

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
SWP protests assaults on political rights at Evergreen State College
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Defense of nature, labor falls to the working class

BY TERRY EVANS

To howls from liberal politicians and pundits and feigned disappointment from imperialist rivals in Europe, President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement June 1.

COMMENTARY

Ratified by 147 governments, the stated aim of the accord is to cut carbon emissions — a by-product of burning fossil fuels. In reality the accord is a sham, allowing the capitalist owners of industry to continue polluting, while its signers turn their backs on the most basic needs of billions of people in electricity-poor semicolonial countries for electrification and industrial development.

Emissions controls are purely voluntary, with all targets for lowering them to be set up by the participating polluting regimes themselves. The effect of the U.S. pullout of a deal Barack Obama said was part of his “legacy” is likely to be negligible.

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Join Socialist Workers Party 2017 campaign!

Albany SWP: ‘Fight to unite working class’



Maggie Trowe, SWP candidate for mayor of Albany, right, and Ray Parsons, speak with electricians Max Clancy, far left, and Matt Landy in Mechanicville, New York, June 3.

BY VED DOOKHUN

ALBANY, N.Y. — “Working people here and across the country are being devastated by the contraction of capitalist production, trade and employment,” said Margaret Trowe, announcing her campaign for mayor here as the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party at a press conference on the steps of City Hall June 2.

The SWP is planning an ambitious

campaign to introduce the party to workers in neighborhoods across the city and surrounding areas, draw people into common activity, expand the circulation of the *Militant* and books by party leaders, and put Trowe on the ballot. They invite workers and young people to come and join in.

“There is a social crisis that takes the form of falling life expectancy for parts of the working class, an epidemic of opiate addiction and increased

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Join fight for independence, workers power in Puerto Rico

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Gov. Andrew Cuomo; big-business media like the *Daily News* and the *New York Post*; the New York cops; Ricardo Rosselló, governor of the colonial regime in Puerto Rico; and a number of major corporations have been at the forefront of a campaign smearing Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera as a “terrorist.” The campaign aims to convince workers not to join López marching in this year’s Puerto Rican Day Parade here.

López spent nearly 36 years in U.S. prisons — more than 12 in solitary confinement — for fighting for independence for Puerto Rico. An international campaign for his freedom won support across the political spectrum there. Rosselló even joined in. And it was gaining steam in the U.S. — where over 5 million Puerto Ricans live today, more than on the island — and elsewhere. Shortly before he left office, President Barack Obama commuted López’s sentence and he was finally released from detention May 17.

He has been touring Puerto Rico and the U.S. since, protesting U.S.

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SWP opposes moves to ban Trump rally in Portland, campaigns there

BY MARY MARTIN

PORTLAND, Ore. — Socialist Workers Party members spoke out against efforts by liberal Democratic Mayor Ted Wheeler to cancel a June 4 rally scheduled to support President Donald Trump as well as oppose the frenzied liberals’ campaign to drive him out of office. When Wheeler failed, Trump supporters faced anti-Trump protesters, including an anarchist “Black Bloc”-style group determined to come after them. And local cops, reinforced by state police, were out in force.

Wheeler had urged the federal government to ban the event after two people were killed on a train here by Jeremy Christian, an ultra-rightist bigot, shouting anti-Muslim slurs. The two men who were killed, and another who was injured, had come to the defense of two young women targeted by Christian, one of whom was wearing a headscarf. Christian has been charged with murder.

Joe Gibson, organizer of the pro-Trump rally, told participants he



Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Seattle mayor, right, discusses party’s working-class program with Trump supporters, others, during protests in Portland June 4.

would eject any white supremacists. He and other speakers said Rick Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, the two men who were killed on the train, were heroes. Gibson had thrown Christian out of a prior pro-Trump event.

After a relatively peaceful hour of contending protests, some anarchists in black masks threw bricks at police. The cops responded by detonat-

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‘Militant’ files appeal against prison censorship in Florida

BY SETH GALINSKY

The *Militant* has appealed the decision by the Santa Rosa Correctional Institute in Florida to impound three issues of the socialist newsweekly to the statewide Corrections Department Literature Review Committee.

The prisons’ assistant warden falsely charged the issues from April and May, which featured covers of upcoming May Day activities protesting deportations of undocumented workers, encourage “physical violence,” “riot, insurrection, disruption” or the “commission of criminal activity.”

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Communist League campaign in UK fights attacks on workers’ rights

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — In the wake of the third Islamic State-inspired killings in the U.K. in as many months, the June 8 elections here have focused on debate over which capitalist party can best intensify attacks on political and civil rights.

Two weeks after 22 people were killed in an IS-inspired bombing at the Manchester Arena, seven people were killed and nearly 50 seriously injured, when a van plowed into pe-

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Turkey glass workers occupy plants as gov’t bans strikes

Locked-out Canada Bread workers gain new contract

US workers, Cuban 5 faced US ‘justice system’ together

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece — A Greek-language edition of the book “*It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System*”: *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class* was launched here May 26.

The book is a translation of the Pathfinder Press book of the same title, which centers on interviews with five Cuban revolutionaries who spent up to 16 years as part of the working class in U.S. jails on frame-up charges. They were working to protect the Cuban people against terrorist attacks launched with impunity from U.S. soil by Cuban enemies of the revolution. The Greek translation was released by publishing house Diethnes Vima in collaboration with the José Martí Cultural Association.

Hasdiris Quintana, first secretary of the Venezuelan Embassy here, wel-

comed the 60 participants to the event, which was held in the embassy’s cultural center. “The Cuban Five represent the determination of the Cuban people,” Quintana said. “The people of Venezuela are today going through very difficult stages, but we will follow the example of the Cuban Five and fight for our independence and our dignity.”

Zelmys María Domínguez Cortina, Cuban ambassador to Greece, read messages sent to the meeting by Fernando González and Gerardo Hernández, two of the Cuban Five.

Both Hernández and González pointed to the importance of international solidarity in the successful fight to win their freedom. Hernández appealed to participants to continue fighting to demand an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba and its occupation of Guantánamo.

“Continue supporting the Cuban revolutionary process,” said González, who is now president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). He also called on participants to stand with the Venezuelan people in the face of attacks by pro-imperialist forces there.

“We learn in this book that 95 percent of prisoners in the U.S. don’t even see their day in court as they are forced to plea bargain,” said Yannis Tsalavoutas of the José Martí Cultural Association. Tsalavoutas said he learned a lot as one of the five volunteers who translated the book. “I learned that the U.S. prison system aims to crush the masses. But I also learned that the Cuban Five left the

San Francisco unionists fight against deportations



Militant/Betsey Stone

SAN FRANCISCO — The fight against the threatened deportation of construction workers Rodrigo Nuñez and Hugo Mejia got union backing at a rally in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Center here June 5. Over two dozen members of Mejia’s union, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, joined the demonstration of over 150. Members of Drywall Lathers Local 68L, that Nuñez belongs to, also participated.

Above, Sandy Valenciano, a member of California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, leads the protesters in chants calling for their freedom.

Mejia and Nuñez were arrested by ICE May 3 when they checked in for a construction job at the Travis Air Force Base. Since then a growing number of groups and individuals have joined the fight against their deportation.

“These are fathers, unionists and workers,” Tim Paulson, executive director of the San Francisco Labor Council, told the crowd. “We are going to keep fighting to stop their deportation.”

— BETSEY STONE

“It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System”

The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class

Interviews with the five Cuban revolutionaries who spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges.

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THE MILITANT

Defend women’s right to choose abortion!

Pro-choice forces in Kentucky are fighting to defend the last clinic in the state now under threat of closure by “pro-life” state government. The ‘Militant’ reports on the ongoing fight to defend the right to choose, under attack since decriminalization of abortion in 1973.



Pro-choice April 2 Louisville demonstration at threatened EMW women’s clinic.

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Iran vote: Working people seek political space, economic relief

BY TERRY EVANS

Despite predictions that the May 19 presidential election in Iran would be close, incumbent Hassan Rouhani won by a wide margin, along with candidates associated with him on the ballot. High turnout meant voting had to be extended three times, lasting until midnight.

Rouhani presented himself as a reformer dedicated to more social freedom and a staunch defender of the deal he negotiated and Tehran signed with Washington. That agreement lifted some of the sanctions against Iran that have bled the country's capitalist economy, hitting working people the hardest.

Rouhani defeated his main opponent, Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the candidate backed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Rouhani took 57 percent of the vote to Raisi's 38 percent.

Candidates on the Rouhani-backed list won power in city council elections in most major cities reporting results May 21. Some 127,600 municipal council seats were up for election across the country. His slate swept all 21 council seats in Tehran, where conservatives have held power for the last 14 years and won decisive majorities in the country's six largest cities.

Both candidates support the nuclear deal with Washington that lifted some of the sanctions in exchange for a slow-

down in the development of Tehran's nuclear program. Rouhani pledged he would end all of the remaining sanctions and ensure there was no return to the double-digit inflation experienced under the pre-deal full sanction regime imposed by Washington and the EU.

Raisi has been touted as a successor to Khamenei. Decision-making on many key political and economic issues remains in the hands of the supreme leader. The Guardian Council, which Khamenei controls, determines who can run for office.

Raisi and Rouhani are from different wings of Iran's cleric-dominated bourgeois regime. These forces led a counterrevolution in the 1980s, following the mass revolutionary upsurge that toppled Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the Washington-backed dictator, in 1979. They sought to turn back the struggles of working people and their allies and prevent any encroachment on capitalist rule. To obscure the conflicting class interests involved, both Tehran and Washington present the counterrevolution as in continuity with the 1979 uprising.

Devastating conditions for workers

The impact of the world capitalist crisis — on top of decades of sanctions imposed by Washington and its allies — have had a devastating impact on working people. Easing this economic squeeze opens room for workers to practice politics and advance their interests.

Raisi charged Rouhani was responsible for failing to improve living standards after the easing of sanctions. Inflation has dropped from 40 percent to under 10 percent, but working and living conditions remain difficult for workers across the country. Unemployment remains officially at 12.7 percent, but the Ministry of Labor counts everyone who works one hour a week as employed. Youth unemployment stands at almost 30 percent.

Rouhani visited the Zemestanyurt mine, near the city of Azadshahr, on May 7, after at least 42 miners were killed in a gas explosion. Miners pounded on his car in protest at unsafe working conditions. In February residents in



Office of the Iranian President

Iranian President Rouhani speaks to coal miners and rescue workers at Zemestanyurt mine May 7, four days after 42 miners died in gas explosion. Minutes later he left after angry miners threw eggs and pounded on his car, protesting unsafe conditions in the mine.

oil-rich Ahvaz protested in the streets after days of electricity blackouts. Skirmishes like these reflect the fact that the counterrevolution of the 1980s did not crush the working class.

During the campaign Raisi proposed tripling the roughly \$14 monthly cash subsidies millions receive that cut the cost of basic necessities. Last year parliament was forced to suspend plans to cut 24 million people off the subsidy.

Clash over Kurdish language rights

During one of three live TV debates featuring all six approved candidates, Rouhani and Raisi clashed over language rights for Kurds, an oppressed nationality. Denied a homeland by the imperialist victors of World War I, 30 million Kurds are spread across Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. As the imperialist order begins to unravel across the Middle East, they have made advances in their struggle for national rights, especially in Syria and Iraq.

Leaders of some Kurdish exile groups called for a boycott of the elections. But over half of Kurds voted, a majority for Rouhani.

After his first election in 2013, Rouhani's government began to implement constitutional provisions for the teaching of the Kurdish language. Raisi denounced Rouhani for claiming credit for rights guaranteed by the constitution. Raisi campaigned hard

in Kurdish areas, seeking to use high unemployment in the region to call for Rouhani's defeat.

As unresolved conflicts across the Mideast continue to unwind, the Iranian ruling class has carved out an arc of influence among Shiite political forces from the Pakistan border through Iraq and Syria to Lebanon, something that Washington is keen to contain. How to maintain Tehran's growing influence while at the same time pressing Washington to end all sanctions was a political football during the campaign.

President Donald Trump is seeking to strictly enforce Washington's nuclear deal with Tehran, claiming Iranian authorities have not lived "up to the spirit" of the agreement, though he has given no indication he intends to end it. Washington has also imposed some new sanctions May 17, targeting individuals the White House says are connected to Iran's ballistic missile program. Meanwhile, Boeing and other U.S. companies have struck deals with Tehran.

As the election results rolled in, Trump was meeting with leaders of Saudi Arabia and other Sunni monarchies in Riyadh. "All nations of conscience must work together to isolate Iran," he told them.

Catharina Tirsén contributed to this article.

Ankara steps up attacks on HDP, Kurds

BY JIM BRADLEY

The Turkish government has threatened to strip the citizenship of three members of parliament — Faysal Sariyildiz, Tugba Hezer Ozturk and Ozdal Ucer — leaders of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), based in the country's Kurdish region, intensifying Ankara's campaign against the struggle of the Kurds for their national rights.

Their names are on a list of 130 similarly targeted people released by the government June 5, including other members of the HDP, along with members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the reactionary Islamic State and the Fetullah Gulen sect that Ankara says was behind a failed military coup last July.

The three HDP deputies, who are all currently out of the country, are being tried in absentia on frame-up "terrorism" charges. They will lose their citizenship "if they do not return to Turkey within three months," CNN reported.

Since July, the government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan has arrested around 10,000 HDP supporters, including mayors and city officials from the Kurdish region. On May 30 the government imposed a curfew on 43 villages in the area as part of the Turkish military's offensive against the banned PKK.

There are some 15 million Kurds in Turkey, part of the larger Kurdish region that also encompasses parts of Syria, Iraq and Iran. The oppressed Kurdish people are the largest national grouping worldwide without their own state.

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SWP protests assaults on political rights in Washington

BY MARY MARTIN

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party visited Evergreen State College campus here June 3 as it reopened after being shut down because of threats of violence. The college has been the scene of contentious debate and protests.

At the center of the debate was an activity in March called a “Day of Absence.” Based on a play by Douglas Turner Ward in which the Black residents of a southern town don’t show up one morning to demonstrate their worth, Blacks and other students and faculty of color for a number of years have organized to meet off campus for a day. This year, however, they decided to reverse the “absence,” saying in the student newspaper, “White students, staff and faculty will be invited to leave campus for the day’s activities.” Pushing all Caucasians to leave for a day was justified, they said, “following the 2016 election.”

Bret Weinstein objected. He is a biology professor and life-long “progressive” who backed Bernie Sanders, joined Occupy Wall Street protests, and as a student at the University of Pennsylvania spoke out against racist conduct at campus fraternities. The “invitation” was an act of moral bullying, he indicated in a letter to the school’s Director of First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services — staying on campus as a white person would mean being tarred as a racist.

Up to 50 students confronted Weinstein in his classroom, shouting and cursing at him, calling him racist and demanding he resign. The college police advised Weinstein to leave the campus for his own safety. He held his class off campus and gave interviews to the media.

Photographs of Weinstein and his students were circulated online and “Fire Bret” graffiti showed up on campus buildings. So much for the campus as a “safe space.”

Evergreen President George Bridges called the student bullies “courageous” and said no disciplinary action would be taken against any of them.

Over 50 Evergreen professors and more than a dozen staff members are circulating a letter claiming “Weinstein has endangered faculty, staff, and students, making them targets of white supremacist backlash” and calling for him to be disciplined.

Uneasy about threats of violence

In discussions with students, we found many felt uneasy not only about the threats of violence that shut down the college for a few days, but with the race-baiting and threatening tone of the protests that targeted Weinstein and other Caucasian workers and staff.

We raised with everyone that at Berkeley, Middlebury and other campuses we are seeing examples of attacks on the right to speak freely, justified in the name of “political correctness,” a focus on identity politics to the exclusion of all else, and threats and acts of violence against supporters of Donald Trump. This poses a danger for the working class. Liberals have always been the first to move

against workers’ rights and then, when the capitalist rulers find it necessary, they unleash the thugs of the ultra-right to carry their assault on workers to the end.

“I had a class with professor Weinstein and I thought he was a very good teacher and certainly not racist,” one student majoring in communications who did not wish to give her name told us. “At the same time, as a Caucasian person I don’t feel I have a right to comment on issues of race.”

I told her that part of my campaign as the SWP candidate for mayor of Seattle is explaining the need to unify the working class to fight against the dog-eat-dog divisions the capitalist rulers impose on us — including dividing us on racial lines, pitting immigrant against native-born, and all the carnage we are living through under the crisis of their capitalist system.

“The Black rights movement in this country attracted millions of workers who were not African-American to join the mighty battles that overturned Jim Crow segregation,” I said, “just as the fight for women’s rights involved large numbers of men.”

We met Sara Durden, a history student at South Pacific Sound Community College who plans to transfer to Evergreen. “There is racism in society so the protests have a basis,” she said. “But this is all happening in an atmosphere of hysteria over the current president and the people who voted for him. I think most people who voted for Trump were fed-up regular people. I think we are at a point in history where it is up to us to make it better or it’s going to be a lot worse.”

“I think a lot of people wanted to have someone in office who was seen as outside of politics,” Durden’s friend Tiana Ayers, a biology student, said. “That is not what they got however and it helps nothing.” Durden and Ayers pooled their dollars to get a subscrip-

SWP opposes move to ban Trump rally in Portland

Continued from front page

ing flash-bang grenades, arresting 14 people and shoving people from one end of the park to the other. The cops kept up a barrage of announcements amplified to a deafening level, ordering protest participants to disperse.

A team of Socialist Workers Party members, including myself, the SWP candidate for mayor of Seattle, set up a campaign table and introduced the party and its working-class perspective to people from both events, as well as passers-by, for over two hours.

One woman who introduced herself as Ardith told SWP member John Naubert that she was a Trump supporter and had come to the rally from south Oregon, mainly because she wanted to talk to the anti-Trump people. She said while some were open to discussion, one man told her insistently, “Why don’t you just go over there across the street where the fascists are?”

Naubert said the SWP explains that the working class is the true target of the hysteria about Trump in the liberal bourgeois media, late night “talk” shows and radical anti-Trump protests. These forces all see the working class as stupid, reactionary and dangerous. Ardith said



Evergreen State College professor Bret Weinstein, left, argues with students about his opposition to “Day of Absence” for Caucasians on Olympia, Wash., campus. Right, graffiti on sidewalk calls for Weinstein’s firing.

tion to the *Militant*.

An economics student named Alec came over to talk. “I overheard you say we should look at the stakes for the working class if political debate is shut down. Nobody else is saying that.

“I transferred here from the University of Montana,” he said. “If you are conservative here at Evergreen you often don’t see the point of raising your views in class because of the liberals who would isolate or denounce you.”

“This discussion here with you is beautiful. Many people on this campus won’t have this exchange,” said psychology student Diego Alexander.



“Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers.”

—Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, “springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

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she enjoyed the discussion and bought a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

There were a number of others like Ardith. “William Jones, wearing camouflage pants, a bulletproof vest, a T-shirt and carrying an American flag on a pole, sat along a concrete barrier in front of City Hall,” the *Portland Oregonian* reported, “conversing with anti-Trump protesters about whether socialism can exist in a capitalist society and whether Trump will make life better for anyone not wealthy.

“Jones said he likes to keep an open mind and debate people, trying to change opinions or let others change his,” the paper reported.

David Servillo, a hospital worker in Portland who is originally from France, told us he thought it would have been wrong to shut down the Trump rally as the mayor demanded. “It’s a democracy, right?” He was delighted to see the titles on revolutionary politics in French displayed on the party table. He decided to buy a subscription to the *Militant* and a French edition of *Is Socialist Revolution*

in the US Possible? by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

There were some anti-Trump demonstrators who didn’t appreciate the SWP. At the end of the protests, SWP members packed up their materials and prepared to leave. A group of anarchists tried to get into it with Trump supporters, stacking newspaper boxes in the streets to block police. The cops started sweeping the streets and ordered people to disperse.

One anarchist seeking to attack Trump people, and not looking too kindly at the SWP, grabbed our table and threw it, along with our bookrack, into the street to obstruct a cop car.

Participants from the Trump rally stopped to help us recover our table and rack from the street and carry them and our literature to our car.

“I’m glad to see your paper says that ‘workers are the target of the liberals’ fury,” Myles, one of the men helping us, told me, looking at one of the headlines in the *Militant*. “I didn’t start out as a Trump supporter, but I couldn’t stand Clinton. Now I have friends who are liberal who won’t talk to me.

“What’s your party’s name again?” he asked. “Thank you for being here.”

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Glass workers in Turkey occupy plants as government bans strike

Some 5,700 glass workers in Turkey, members of the Kristal-Is union, have been organizing protest actions since June 1 in nine factories owned by Sise-cam Glass Co. after the government banned them from going on strike. The workers are demanding improved wages and working conditions.

After failing to reach agreement with the company on a contract in early May, the workers announced they would go on strike May 24. The government of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, using its broad state of emergency powers, then “postponed” the strike for 60 days, claiming it would be a “threat to national security.” But the postponement is really a ban, as Turkish law forbids trade unions from striking after 60 days of being postponed.

Sisecam, the second largest glass manufacturer in Europe, runs its factories in three shifts. The unionists are now “working to rule,” with slowed production. At the end of each shift, workers have been organizing demonstra-

tions and meetings and not leaving the worksites, sleeping in the factory or in tents erected outside the plant.

— Brian Williams

Locked-out Canada Bread workers gain new contract

LANGLEY, British Columbia — Members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union Local 468, who were locked out by Canada Bread Co. since April 1, voted 67-45 to ratify a new contract May 25.

The company withdrew the demand that it be able to call workers in for as little as two hours work. And part-time workers who put in 30 hours or more will keep their benefits.

“We thank the public and union members for the support we got during the lockout,” said Donna Quinton, one of workers. Another told the *Militant* that despite her misgivings about parts of the contract, “we have stronger bonds now” between union members.

For many of the workers with decades of seniority, this was the first time they had been locked out or on strike. Workers maintained picket



IndustriALL

Since June 1, glass workers in Turkey, members of Kristal-Is union, have occupied nine glass factories to protest government’s ban on strikes over wages and working conditions.

lines 24/7 during the entire fight.

Daren Wagner described the solidarity they got from other unions, senior citizens and community members who visited the picket line. “Thanks to this support, we had Pizza Fridays, Taco Tuesdays, and soup days during our picketing,” Wagner said. “We’ll be in a better position to defend ourselves

because we’re more united. That’s the victory.”

Workers rebid for their positions at a May 31 company-organized meeting, given that 30 workers have been offered buyouts and the unionized lead-hand or “foreman” position was eliminated.

— Michel Dugré

Defense of nature, labor falls to the working class

Continued from front page

Carbon emissions in the U.S. have been falling since 2005, in large part as a result of the bosses’ “fracking” boom producing natural gas, which yields fewer carbon emissions.

Nonetheless, the U.S. remains the world’s number one per capita producer of carbon emissions, by capitalist industries whose priorities are set by the drive to boost profits at all costs.

All the recent climate summits have been marked by imperialist trade rivalries and hypocritical efforts by Washington and European rulers to weaken competition from Beijing and New Delhi by pinning the blame for pollution on their growing populations. In the days after Washington’s withdrawal from the Paris accord, Beijing’s rulers sought to project themselves as the savior of the world, replacing Washington as a partner for the “more enlightened” imperialist rulers in the European Union.

Over the last five years, emissions in the U.S. have fallen by 270 million tons while Beijing’s have soared by 1.1 billion tons. Polluted air contributes to an estimated 1.6 million deaths in China each year. Liberals have used such statistics to argue “emerging nations” have to accept their second-class status and stop trying to industrialize, expand electrification and improve living conditions. The 1.35 billion people without electricity in the semicolonial world should learn to accept living without it.

But this is a key question for the working class. Gaining access to energy sources in electricity-poor countries is necessary in order to narrow the gap in the conditions of life and the political experience between working people in those countries and toilers in more industrially advanced countries.

Keen to tarnish Trump as the instigator of the earth’s imminent doom, Democratic California Sen. Kamala Harris denounced the U.S. withdrawal from the accord as “catastrophic.” Claiming to be “restrained,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that Washington’s decision was “highly regrettable.”

Trump’s decision “could set us on

track for intensified floods, famines and storms, rising seas and mass migrations,” the less “restrained” editors of the *Los Angeles Times* said.

There is a decadeslong bourgeois hysteria campaign about imminent environmental catastrophe. If anything, it has ratcheted up a notch today because of the liberals’ drive to bring down the Trump administration at all costs. Liberals say Trump doesn’t care about science or the future and that he was elected by ignorant, selfish workers.

These campaigns are aimed at preventing working people “from recognizing the actual source of these threats to civilization; the capitalist mode of production,” says a statement adopted by the Socialist Workers Party 2007 convention, “The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor,” published in *New International* no. 14.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 19, 1992

SYDNEY, Australia — Picket line confrontations took place June 4 at the Associated Pulp and Paper Mills (APPM) plant in Burnie, Tasmania. About 30 cops attempting to break through the line were pushed back by pickets. Later in the day 80 cops forced their way through strikers to escort 18 scabs into the plant.

The following day, in the face of 300 determined strikers supported by 400 sympathetic “onlookers” from the town, the company suspended its attempt to bring on the scabs.

Workers have effectively halted production with a 24-hour picket line since May 12.

APPM unilaterally cancelled local agreements on wages and conditions and began employing security guards to enforce company rules in the plant.

The miners’ union has announced a 24-hour strike in support.



June 19, 1967

PHILADELPHIA — A two-year battle by antiwar activists culminated in victory when the University of Pennsylvania board of trustees was forced to accede to demands that Penn get out of the germ warfare business.

Penn was one of dozens of institutions exposed for complicity in the Vietnam War and their development of Pentagon blueprints for crushing the colonial revolution.

Some have been working with the CIA to run puppet dictatorships and to develop “contingency plans” for the war in Vietnam. Others have helped developed the weapons necessary to starve and kill the peasants of colonial countries that become “trouble spots.”

Every top university is part of government plans to the extent that the universities are needed to train the brains to run the capitalist system. Many of these brains remain on university campuses.



June 20, 1942

NEW YORK — In the middle of the second war “to make the world safe for democracy,” 25,000 militant Negro men and women jammed Madison Square Garden last night to demand democracy at home for 13,000,000 black Americans. Such a demonstration has never before had its like in peace-time or war-time America.

These Negro people weren’t asking the white ruling class for their rights. They were telling the white bosses that they’d better not kick the Negro around anymore. They weren’t begging, they were demanding.

The keynote of the meeting was protest — against discrimination in industry, in government, in the armed forces, in every walk of life. Of major significance is the very fact of the meeting itself, the fighting spirit of the audience. They warmed to every word that gave the hint of action.

Folsom prison hunger strike protests indignities, abuse



Militant/Betsey Stone

June 4 rally mobilizes support for prisoners' demands in California's Folsom State Prison.

BY BETSEY STONE

FOLSOM, Calif. — More than 75 people rallied near the old Folsom State Prison here June 4 to support prisoners who began a hunger strike in the Administrative Segregation Unit May 25. The nine demands put forward by the prisoners in Building 4 of the unit speak volumes about the indignities they face.

Among their demands: "adequate access to the courts and legal assistance"; "meaningful education, self-help courses and rehabilitative programs"; adequate exercise equipment; keeping food they buy from the commissary in proper packaging; "adequate and appropriate clothing and shoes"; and provision of a "food bowl and cup."

In a detailed written statement the prisoners say they are forced to eat out of "recycled ('washed') trash bags, old zip-lock bags and milk cartons." Even toothpaste and deodorant is given to them in plastic bags. In addition, "prisoners are forced to walk around in their boxer underwear and state-issued T-shirts, which are normally extremely used and too large or too small," the statement said.

The prisoners are also demanding to be allowed to have TVs in their cells, and an end to the practice of requiring prisoners to inform on fellow prisoners if they want to get out of the units.

Prison authorities retaliated by transferring Anthony Estrada, one of the leaders of the strike, to a prison in Tracy. They gave him a "115" write-up — accusing him of a serious disciplinary violation for participating in a "mass disturbance."

"After months of their demands being ignored, they decided to go on a peaceful hunger strike to shed light on their horrendous living conditions," Raquel Estrada, Anthony Estrada's wife, told the rally. She is a hospital surgical aide and member of the Service Employees International Union in Salinas.

"It's important to be out here, for people inside to know we are spreading the message," said Abdullah Puckett, a participant in the Underground Scholars Initiative, a University of California program for students who have done jail time.

Members of the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition, which built support for a 2013 strike of 30,000 California prisoners against solitary confinement and other abuses, also spoke.

"The leaders of the hunger strikes in 2013 stood together for 60 days in courageous action and succeeded in bringing 2,000 plus prisoners out of solitary confinement," said Attorney Anne Weills, about a suit brought by prisoners at Pelican Bay State Prison, a stronghold of that strike.

The Administrative Segregation Units are more oppressive than the SHU (Security Housing Units), the solitary confinement units the Pelican Bay leaders were protesting against, Weills said.

Prison officials claim the hunger strike ended June 1, but family members say nine inmates are still refusing food.

Supporters of improving prison conditions are urged to contact the following officials to press them to agree to the prisoners' demands: Folsom Prison Warden Ron Rackley: (916) 985-2561 or ronald.rackley@cdcr.ca.gov; Chief Deputy Inspector General Roy Wesley: (916) 255-1102; Ombudsman Sara L. Smith: (916) 324-5458 or smith@cdcr.ca.gov; and CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan: scott.kernan@cdcr.ca.gov.

Hundreds of thousands attend Tehran book fair



Militant/Catharina Tirsén

TEHRAN, Iran — The 30th International Book Fair concluded here in the Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Complex May 13 after 10 bustling days. Hundreds of thousands of visitors from Iran and neighboring countries browsed books in Farsi and other languages.

More than 2,600 domestic and some 140 foreign publishers exhibited. Participation by publishers from other countries remains limited, since — two years after the nuclear accord between Iran, Washington and five other world powers lifted many sanctions on Tehran — major Western banks nonetheless refuse to handle transactions here.

Pathfinder Books, a U.K. distributor, participated for the 25th time this year. Two new titles by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., attracted a lot of interest: *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* and *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*. The demand for these titles, with more than 70 copies sold, helped raise total sales to a record level.

Some of those who came to the stand were familiar with books by Socialist Workers Party leaders. "The book was magnificent. It introduced me to Marxism and socialism," said one young man who had bought *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon at an earlier regional book fair in Yazd in central Iran. "I want more books like that." He bought *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Leon Trotsky and *What Is American Fascism?* by Cannon and Joseph Hansen.

A woman from a neighboring country had bought *Is Biology Woman's Destiny?* by Evelyn Reed last year. After browsing the ads in the book, she said, "This year I want the one about women after the Second World War," referring to *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Reed, Hansen and Mary-Alice Waters.

Talaye Porsoo, an Iranian publisher that translates Pathfinder titles into Farsi, had a booth in the main hall. A translation of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* was a best seller, with 57 copies sold.

— CATHARINA TIRSÉN

'Militant' appeals prison censorship in Florida

Continued from front page

The June 5 appeal was filed by David Goldstein of the well-known civil liberties law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman. Goldstein wrote that all three impoundment notices use the same spurious grounds to censor the paper, including a "catch-all" that claims the *Militant* "otherwise presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person."

"This is not the first time that Santa Rosa has sought to ban the *Militant* without justification," Goldstein noted. In September 2013 officials there banned the paper because of an article about a hunger strike against solitary confinement in California. The Florida prison Literature Review Committee eventually overturned that ban.

Again in 2016 Santa Rosa impounded two issues and again the committee reversed the censorship.

The new impoundment notices do not list any specific articles. Instead they each list the front page and one other page in each issue. The only articles that are on both pages "have

nothing to do with prisons, prisoners or prison conditions," Goldstein points out. Rather the articles advocated amnesty for immigrants, promoted the May 1 demonstrations, and criticized the policies of both the Democrats and Republicans.

In fact this type of reporting on "issues at the center of politics today — the status of immigrants and workers' rights — lies at the heart of the First Amendment," he said.

"There is no rational basis to believe that these articles will or even possibly could lead to physical violence, group disruption, criminal activity, riots, insurrection, or otherwise threaten security, good order, or discipline," Goldstein wrote. Censoring the papers violates the First Amendment rights of the *Militant* and its subscribers, he notes.

Goldstein attached numerous articles from the mainstream press that covered the May Day protests. "Given the widespread media coverage of the planned May Day protests throughout the U.S.," Goldstein explained, it appears that Santa Rosa censored the paper "simply because it disagrees with its viewpoint."

"We challenge prison censorship every time the authorities infringe on the rights of the *Militant* and our subscribers," said *Militant* editor John Studer. "Workers behind bars need access to a wide range of viewpoints, including that of the Socialist Workers Party, because they are part of the world."

Since the original notices of impoundment were received by the *Militant*, a number of additional notices have arrived denying the issues to other inmate subscribers at Santa Rosa and other Florida prisons.

Fight prison censorship

Help get out the word. Print out copies of *Militant* articles on this fight and get them around.

Get statements of support for the *Militant's* appeal from defenders of workers' rights and free speech. Send to themilitant@mac.com

Send a check to *The Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked "Prisoners Rights Fight."

Fight for independence, workers power

Continued from front page
colonial exploitation and speaking out for independence. The National Puerto Rican Day Parade committee here invited López to join the parade and named him a “National Freedom Hero.”

Cuomo and his cohorts thought that by slandering López they could push back discussion among working people and others on Washington’s domination of Puerto Rico, and about the common interests workers in both countries have in standing up to attempts to slash wages, pensions, jobs and essential services. The U.S. rulers have imposed a Financial Oversight and Management Board over Puerto Rico, with the power to force deep cuts in social services, jobs and education to maximize bond payments to bankers and speculators.

While López is widely known in the U.S. colony, among Puerto Ricans in the U.S. only a minority knew much about his story — not to mention the rest of the working class.

But the slander campaign helped begin to change that. “I’m Puerto Rican,” Venice López told Socialist Workers Party members who knocked on her door in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn June 1. “But until all this talk about the parade, I had never even heard of him. So I started looking up information on Oscar López on the internet.”

There are some 700,000 Puerto Ricans in New York City, the largest concentration in the U.S. and a significant part of the working class here.

López Rivera answered the slander campaign in a column published prominently in the *Daily News* June 2.

“This parade is happening at a time when Puerto Rico is facing a political and economic crisis that is impacting everyone on the island,” he said. “Unfortunately, the narrative around the parade is not celebration and concern for the situation on the island but rather misinformation about who I am and what I stand for.”

“I want to repeat what I have said in many interviews, both in prison and since my release,” he added. “I personally, and we as a community have transcended violence.”

U.S. prosecutors, unable to charge him with any violent act, had railroaded him to prison on charges of “seditious conspiracy.”

To “shift the focus” from himself to the plight of workers in Puerto Rico, López said, “I will be on Fifth Ave. not as your honoree but as a humble Puerto Rican and grandfather who at 74 continues to be committed to helping raise awareness about the fiscal, health care and human rights crisis Puerto Rico is facing at this historic juncture.”

López will join the “Contingent for Oscar and Puerto Rico’s Decolonization” June 11.

The same issue of the *Daily News* featured a letter from Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, under the headline, “Stand with Oscar and Puerto Rico.”

López was released “thanks to a worldwide campaign on his behalf — a victory for working people both in Puerto Rico and here,” Hart said. The aim of the smear campaign “is to divert attention from the growing discussion on how to end Puerto Rico’s status as a U.S. colony and Wall Street’s plunder of the island’s resources.” Hart encouraged working people to join the contingent for Oscar López and decolonization.

Hart says the road to independence in Puerto Rico is through the fight for workers’ power, as they did in Cuba.

López’s decision to forswear the honor, and his focus on the U.S. rulers’ anti-working-class offensive against the people of Puerto Rico, dealt a blow to the smear campaign. But it didn’t appease Cuomo or other ruling class opponents of Puerto Rican independence. None of the corporate sponsors who pulled out of the parade — including Goya, Corona, the *Daily News*, Univisión, McDonald’s, the Yankees, Jet Blue, AT&T, Coca Cola

and more — have said they would return, and Cuomo says he still won’t march.

The slander campaign did affect “progressive” Democratic New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who had said he would march despite López’s presence. A June 2 *New York Times* article entitled, “De Blasio Moves to Curb Puerto Rican Militant’s Parade Profile,” said he had threatened to pull out if López didn’t act forcefully to give up the “Freedom Hero” honor.

Eddie Borges, a self-described “reporter, advocate and policy maker,” wrote in the June 4 *Daily News* objecting to the fact that on his release López thanked Cuba for its support. Borges complained that “false nostalgia peddled by a shrinking minority who advocate for an independence movement that never won popular support on the island” is continuing to dominate the discussion.

Puerto Rican independence fighter welcomed in Calif.

BY ERIC SIMPSON

BERKELEY, Calif. — “A better and more just world” is possible, Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera told the more than 600 people who welcomed him here May 31. He pledged to keep fighting to decolonize Puerto Rico and “to get all political prisoners out of jail.”

López was released May 17 after nearly 36 years in U.S. prisons, framed up on charges of “seditious conspiracy” and accused of being a leader of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). Because the government had no evidence that López carried out violent acts, it centered its case on a member of the group who turned informer. He testified against López in exchange for getting out of prison.

When he was 14, López moved to Chicago from Puerto Rico. Drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to fight in Vietnam in 1966, López became active in struggles against police brutality, job discrimination and against U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico upon his return to Chicago. He was arrested in 1981.

For nearly five years López was joined in prison in Indiana by Fernando González, one of the Cuban Five — Cuban revolutionaries jailed for more than a decade for activities in the U.S. in defense of their revolution. The growing international movement that won free-

dom for the Five helped build support for López’s fight.

López’s dignity in the face of his jailers’ failed attempts to break him — including more than 12 years in solitary confinement — and growing support in Puerto Rico and worldwide won his release.

At a reception before the meeting, López pointed to the conditions imposed by the President Barack Obama-appointed Fiscal Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, which has dictatorial power over the U.S. colony’s government budget and finances. The board highlights Puerto Rico’s colonial status, he said.

“I am certain that most Puerto Ricans are not satisfied with the Fiscal Control Board,” he said in an interview earlier that day with radio station KPFA, referring to cascading layoffs of government workers, slashing of pensions and cutting the University of Puerto Rico budget. “There’s one common denominator that we can use” to unite all Puerto Ricans “and that is the decolonization of Puerto Rico.”

Many said the Puerto Rican “political prisoners would never be free,” his brother José López told the crowd at the meeting, “But Oscar López is free tonight.”

“I spent quite a few years behind bars. I know how dehumanizing prison can be,” Oscar López said. “I know how painful it is for the families.”

Leonard Peltier, in prison since 1976, Mumia Abu-Jamal, in prison since 1981, and Herman Bell, a former Black Panther in prison since 1973 serving a life sentence on frame-up charges of killing two New York cops in 1971, were among the prisoners who sent greetings to the meeting.

“I am happy you made it out. All too often most of us seldom do, or we die



Article by Oscar López in June 2 *Daily News* stating he will march in N.Y. Puerto Rican Day Parade, fight for decolonization of island, following slander campaign in big-business press.

For years López has pointed to the Cuban Revolution as an example for Puerto Rico and the world. He plans to visit Cuba in the fall to thank the people and the revolutionary government there for their support for him and the people of Puerto Rico.

soon after we get out due to poor health, or when spending endless decades inside,” Bell wrote. “We look to the future with unshakable resolve to achieve our goals.”

At all the meetings since his release, López tells people to fight for freedom of these remaining political prisoners.

A statement from Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, was distributed. “Oscar, an upright man and revolutionary, was tortured and repressed,” González wrote, but “never stopped loving his island, his people and his flag.”

In an interview with Cuba solidarity activist Alicia Jrapko before the event, López said he is “really looking forward” to visiting Cuba in November. “Cuba has always given us their solidarity,” he said, “Not just toward me, but their solidarity for the independence of our beloved homeland.”

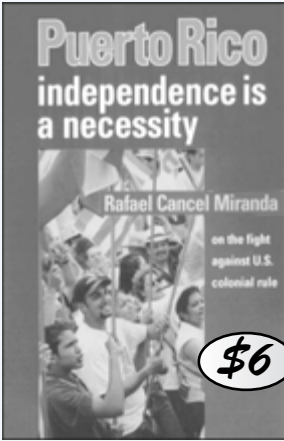
Organized by the National Boricua Human Rights Network, the National Lawyers Guild and local Puerto Rican activists, the meeting was endorsed by the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity; the Socialist Workers Party; the National Network on Cuba; and others.

Welcome Puerto Rico Freedom Fighter Oscar López! End U.S. Colonial Rule!

Upcoming events

- Fri., June 9** – 6:30 p.m. Crystal Ballroom, Taino Towers, Dinner Dance, **NYC**
- Sat., June 10** – 6:30 p.m. El Maestro Cultural Center, Songs and Poetry, **NYC**
- Sun., June 11** – 9:30 a.m. 5th Avenue, Puerto Rican Day Parade, **NYC**
- Sat., June 17** – Grand Marshal Puerto Rican Day Parade, **Chicago**
- Mon., June 19** – Oscar speaks at **UN Hearing on Decolonization in NY**
- Tues., June 20** – 7 p.m. Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor St, Hartford, **Connecticut**
- Thurs., June 22** – 7 p.m. United Congregational Church of Holyoke, **Mass.**
- Mon., Sept. 18** – 7 p.m. Taller Puertorriqueño, **Philadelphia**

For more info: Boricuahumanrights.org



pathfinderpress.com

Union, unemployed unity strengthened labor battles

Below is an excerpt from Teamster Power, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. It tells how Minneapolis Teamsters Local 574 used the power won through three hard-fought strikes in 1934 to extend the union throughout the Upper Midwest, back organizing efforts by the unemployed and combat employer frame-ups. The book is the second in a four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs, the central organizer of an 11-state campaign to unionize over-the-road truckers. Dobbs later served as national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, from 1953 to 1972. The excerpt is from the chapter "Federal Workers Section." Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

Many millions were jobless nationally. All were victims of the capitalist economic system, forced into miserable circumstances under depression conditions. As workers, they deserved trade union support in a fight for social concessions from the capitalists to improve their lot. Such aid would not only be a necessary act of class solidarity, important though that was as a matter of principle. It was the best way to prevent the bosses from



Minnesota Historical Society

Cops tear gas Sept. 13, 1935, demonstration outside Minneapolis City Hall called by Local 574's Federal Workers Section to defend increased relief payments unemployed workers had won.

during the unemployed into taking the places of trade unionists who went on strike. Therefore, we insisted, organized labor should do everything to help the jobless. ...

Once again, Local 574 was about to take a pioneer action designed to increase the combat power of the working class.

Basic guidelines for the project were set down in the local's by-laws. The pertinent section read: "It is the duty of the unions to assist the unemployed workers to organize and improve their living standards. To fulfill this obligation the union shall maintain an auxiliary section of unemployed workers to be known as the Federal Workers Section of Local 574. This section shall function under the direct supervision of the union Executive Board and shall have the full assistance of the union. Members of the Federal Workers Section shall not have voice or vote in the regular meetings of the union."

There were several reasons for the latter provision. Enrollment in the Federal Workers Section (FWS) was not confined to Local 574 members who had been laid off. Its ranks were open to all the city's unemployed, including jobless members of other unions. Thus it was bound to be a heterogeneous formation and, hopefully, one of considerable size. Such a body could not be formally incorporated

into the union with voice and vote. That would have distorted the local's basic character as an organization of workers employed in the trucking industry. The resulting problems would have weakened the union base upon which the unemployed movement was to be built. Hence the new body had to be structured as an auxiliary section of the local.

Special union buttons and membership cards were issued to workers who joined the FWS. They paid dues of twenty-five cents a month, which was about all they could afford. Additional funds needed to carry on the necessary activities were provided through subsidies from Local 574 and, after a time, through donations from other unions. Regular meetings of the section were held at which its members hammered out a program and shaped a course of action to deal with their specific problems as unemployed workers. ...

By mid-1935 they had managed to revivify their struggle nationally to the point where they were pressing vigorously for federal concessions. So the great liberal in the White House decided to break it up by repeating the 1934 cycle. A transition was set into motion from the ERA to a new federal setup called the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

It was precisely at this point that the unusual effectiveness of a union-

sponsored unemployed organization was demonstrated. Members of the Federal Workers Section were not left adrift without a rudder in the changed situation, as were most of the unemployed. Their association with a strong trade union became a stabilizing factor for them in their moment of crisis. This meant concretely that they got effective aid in moving swiftly to remobilize the unemployed generally for continuation of their struggle.

As soon as the new WPA projects got started the FWS launched an organization drive among the workers involved. Elections of job stewards followed on all projects, leading to a union representation structure of the kind Local 574 had established in the trucking industry. A fight was then opened for the adjustment of grievances submitted by the workers, and there were many.

Unemployed workers were being removed entirely from the city's relief rolls and put to work under the new WPA setup. In many cases there were big time gaps between their last relief check and their first payday on WPA. After a big hassle the city authorities were forced to cease their practice of removing these workers so hastily from the relief rolls, and compensation was secured for individuals who had thus been victimized.

A general grievance affecting all on WPA arose over the rate of pay. The scale was \$60.50 a month, truly a starvation level. In fact it was below the budgetary level the city of Minneapolis had been forced to establish for relief clients. As a result workers who were transferred from direct relief, paid by the city, to the federal "work-relief" system got an automatic cut in income.

The FWS set out to block this swindle by mobilizing the workers around a demand aimed at the city fathers: either get the WPA to pay more, or provide supplementary relief for those on WPA. Our campaign was effective. Supplementary relief was granted by the city, raising the total received by WPA workers back to the amount they would have gotten if still on direct relief.

By this time the Federal Workers Section was establishing itself as the major organization of the city's unemployed.

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June

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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8

The Militant June 19, 2017

Communist League in UK

Continued from front page

destrians on London Bridge June 3. Three men armed with knives exited the van, embarking on murderous attacks on Saturday-night revelers in the area. The three were shot dead by police in a hail of gunfire. Troops from a “counterterrorist” Special Air Services regiment based in the London metropolitan area were dropped from a “Blue Thunder” helicopter to back up the cops.

Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister Theresa May says she is the only candidate ready to give the cops and military “all the powers they need.” Underdog Labour Party head Jeremy Corbyn says former Home Secretary May is responsible for the attack because she cut the police forces. He calls for putting 10,000 more cops on the streets.

Peter Clifford, Communist League candidate for Parliament in Manchester Gorton, put forward a different class course. Working people should fight against the rulers’ efforts to attack political rights, target Muslims and mosques, and strengthen the cops, he said.

Hours after the attack, dozens of balaclava-clad police in riot gear raided properties in east London, gaining entry with “controlled explosions” and arrested 12 people. All of them were released June 5 without charges.

“Enough is enough,” May said, reiterating her theme of “unity” in defense of “British values.” “We need to live our lives not in a series of separated, segregated communities, but as one truly United Kingdom.”

Speaking outside Downing Street, May outlined a four point offensive — defeating the “ideology of Islamist extremism”; inter-governmental action to clamp down on what she called “safe space” on the internet; stepping up U.K. and allied military action in Iraq and Syria; and beefing up the government’s “domestic counterterrorism strategy.”

Capitalist political leaders around the world — from Washington to Moscow to Tehran — expressed support for the U.K. government. “Whatever the United States can do to help out,” President Donald Trump said, “we will be there.”

In the final days leading up to the general election, May and Corbyn were trying to one-up each other in proposing repressive measures and restrictions on political rights. “There is, to be frank, far too much tolerance of extremism in our country,” May said, promising longer jail terms for “terrorism-related offences.”

A centerpiece of Corbyn’s election campaign has been attacking the Conservatives for reducing the number of cops. “Austerity has to stop at the A&E (accident and emergency) ward and at the police station door. We cannot be protected and cared for on the cheap,” Corbyn said. “And if the security services need more resources to keep track of those who wish to murder and maim, then they should get them.”

Tom Watson, Corbyn’s deputy, has called for the reintroduction of the Control Orders, introduced under the Labour government of Anthony Blair. Under the open-ended orders, “suspects” could be held without trial for three

months; speech that “condones terrorism” was made illegal; and authorities were given powers to limit the people “suspects” could associate with and where they could live. Because of opposition, some of the orders were never implemented and others were replaced by the Conservative government of David Cameron with the less draconian 2011 Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Act. “This is not the time for diluted anti-terror laws,” Watson said.

Others, including UK Independence Party leader Paul Nuttall and Tarique Ghaffur, a former assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard, have floated harsher measures, including internment without trial for thousands currently being monitored by MI5, as well as waterboarding.

“The Tories sacked 20,000 police officers, and everyone can see the results,” former Labour Member of Parliament George Galloway, now standing as an independent, told those at election hustings in Manchester Gorton.

Any attacks on political rights should be resisted, replied the Communist League’s Clifford. Working people need political space to respond to the drive of the capitalist rulers to offload their crisis onto our backs.

Today the rulers say their enemy is Islamic State, but the ultimate target is the working class. “Remember the police riot against striking miners at the Orgreave coking plant 33 years ago,”

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suicide rate,” Trowe said. “This will only get worse as the crisis of capitalism deepens.

“The Socialist Workers Party is the voice of the working class. Our program is one of solidarity and uniting working people,” she said. “My supporters and I are part of fighting the employers’ attacks, like the recent Honeywell lockout and the hard-fought Momenive strike, along with the ongoing fight to get the last of 26 workers fired during the strike back to work.”

Some 700 members of International Union of Electrical Workers-Communications Workers of America Local 81359 were forced on strike last November after voting down concession contract demands by the bosses. They went back to work in February, proud of how they strengthened their union in the fight. SWP members joined strikers on the picket line and helped build solidarity with their battle.

“The Paris climate accord, which claims to cut carbon emissions, is a sham,” Trowe said. “It’s a dogfight among the big capitalist powers for business and trade advantage while they try to suppress competition from countries their system holds in underdevelopment.

“Only working people have an interest in protecting land and labor,” she said. “Protection of the environment, like safety on the job, falls to the working class.”

Maria Diotte, a founder of Organize Your Actions who had invited Trowe to talk with her organization a couple weeks earlier and was at the press conference, told Trowe she wanted to discuss more about the climate deal.

While acknowledging the Paris Climate Accord was “flawed,” Diotte said, “It takes care of our planet by reducing emissions and transitioning to cleaner energy sources. It’s important to be part



Militant/Hugo Wils

April 22 candidates’ debate in Manchester, U.K. From left, George Galloway; Peter Clifford, Communist League; Jackie Pearcey, Liberal Democrats; and David Hopkins.

Clifford said. “The Margaret Thatcher government at the time dubbed the miners ‘the enemy within.’ Working people don’t have common interests with the government.”

In a May 29 interview on Legacy Radio, Clifford took up Corbyn’s claim that the growth of Islamic State and its terror attacks are a blow-back from London’s participation in the Washington-led Middle East and Afghanistan wars.

Reactionary terror isn’t an understandable response by the toilers to imperialist aggression. The Algerian people faced tremendous brutality at the hands of French colonialism, but they didn’t respond in a reactionary anti-working-class IS-style way, Clif-

ford said. “They organized a powerful revolutionary struggle and established a workers and farmers government.”

And in Cuba, Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement led workers and farmers to overthrow the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship. They have defended their socialist revolution for over 50 years, setting an example for workers everywhere.

Working people in the Middle East don’t need U.N.-imposed “stability,” as Corbyn has argued, Clifford said. They need time and space, free of foreign intervention, to find the way to fight for political power. “The Communist League calls for U.K., U.S. and all foreign troops out.”

of that, regardless of who might be making money because of it.”

“Working people must fight for what we need, not what the capitalists and their politicians say is the best we can get,” Trowe said. “They try to blame us for damage to the earth and steer us toward moral witness and personal steps like sorting our trash, when they are the mega-polluters.”

“It’s their profit system that guarantees the destruction of life and limb on the job and contamination of the products, and of the air, water and land,” she said.

Diotte told Trowe her perspective was “eye-opening” and she wanted to explore it further.

Trowe had just returned from participating in a solidarity brigade to revolutionary Cuba. She condemned Washington’s continuing economic war against Cuba, calling for “Washington to get out of Guantánamo and end its criminal embargo.”

Campaigners fan out

The supporters of the campaign fanned out throughout the area to present the party to working people. SWP members came up from New York City to join in, including Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for mayor there.

As Trowe and campaign supporter Ray Parsons, a union electrician, were getting out of the car to campaign in Mechanicville, north of Albany, two of Parsons’ former coworkers recognized him and stopped to talk.

Max Clancy and Matt Landy, as well as Parsons, had walked the picket line in solidarity with Momenive strikers. “It sounds like the workers at Momenive didn’t get much from the strike,” Landy said.

“All the bosses are demanding concessions and going after the unions today. But Momenive workers I’ve talk-

ed with said they went back with their heads up, and their union stronger for having fought,” Trowe said. “They’ve won back the jobs of 25 of the 26 workers the company fired during the strike, and they’re fighting to get the last worker back. That doesn’t happen too often.”

“The politicians don’t care about us,” Landy said. “Now Hillary Clinton is blaming the Democratic Party for her election defeat. And the media is really going after Trump.”

“Neither Clinton nor Trump can solve the crisis working people face,” Trowe said. “But the relentless campaign by the liberals to get rid of Trump is really aimed at the working class, because the capitalist rulers fear the workers who voted for him. They saw workers’ anger at the ‘swamp’ of the rulers’ government, at the social disaster and depression conditions the bosses are shoving on our backs as their capitalist system’s crisis deepens, and they sense big battles are to come.” Clancy subscribed to the *Militant*.

“I saw you on television yesterday,” beer salesman Mike Gilbert told Trowe when they met. “Wasn’t Bernie Sanders doing the same thing as you — putting more focus on the working class?”

“No, Sanders defends the capitalist system. He proposes to raise taxes a little on the rich and make some reforms on health care and education in order to save capitalism,” Trowe said. “We think the working-class movement can grow in strength and numbers and do what they did in Cuba, make a revolution and end the dictatorship of capital. We can transform ourselves in the process, and fight to build our own workers and farmers government.” Gilbert got a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart: Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and subscribed to the *Militant*.

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