestos de trabajo.

“Ocupar Wall Street ha abierto un espacio para que la gente pueda hacer otras cosas”, dijo Larry Holmes, fundador del Movimiento pro Rescate del Pueblo. “Es esencial abrir nuevos frentes y no hay frente más necesario que el de luchar por

puestos de trabajo. La cuestión subyacente es el desempleo a niveles de la Depresión”.

Ocupar para Empleos tiene la intención de ser una red nacional con afiliaciones locales que decidan sus prioridades y trabajen juntas para coordinar acciones nacionales. Durante el taller sobre la red, los/as asistentes adoptaron una propuesta para organizar acciones el fin de semana feriado de Martín Luther King del 14 al 16 de enero.

También coincidieron en hacer algo el 23 de noviembre, el día en que el Súper Comité del Congreso anunciará su propuesta de recortar por lo menos \$1,2 billones del presupuesto federal. Entre otras co-

sas, la Red de Ocupar para Empleos exigirá que no se cierren las miles de oficinas de correos lo cual significaría una pérdida de 250,000 empleos de trabajadores/as del servicio de correos.

Sharon Black, miembro del Congreso de Todos los Pueblos en Baltimore, dijo que la Red de Ocupar para Empleos hará todo lo que sea necesario para ampliar la lucha por puestos de trabajo para que sea eficaz.

“Si ellos cierran algún lugar de trabajo, ¿qué debemos hacer? ¡Ocupar! Si ellos tratan de cerrar las oficinas de correos, ¿qué debemos hacer? ¡Ocupar!” declaró ella. “Si ellos tratan de hacer algo en contra de los/as trabajadores/as, el resto de nosotros/as tenemos que unirnos y tomar acción”.

Fue especialmente significativo que
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