South Korean police hold “anti-terror” drill at Seoul subway during U.S.-South Korean military after Pyongyang tests new bomb
Washington seeks more sanctions after Pyongyang tests new bomb

SWP sets fall book, circulation, fund drives

BY MARY MARTIN
The Socialist Workers Party National Committee met over the Sept. 2-4 Labor Day weekend to discuss steps to take the party, its program, and its activities deeper into the working class. A nine-week fall drive to

expands the circulation of the Militant newspaper and sales of books was set for Sept. 16 through Nov. 21 by party leaders.

The drive takes place in the midst of a deep political crisis in the Democratic and Republican parties, the result of a world crisis of the capitalist system and the mounting carnage facing working people. The Militant newspaper, and the books being promoted, are indispensable to understanding the roots of the capitalist assault on working people and what kind of party and movement are needed to fight for workers power to reverse the devastating situation millions are being driven into.

The unending imperialist wars abroad of the U.S. rulers are aimed at protecting their profits and making

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Socialist Workers Party: Amnesty for immigrants!

No to deportations! Build unity of working class!

The Militant's Mike Shur

The following statement was issued Sept. 5 by Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.

SOCIALIST WORKERS
PARTY STATEMENT

The Socialist Workers Party encourages working people and youth to join us in actions around the country protesting the government’s plan to phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The SWP says “Stop the deportations! Amnesty for all immigrants who are here!” That’s the road to uniting the working class.

Over the last several decades U.S.- and foreign-born working people have gotten to know each other. We work in the same factories and on the same construction sites. Our children go to the same schools. We have all been battered by the capitalist economic crisis and the bosses’ push to

Continued on page 9

French rulers take on unions, join Berlin to try to fix EU crisis

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS
As he promised both during his campaign and after his election last May, French President Emmanuel Macron decreed Aug. 31 an overhaul of the country’s Labor Code, targeting unions, job protections and working conditions. The move comes at the same time as the French rulers are pushing to solidify their bloc with German Chancellor Angela Merkel to hold together the European Union, which the worldwide capitalist economic crisis and conflicting national interests are tearing apart.

At the heart of Macron’s proposed changes would be getting legal protections workers have won in long past labor upsurges against being fired or laid off. Collected in the government’s 3,324-page Labor Code,

Continued on page 9

Workers face deepening social crisis after Harvey

BY SETH GALINSKY
The death toll from Hurricane Harvey is over 60, with more likely to be found. Tens of thousands of homes and farms in Texas are damaged or destroyed. Hundreds of thousands are still in shelters, relatives’ homes or hotels, not knowing when, or if, they will be able to return home. Floodwaters are contaminated from chemical and oil leaks in area refineries and plants. This unfolding social crisis is not a “natural” disaster. It’s man-made, caused by capitalism’s unceasing drive for profits.

Most capitalist politicians and media mouthpieces try to dodge the question of responsibility for the social catastrophe, saying it was just a big storm no one could do anything about. But the truth is coming out.

For years government authorities knew that storms like this were coming, yet they continued to promote construction, even in known flood zones. In their search for profits they eagerly paved over wetlands and prairies that absorb floodwaters to put up the roads, homes, parking lots and

Continued on page 4

Liberal attacks, ‘antifa’ thugs threaten rights workers need

BY SETH GALINSKY
The propertied rulers in the U.S. face an unprecedented political crisis today, precipitated by the changes in class reality that were reflected in the election of Donald Trump as president and the deepening crisis of

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Inside

Walmart, Amazon battle for top dog, workers pay the price
Utah nurse arrested for defending patient’s rights
Tehran, Assad seek to advance interests against Washington
Solidarity marks workers’ fight against BC wildfires
US board orders wage, pension cuts in its colony Puerto Rico
Walmart, Amazon battle for top dog, workers pay the price

BY JIM BRADLEY

Dog-eat-dog competition between retail giants Walmart and Amazon is sharpening and the rest of the retail market is facing a growing threat, with competitors like Macy’s closing stores across the country and mall owners finding fewer and fewer customers.

This process of continually monetization is built on employers who hate unions and fight to keep tight control over workers’ wages and schedules to squeeze out maximum profit, while keeping prices low enough to punish rivals.

These developments unfold against the backdrop of the deepening economic crisis of U.S. and world capital.

The two behemoths are each trying to become more like the other to compete against each other better — Amazon buying up Whole Foods and opening thousands of small-based stores are shutting down what’s in fast becoming one of the biggest waves of retail closures in decades. JCPenney is shutting down 138 stores — 14 percent of its locations. Sears is closing 150 Sears and Kmarts stores. More than 3,500 store closings are expected in the next couple of months.

One reason for Walmart’s ability to clobber its rivals is its vast reach — it boasts having stores within 10 miles of 90 percent of the U.S. population. Its strong grocery sales generate more than 50 percent of the company’s income.

In the face of this, Kroger Co., the largest grocery-store conglomerate, reports sales have plummeted 35 percent this year, erasing more than $5 billion in value.

Amazon, the leader in e-commerce with 43 percent of all U.S. online retail sales, is trying to go head to head with Walmart. Run by Jeffrey Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post, Amazon is driving to expand its reach, eschewing efforts to make any substantial profit now in search of monopoly profits later. Amazon’s second-quarter profits this year were down 77 percent compared with the previous year.

To compete, Walmart lost nearly a tenth of its $220 billion value on the stock market two years ago after declaring that its investments in e-commerce and higher wages for employees would lower profits over the next few years.

The bosses at both companies are expert at using their market size to force manufacturers to offer steep discounts for the “privilege” of being carried. And both are pushing for new ways to cut costs and poach into the markets of the other. In 2016 Walmart began a pilot program of paying workers over-time for delivering packages on their way home after their shift.

B osses at both companies are looking into using drones for deliveries. The Walton clan, the main owners of Walmart, recently took out a patent on building a flotilla of blimp warehouses that would hover at 500 feet over cities and dispatch fleets of drones to get you your order. Amazon took out a similar patent last year, based on a mother ship flying at 45,000 feet.

At the beginning of August, Amazon held a hiring day nationwide for 50,000 full-time warehouse workers, and projects a workforce of 300,000 by the middle of next year. Walmart has 1.2 million U.S. employees in 4,500 stores.

In the face of this onslaught, the only other retail outlets still looking to expand are discount outlets, like Aldi in food and T.J. Maxx and Marshall’s and Ross Stores for clothing and other merchandise. The three largest “Dollar” store chains — Dollar General, Family Dollar and Dollar Tree — now sport a whopping 28,000 stores.

The bosses’ cutthroat competition is based on keeping out unions at all costs, and keeping “associates” wages low and schedules tightly controlled. Walmart has a national network of training academies where supervisors and department heads are sent for special training to learn “leadership” — i.e., how to manage the workforce and press the most out of them. The company says more than 140,000 middle and upper level employees go to an academy each year.

Stirring hopes for both Walmart and Amazon workers are currently above the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour, a reflection in part of the struggle by workers in fast food and other industries in recent years for a minimum wage of $15 an hour.

What workers at Walmart and Amazon need more than anything else is unionization, to be able to organize to defend themselves and advance their interests against the boss.

Defend ranchers’ grazing rights on federal lands

Facing government frame-up charges, ranchers and other supporters of 2014 protests backing Cliven Bundy’s fight for right to graze on federally owned land in Bunkerville, Nevada, won acquittal. The ‘Militant’ opposes the frame-ups and backs the ranchers’ fight.

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New readers

$5 for 12 issues

$10 for 12 weeks

$20 for 6 months

$35 for 1 year
SPW circulation, fund drives

Continued from front page

workers and farmers pay for the crisis of their capitalist system. At home and abroad workers’ living conditions are deteriorating through lower wages, speedup, and increasingly dangerous conditions on the job. Working-class families are confronting an epidemic of opioid addiction and death.

The Militant’s circulation drive will promote five books on special that bring to life a revolutionary perspective for taking political power out of the capitalists’ hands. Available at half price when purchased with an introductory $5 Militant subscription, will be Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power. Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes; and Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible? by party leader Mary-Alice Waters. In addition “It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US Justice System” by the Cuban Five, five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and jailed for more than a decade for actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution, can also be purchased for $5 with a subscription.

Socialist Workers Party members and supporters in the United States and members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom will center the circulation drive door to door in working-class neighborhoods. They will take the paper and books to anti-racist activists, picket lines and demonstrations in support of women’s rights.

Sales of the Militant and books by party leaders will also be an important aspect of socialists on the job advancing the perspective for organizing workers, unionization, and fighting for workers’ rights.

Socialist workers will take the Militant and books by party leaders with them to show to fellow participants at the “In the Footsteps of Che” brigade in Cuba and at the World Festival of Youth in Sochi, Russia, both in October.

One important source of subscriptions and book sales will be from workers behind bars across the country. The Militant and Pathfinder Books have a growing readership among prison inmates, who look to keep informed and involved in broader working-class political issues, as well as to keep up on the Militant’s battles against efforts by prison authorities to censor the paper.

The SWP National Committee also launched a concurrent nine-week fund drive to raise $100,000 to finance the Socialist Workers Party’s activities over the coming year. The fund is essential to advancing the work of taking the party’s program deeper into the working class.

The writer of this article, who is the party’s candidate for mayor in Seattle, is the organizer of the Militant’s circulation drive. Chris Hoepner, organizer of the SWP in Philadelphia, was assigned as director for the fund.

Join us

Next week we’ll announce the international goal for the subscription drive and book sales. We’ll begin to report on the quotas taken by party branches and individuals in local areas.

Help to sign up others to subscribe to the Militant and purchase the books described above. You can join us and make a contribution to the work of the Socialist Workers Party by contacting the nearest party branch listed on page 8.

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“It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US Justice System” by the Cuban Five, five Cuban revolutionaries who were imprisoned for actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution, can also be purchased for $5 with a subscription.

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism by Jack Barnes

Why Washington Fears Working People by Jack Barnes

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible? A Necessary Debate Among Working People by Mary-Alice Waters

$7 EACH WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION (NORMALLY $10)

To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8.

SWP discusses social crisis after Hurricane Harvey

Cynthia Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, shows Militant to sanitation worker Leonard Reese on his doorstep in North Miami Sept. 4. “If we could just all unite, we could shut this country down,” he told Jaquith as they discussed the SWP’s perspective of building a movement for the working class to take political power.

Jaquith showed Reese and other workers she visited her campaign statement on the social disaster unfolding in Houston from Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath that was printed in the Militant.

The statement said that the hurricane’s impact “is a direct product of the natural workings of the capitalist system, the dictatorship of capital.” The capitalist rulers “made no plans to mobilize the forces needed to safely and quickly evacuate the tens of thousands who knew they would face life-threatening conditions in an area that’s a frequent target of hurricanes.”

It also pointed to the sharp difference the socialist revolution in Cuba makes for working people in organizing to deal with the frequent hurricanes workers and farmers face there. In Cuba, “thousands of volunteers, backed by the resources of their government and its communist leadership, are in place to carry out any needed evacuation and begin immediate reconstruction of destroyed homes and public facilities,” Jaquith says in the statement. “The capitalist propert’y insurance’ racket doesn’t exist there; because it is not needed”

Party members across the country used the Militant and Jaquith’s statement to discuss Cuba’s revolution and the example it sets for working people everywhere. And to discuss the potential shown here in the U.S. by the human solidarity of workers and ranchers in Texas risking everything to help others escape the ravages of Harvey in the face of the government’s lack of preparation.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

Utah nurse arrested for defending patient’s rights

By Lea SHERMAN

A body camera video that went viral has exposed the July 26 brutal arrest and mistreatment of University of Utah Hospital nurse Alex Wubbels by Jeff Payne, a Salt Lake City cop. The incident was captured on a video released by Wubbels and her lawyer Aug. 31.

A hundred protesters mounted a rally organized by Utah Against Police Brutality outside the Salt Lake City Police Department Sept. 2 calling for Payne to be fired.

Wubbels, the charge nurse in the burn unit, told Payne repeatedly that she could not draw a sample of blood from her unconscious patient and give it to him. It was against hospital policy and nurses’ ethics. The patient had to give consent or be under arrest, or the cop had to have a warrant.

William Gray, the patient, was a truck driver who had been in a head-on collision. The driver who hit him was fleeing the police and was killed in the crash.

Wubbels’ defense of Gray’s rights and her professional dignity — so infuriated Payne that he manhandled her, pushing her through two sets of emergency room doors. He handcuffed her and forced her into an unmarked police car.

Wubbels cried out, “Somebody help me,” and “you’re hurting me,” but several university hospital police refused to do anything. The University of Utah hospital has since barred police from patient care areas and from direct contact with nurses.

National Nurses United, the largest nurses’ union nationwide, called a press conference Aug. 31. “The first job of an experienced registered nurse is always to protect and advocate for her patient, period,” Jean Ross, co-president of the union, said, calling the cop’s actions “outrageous.”

Thousands of complaints came into the police department’s dispatch center blasting Payne and his strong-arm arrest. With this kind of outcry, the Salt Lake City district attorney launched a criminal investigation and the mayor and police chief apologized.

And finally, a month after the incident, Payne and another cop have been placed on administrative leave, but with pay.

“I stood my ground. I stood for what was right” Wubbels told CNN.

Militant/Chuck Guerra
Continued from front page

businesses. And when government agencies learned that Hurricane Harvey was coming, people started to get food, medicine and other basic necessities ready and in place.

The social crisis continues to unfold as the waters recede. The storm wreaked at least 300,000 cars and trucks, making getting to work, salvaging possessions from flooded homes and apartments, and obtaining aid even more of a challenge.

Thirty toxic waste “superfund” sites were flooded and a half-dozen oil tanks or more were damaged. Dozens of broken sewage systems added fecal material to the floodwaters. Texas officials say that more than 12,000 homes were swamped, and some 200,000 more damaged.

Thousands of cattle were scattered by the storm and ranchers have scrambled to get them to safer ground. Ryan Ashcraft, a helicopter pilot who herds cattle from the air, told the New York Times that “if people lose all of their cattle they’d go broke and have to sell their land.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved $114 million in aid for 161,000 people, out of more than 500,000 applications. But this is just a drop in the bucket of what is needed. The owners of the Linda Vista apartment complex in Houston told tenants that late fees would not be waived and anyone who didn’t pay their rent would be locked out of their apartments.

While the storm damaged the homes of rich and poor alike, its impact is not the same. The Washington Post reported that some of Houston’s worst flooding was in Greenspoint, a mostly Black and Latino neighborhood built “not only in floodplains but floodways,” specifically designed to channel floodwaters. The wealthy and upper middle class whose homes were damaged are already hiring contractors and starting to rebuild. But for working people, the vast majority of whom have no flood or storm insurance, Houston and other communities devastated by the storm will never be the same.

The one thing that prevented even more deaths and devastation was the widespread human solidarity of working people. For the first few days of the storm, workers used kayaks, canoes, fishing boats, high trucks, even jet skis to rescue thousands who were stranded and abandoned by government authorities. Thousands of people showed solidarity to their fellow workers by donating supplies and time to the shelters. It wasn’t until three days after the storm hit that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott mobilized the Texas National Guard’s 12,000 troops and asked the Defense Department to allow U.S. soldiers to join in rescue efforts.

Revolutionary Cuba shows the way

There is an example for how the threat from natural disasters can be met—revolutionary Cuba.

By Sept. 5, Category 5 Hurricane Irma was beginning to roll across the Caribbean. Almost everywhere workers are being told the same thing the people of Houston were—you’re on your own and you should find some way to get out of harm’s way.

It’s completely different in Cuba. Workers and farmers made a revolution there in 1959 and built their own government, which puts human needs before private profit. They were transformed through the revolutionary struggle and mobilizations since to confront the relentless attacks of Washington, which despises their example.

Days before Irma threatened to hit Cuba, the government had already mobilized its National Defense Council to marshal the resources needed to “prevent damage and the loss of human life.”

They will do as they have done in past storms — use the full strength of the army and a mobilized and disciplined population to prepare to withstand the storm, evacuate people to safety and rebuild immediately after.

In Santiago de Cuba, the government organized to transfer all dialysis patients out of threatened areas so there would be no danger of any interruption in their care. And they moved 1,031 pregnant women for the same reason.

As they work to keep people informed of preparations, the government said, “Ask for help whenever you need it.” And then they add, “Give help whenever you can.”

Social crisis deepens in Texas

BY JIM BRADLEY

Lubnan-based Hezbollah and affiliated Shiite militias — backed by Moscow, the armed forces of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad and Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and Islamic Republic — pushed into southeastern Syria Sept. 5, breaking through the Islamic State’s siege of the city of Deir el-Zour in the oil-rich Euphrates Valley. In addition, they blocked the efforts of Washington and its Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces allies to extend their control further into the key region.

What is unfolding, the Washington Post said Sept. 5, is “a global race to control the rest of the desert province, also named Deir al-Zour, which the United States has also been preparing to liberate.”

U.S. bombers, special forces and the SDF are currently fighting to take Raqa, which has served as the capital of the reactionary IS’s self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq, some 90 miles from Deir el-Zour.

The speed and size of the forces involved in the Tehran-Baghdad-Moscow offensive reflects the importance of these regimes put on the area. For the Iranian rulers, the prize is opening a land route to Iraq’s border.

For the U.S. rulers recently ended a covert yearlong CIA program that supplied a number of anti-Assad rebel groups with weapons.

Speaking at an Aspen, Colorado, security forum in July, CIA Director Mike Pompeo said that Washington has killed two enemies in Syria — Islamic State and Iran. The latter is what the competition is called. Iran. The latter is what the competition is called.
Solidarity marks workers’ fight against wildfires in Canada

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ AND LYNDA LITTLE

CACHE CREEK, British Columbia — This year’s forest wildfire season in British Columbia is the worst ever recorded, with almost a million acres burned down so far.

While some fires break out in the forests every summer, from lightning strikes in dry, hot weather conditions, the current ones are far more extensive. The British Columbia government took the unprecedented step in July of extending a state of emergency after ordering the evacuation of 45,000 people from their homes.

The fires shut down the province’s timber mills, copper mines and other industries. And they forced the evacuation of ranchers from their homes here and in other areas.

Forest and food industries are the backbone of production in the province, accounting for over 145,000 jobs, nearly a quarter of all manufactur- ing employment here.

During a recent trip by supporters of the Communist League to talk with working people near the fires, we knocked on door after door, in working-class neighborhoods and discussed what could be done to better fight the fires and defend working people’s homes.

We found powerful examples of solidarity among workers, who stopped fires and minimized their effects, but also a high level of anger at the inaction of British Columbia rulers responding.

“Many of the animals have suffered age, evacuations and killed livestock. The government, as well as an apology. The result is that these fields ended up to fight the fires from devasting the village, and no one was hurt. “Threatening to take Native children away from their parents is a reminder of the residential schools,” one Caucasian forestry worker told us. From the 1870s to 1996, more than 150,000 Native children were forcibly taken from their homes by the Cana- dian government and made to attend “Indian residential schools” that the federal government in Ottawa now admits were designed to “kill the In- dian in the child.”

A 2014 Supreme Court decision here upheld the Tshiq’i’n Nation’s claim for Aboriginal title over 4,000 square kilometers (1,550 square miles) of land in central British Co- lumbia, with uncharged implica- tions for the forestry industry.

The province’s government claims ownership over some 95 percent of the forests in British Columbia, while Native people control 0.1 percent.

Creating fire protection zones around communities is the key to protecting working people. But that’s not the capitalist rulers’ priority. “It seems that governments are willing to protect the annual allowable cut at the expense of community haz- ard reduction,” fire ecologist Robert Gray wrote in a Vancouver Sun op- ed last summer after the disaster that burned through 1.5 million acres of forest and caused the evacuation of almost 10,000 people in Fort Mc- Murray, Alberta.

“The management focus adjacent to communities is still maximizing timber production instead of hazard reduction,” Gray said in a July 30 Sun

op-ed about this summer’s fires in British Columbia.

In our discussions, we said the government represents the interest of the big capitalist corporations, not those working people in the fire zone. The only force capable of re- gulating the crises produced by capital- ism is the working class advancing to unite all working people and fighting to defend our interests on the road to taking political power away from the capitalists.

In mid-July, 300 members of the T’Qlemtinux Nation in Alexis Creek decided to ignore evacuation orders and stay to fight the fires. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police re- sponded by threatening to have the Ministry of Children and Family Serv- ices “remove all the children.” Trib- al Chief Joe Alphonse said that they would set up roadblocks and prevent anything like that from happening. The RCMP backed down.

Well-equipped and experienced members of the Nation prevented the fire from devasting the village, and no one was hurt.

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Then we — the vast majority whose labor creates all the wealth can make decisions based on human needs, not private profit.

Opening our discussions this way helped people focus on the way for- ward in defending working people.

— ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

September 18, 1992

MIAMI — Two weeks after Hurri- cane Andrew hit, the people of south- ern Florida continue to suffer from the twin effects of the natural disaster and an unnatural disaster: the negative and inadequate response of the government. Tens of thousands are camped out in their crumbling homes; an estimated 350,000 remain without electricity; 57,000 have no phone service; 250,000 are homeless. The death toll from the hurricane and its aftermath stands at 38.

A health crisis is emerging in south- ern Dade County, with diseases rang- ing from dehydration due to intense heat and lack of water to salmonella and dysentery from contaminated food and water.

Meanwhile, politicians and busi- nessmen are debating what and how much to rebuild, and who will profit, and who will foot the bill.

The death toll in South Asia has surpassed 1,400 in the aftermath of weeks of torrential monsoon rains across Bangladesh, India and Nepal this summer. Over 41 million people are affected by the flooding and land- slides that have destroyed homes and shattered lives. It’s the workings of capitalism and the callous indifference of Washington and other imperial- ist powers that are behind the acuteness of this catastrophe.

In India, the government has needed 30 million people have been hit, the in- frastructure of Mumbai — the country’s Wall Street and home to the Bol- lywood movie industry — collapsed under the relentless monsoon rain, see, above. Like Houston, Mumbai has experienced explosive growth, doubling in population to 22 million over the last 25 years, and capitally profits have systematically covered water drainage land with housing, streets and factories. Over 1 million people are crammed into the Dharavi slum, with 15,000 single-room factories. The city’s storm water drainage system, originally designed in the 1860s when the British ruled India, can- not begin to handle the monsoons.

Comparing the situation in South Asia to Texas, Jomo Anzalone of the Red Cross told NPR that unlike in the U.S., the governments in India or Bangladesh “simply don’t have the resources.”

But the problem isn’t “resources.” India and Bangladesh have vastly larger populations and gross domestic product than Cuba, another regular victim of dangerous hurricanes. But unlike the capitalist countries in South Asia, the working people of Cuba overthrew capitalism and U.S. colonial rule and use their control of state power to mobilize the country to meet hurricanes and any other threat they face, including the unremitting ha- privation of Washington’s Cuba workers — armed with their revolution and human solidarity — are the “resources” the working world needs to emulate.

— ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

September 18, 1942

DETROIT — In a new display of uni- ty engendered by the Detroit uprising, the Black People’s Tribunal, sponsored by the Citizens Action Committee, conducted a peoples trial of a national guardian showcases, to Detroit police- men, Ronald August and Robert Pakle; and a Negro private guard, Melvin Dismukes. The four were found guilty by the Tribunal of conspiracy to maliciously murder three unarmed Black youths in the Algiers Motel during the July re- bellion here.

Over 2,000 Black people attended the Tribunal, held on Aug. 30, and an equal number were turned away because of lack of room. The integrated jury in- cluded the well-known Black writer, John O. Killens, and Rosa Parks, whose courageous stand against discrimina- tion on buses led to the 1955-56 Mont- gomery, Ala., Bus Boycott.

More than any other people, the Jews have become the burning symbol of capitalism in decay, of a civilization that threatens to fall back completely into barbarism. The Nazis have made the Jewish people the scapegoat of their sys- tem’s cyclic cruelty.

The inhuman treatment of the Jews by the Nazis has served also to test the pretensions to humanity of the demo- cratic capitalist lands.

We know how England refused per- mission to boatloads of Jewish refugees to land in Palestine, even when already in sight of its shores. The sinking of sev- eral such boats with the loss of hundreds of lives and dysentery from contaminated food and water. The Militant September 18, 2017

September 18, 1967

DETROIT — In a new display of uni- ty engendered by the Detroit uprising, the Black People’s Tribunal, sponsored by the Committee of the Citywide Citizens Action Committee, conducted a peoples trial of a national guardian showcases, to Detroit police- men, Ronald August and Robert Pakle; and a Negro private guard, Melvin Dismukes. The four were found guilty by the Tribunal of conspiracy to maliciously murder three unarmed Black youths in the Algiers Motel during the July re- bellion here.

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The U.S. ruling families and their colonial regime in Puerto Rico are stepping up attacks on the wages, pensions and living conditions of workers on the island.

To maximize payment of some $74 billion in government debt to wealthy bondholders, they aim to “restructure” the colonial regime — a euphemism for laying off public workers and cutting social services. Over the next three years they plan to slash the budget of the U.S. colony by 30 percent.

All pretenses that Puerto Ricans and the colonial government there call thisapk a two-year restructuring, which is 27 months of austerity and work for workers on the island.

In an Aug. 4 letter, José Carrión, chair of the junta — as people in Puerto Rico call the board — praised Roselló for the new budget he approved, which includes $662 million in deep cuts for the coming year. But it’s not enough, Carrión complained. The junta wants $218 million more right away.

He ordered Roselló to funnel government employees two days a month and to make mandatory an additional 10 percentage points — 3.3 percent each month — of workers’ pay. Roselló worried that going that far might provoke big protests, so the junta sued the Puerto Rican government Aug. 28 to get its way.

“The governor always says he’s not going to give in to the junta’s demands, but in the end he always does,” Verónica Figueroa, 23, told the Militant in a phone interview from Caguas. She was part of the two-month-long student strike this year against government plans to slash the University of Puerto Rico’s budget and graduated in August. “He wants to give the impression that the government is trying to defend some of the rights of the students,” she said.

The school’s budget was cut $202 million for the coming year, she said, and tuition and other fees are being more than doubled.

“Everyone knows someone who has moved,” said Figueroa. “A friend of mine moved to Boston. She got a job, but she still has to work overtime every weekend and four days a week. The cost of living and rent are so high, there’s not much left over.”

Figueroa said she was inspired by the attacks on workers and youth. “The health care crisis is getting worse,” Yazmin López, a nurse in Caguas, told the Militant. “The cost of medicines are very high. So many doctors have left the country that you can wait six months to see a specialist.”

An even bigger crisis is looming in March 2018, when a one-time fund to shore up the island’s Medicaid program will run out.

Workers have a wide variety of opinions on whether Puerto Rico becoming independent or a U.S. state would help them fight the crisis. Or whether the attacks of the junta mean that the Cuban Revolution, overthrowing capitalist rule, will be one day.

Vargas noted that Roselló supports statehood. “They make it sound like statehood would be a magic wand to solve our problems,” he said. “But it’s not like that, Washington’s not going to just give it away.”

Figueroa says she’s a supporter of independence. “And it should be a socialist project,” she said. “It’s a question of Puerto Rico for whom. Are the rich people going to keep making the decisions with more problems for the poor, the working class and the middle class? Or will it mean a different road for the country?”

Protests against the attacks from Washington and the colonial regime continue, as well as the debate on how to move forward. Hundreds of unionists demonstrated in San Juan Aug. 30 against the furloughs, pension cuts and the colonial government’s austerity bills. “They’re taking advantage of us poor workers. We did not steal. We are not corrupt,” read the sign carried by 70-year-old retired government worker Eva Feliciano.
Che Guevara: A ‘man of ideas and action combined’

Che believed in man. And if we don’t believe in man, if we think that man is an incorrigible little animal, capable of advancing only if you feed him grass or tempt him with a carrot or whip him with a stick — anybody who believes this, anybody convinced of this, never be a revolutionary, never be a socialist, never be a communist.

— Fidel Castro

Havana, October 1987


BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

The questions that Ernesto Che Guevara, the Cuban revolutionary central leadership of the Cuban revolution, sought to help the vanguard of the working class answer more than three decades ago are still the most pressing of our epoch. Guevara charted a course to rid the world of the capitalist system, with all its horrors, and open the way for working men and women to begin to transition toward a socialist society, transforming themselves in the process. That course determined his every deed as a conscious political leader.

Like the young founders of the modern communist movement, Che deeply believed, and acted on his conviction, that “revolution is necessary . . . not only because the ruling class cannot be overthrown in any other way, but also because the class overthrowing it can only in a revolution succeed in ridding itself of all the muck of ages and become fit to found society anew.”

After Fidel Castro — the historic leader of the Cuban revolutionary forces from 1953 to today — Ernesto Che Guevara was the best-known leader of the revolution during its early years, which he characterized as the time to make the revolution “possible,” as Castro said in paying tribute to Guevara in October 1987.

Guevara was Argentine by birth. Having graduated from medical school in Buenos Aires in 1953, he met Fidel Castro in Mexico in July 1955 and immediately agreed to join the July 26 Movement and to sign on to the revolutionary force Castro was organizing to launch a revolutionary war against the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in Cuba. Soon thereafter, he would take the nickname “Che” (a popular form of address in Argentina) by his Cuban comrades — initially recruited as troop doctor, but he rapidly proved himself to be an outstanding combat leader and educator. In 1957 he became the first combatant promoted by Fidel to command a separate column of the Rebel Army. Guevara led the December 1958 campaign that culminated in the capture of the city of Santa Clara in central Cuba, effectively sealing the fate of the Batista dictator.

But Guevara’s most important contributions to the Cuban revolution were not military. In paying tribute to Che in October 1987, a few days after his death, Castro called attention to this fact, saying:

“Che was an extraordinarily able military leader. But when we remember

Che, when we think of Che, we do not think fundamentally of his military virtues. Che was a man of the mountains and not an End. Warfare is a tool of revolutionaries. The important thing is the revolution. The important thing is the revolutionary cause, revolutionary ideas, revolutionary objectives, revolutionary sentiments, revolutionary virtues! And it is in that field, in the field of ideas, in the field of sentiments, in the field of revolutionary virtues, in the field of intelligence, that—apart from his military virtues—we feel the tremendous loss that his death means to the revolutionary movement.

Che was not only an unsurpassed man of action — he was a man of visionary intelligence and broad culture, a profound thinker. That is, in his person the man of ideas and the man of action were combined.

During the opening years of the revolution, Guevara took on some of the most challenging, and heaviest, responsibilities,” writes Mary-Alice Waters. 

In footsteps of Che’ Cuba brigade kicks off Oct. 1

In 1983, a Stalinited-minded faction led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard overthrew the workers and farmers government, opened fire on thou- sand workers who sought to restore it, and murdered Bishop and other revolutionaries who fought with them. This opened the door for a U.S. invasion. In the footsteps of Che’ brigade will mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Ernesto Che Guevara, who was killed by the CIA and troops of the Bolivian military dictatorship in October 1967 while he was helping lead a revolutionary war against the dictatorship.

Guevara, originally from Argentina, met Fidel Castro in Mexico and became a leader of the July 26th Movement, organizing one of the columns that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. He held many leading posts in the Cuban government and represented the Cuban Revolution around the world (see accompanying article).

“The objectives of the brigade are to contribute to a greater understanding of the Cuban reality,” ICAP said in its letter inviting people to join. “Volunteer work will be carried out in support of agricul- tural development and the country’s productive sphere. Visits will be made to see the central role of Che in the provinces of Havana, Pinar del Rio, Santa Clara and Sancti Spiritus.”

“I’m going to visit Cuba so I can better understand the Cuban Revolution, so I can better.

defend the revolution there,” Charlize Theron, another brigadista from New York, told the Militant. “I want to learn how they have been able to maintain the revolution, under such difficult circumstances, like Washington’s de- cades-long embargo.”

Theron, 39, was born in Nicaragua, and is part of the 1,500 Americans looking forward to participating in the voluntary work and learning how they organize that,” she said. “I’m not sure if people in the U.S. can do what they did in Cuba. People seem too selfish here. I want to learn more.”

U.S. participants are organizing fundraising to cover travel costs and doing classes together about the Cuban Revolution to make it possible to get the most from going on the brigade. And they are discussing the im- pact of planning to organize meetings when they get back. They want to be able to explain to others what they learned about the Cuban Revolution, and why they should join the fight to end the U.S. embargo and Washington’s occupation of Guantánamo.

If you are interested in going on the brigade or making a contribution, contact the Cuba Brigade Coalition at (312) 952-2818 or ICanGoToCuba@icapusa.org.
‘We can say our revolution is so great and humane’

Below is an excerpt from Mariana in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mari-
ana Gómez Women’s Platoon in Cuba’s Revolutionary War 1956-59, one of
Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for September. Brigadier Gen. Puebla, the highest-ranking woman in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, joined the struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1956 when she was 15 years old. She was assigned by Fidel Castro to help lead the first all-women’s platoon in the revolutionary war. Ever since, her life has been intertwined with the fight to transform the social and economic status of women and to defend and advance Cuba’s socialist revolution. This interview by Mary-
Alice Waters, a leader of the Social-
ist Workers Party, and Luis Madrid is from the chapter “Social Solidarity: the Moral Foundation of the Revolu-
tion.” Copyright © 2003 by Pathfind-
er Press. Reprinted by permission.

**BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

**BY TETÉ PUEBLA**

**Waters:** Fidel [Castro] has often said that as difficult as it was to overthrow the Batista regime, the much bigger chal-

lenges began after January 1, 1959. The Rebel Army and July 26 Movement had to lead working people to take the po-

tical power they had won, to transform social relations from top to bottom, and to defend the revolution from attack by the U.S. ruling class and its government. What new tasks did you find your-

self responsible for after the revolution’s triumph? PUEBLA: On January 8, 1959, as we were heading to our homes, thinking of catching a few days’ rest, the com-

mander said to me: “You’re going to tend to Oriente province,” to head up the Department of Assistance to War Victims and Their Families, which was led by the Rebel Army in the area. We had to deal with all those affected by all the dictatorship’s crimes, the burned-
down houses, the destruction from the offensives waged in the eastern region. The new department’s slogan was, “In the face of pain, the homeland makes no distinction. To save a child is to build the homeland.”

So in early 1959 I went to Oriente province, to see to the victims of the war and their families. We worked very closely with Celia [Sanchez] and Fidel on this. The work began on Feb-

uary 4 that year. This was very satisfying work. Of all the things I’ve done in my life, this is one I’m proudest of: helping all these people. Taking care of the victims of war was a tradition of ours going back to the days of the Sierra Maestra. An example is the case of Euti-

mio Guerra, a peasant who joined the struggle and helped in the early days. But he turned traitor and sold out to the dictatorship’s army for money. His as-

signment was to kill Fidel, but he was discovered and executed. After we took care of his family. They were giv-

en 50 pesos a month, even though our guerrilla column had no money. And we assured them a cow, his children would be fed. His widow and four children became fully incorporated into the revolu-
tionary process.

In Oriente our starting point was to take care of all the victims of the war. We addressed everything the Batista government had destroyed. Sometimes you’d care for a peas-

ant child whose mother and father had been murdered, whose house had been burned down. And since our army was an army of the people, we rebuilt all those houses that Batista’s army had burned down. We took in all these fami-

lies because they’d had their land taken away, and they’d lost their jobs, they’d suf-

fered every kind of abuse. The Masferreristas, the ones I re-

tered to earlier who would put people in a sack, pour gasoline on them, and burn them alive — those perverted as-

sasins were in all the eastern zones, and they devastated towns. But the families of these murderers were provided for. Their children were provided for the same as the children of the rebels. That’s why with all truth-

fulness we can say our revolution is so great and humane, that’s how it must be.” One of the things we did in Oriente was build schools for the orphans, as well as foster homes. We addressed these issues in our revolutionary war, those who had fallen in bat-

tle. This was a tradition of ours going back to the Sierra Maestra. In the village of Pinar del Rio where I was during the war, for example, we named our little school after Pastor Palomares, a com-

padrero who had been killed in combat.

Among the people there was a great deal of hatred for the murderers of Ba-

tista’s army, and everyone knew who the killers were. So whenever we set up an army of children, we didn’t say who their parents were. Only those of us in charge of them knew. We protected these children in this way. At present those boys and girls are doctors, university graduates, they’re part of the revolution. There are eighteen war orphans that are like my own children to me, and their children are like my grandchildren.

The widows and mothers of the Batista army collect a pension, and that’s been true throughout the 43 years of our revolutionary process.

This is a characteristic of the revo-

lution. It’s called humanity. Love for one’s fellow human being. Love for the family. Love for the people, which is the only way to suffer injustice. We identify with all peoples of the world who fight against misery and hunger. We feel the same way for the hundreds of millions of abandoned children in the world who live in the streets looking for the means to subsist on. There are no such chil-

dren in Cuba. But there are, at one time or another, those penniless times, this revolution was capable of sheltering everyone, of taking these children off the streets. If that revolution didn’t have these qualities, it would no longer exist.

This began with Fidel. These principles of the revolution are the moral founda-

tion of our struggle.

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**USA:** We all accepted these in-

structions. We said: “If we win and discover Puebla to help command the revolution’s first all-women’s platoon, some men asked why they were getting armed. “Because they are better soldiers than you are,” Fidel replied.

The children, the mothers, the wid-

ows weren’t to blame for the murders of the army of the dictatorship committed. So we looked after their families, that’s how it must be.” One of the things we did in Oriente was build schools for the orphans, as well as foster homes. We addressed these issues in our revolutionary war, those who had fallen in bat-

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**BY TETÉ PUEBLA**

**Waters:** The highest-ranking woman in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces today is Teté Puebla, and Luis Madrid is from the chapter “Social Solidarity: the Moral Foundation of the Revolu-
tion.” Copyright © 2003 by Pathfind-
er Press. Reprinted by permission.

The Militant September 18, 2017
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT
No deportations! Amnesty now!

Continued from front page
make us pay to prop up their dog-eat-dog free-market system. Workers have no speedup on the job, unsafe working conditions and high unemployment. They seek to "divide and conquer," pit Black against Caucasian or migrant against native-born, em-
ployed against unemployed. We all have a common enemy — the cap-
italist system under which we labor and racial oppression. We need to unite and fight together.

President Donald Trump’s admin-
istration says they are passing the ball to the states and will phase out DACA over the next two years unless the Democrats and Republicans pass an immigration reform bill that “protects the American job.

But there are two Americas — the mer-
ica of the wealthy, property owners, and the America of the workers and farmers who create all the wealth. Workers and our unions need to say, “We don’t care whose job you lose; let’s stand up and fight against the bosses together.”

We need to fight to rebuild our unions, to organize the unorganized, to fight for a government-funded public works program that would put millions of people back to work. We need to expand the workforce. This would rebuild crumbling infrastructure — from New York’s subways to the dams and water supplies of the West, to the homes destroyed by Hurricane Harvey.

But as long as the interests of the working class can be won if we are divided. That’s why the fight for amnesty for immigrant work-
ers is the most important question for the working class.

The DACA program — granting work permits and temporary pro-
tection from deportation to some 800,000 people who came to the U.S. as children — was put in place by then-President Barack Obama in 2012 as an executive order. At the same time, his administration de-
ported hundreds of thousands of undocumented workers. Obama joined more workers on so-called immigration violations than any other president in U.S. history.

As we fight against the protected rulers’ attacks on our class, working people need our own party, a party like the SWP, to organize to take political power out of the hands of the bosses. That means that we are in a stronger position to advance the interests of the working class. Join us in this fight! No deportations! Amnesty now!

French rulers attack unions, join Berlin on EU

Continued from front page
New York Times said Aug. 4, the laws hinder the bosses’ ability to do as they wish with the work-
ers, “making it expensive to hire new workers and difficult to fire even more costly — to fire them.

Because of these legal impediments, French boss-
es have been replacing jobs that last a lifetime with a workforce largely comprised of temps — at lower pay, benefits and lacking union rights. Over 46 per-
cent of workers in France are on temporary contracts today, including 85 percent of those hired in the sec-
ond-quarter this year. Today’s class collaborationist French workers are beset by the focus on protecting workers already hired and do little to organize or fight for tem-
porary contract workers.

“Every such fundamental economic reform in France for at least the last quarter-century has foun-
dered in the streets of Paris,” the Times said, pointing to the labor movement’s past strength. But officials of the three major unions are divided on whether to op-
pose the new code. The General Confederation of La-
bor (CGT) has called for a strike Sept. 12. Two larger unions, the French Confederal Democratic Labor-
ation (CFDT) and Force Ouvrière are not participating. Many union leaders are丧心病狂的 clinging to crippled indus-
try-wide union bargaining and replace it with factory-
by-factory bargaining further dividing the workforce.

Small companies with fewer than 50 workers com-
prise 90 percent of French companies. They would be,
allowed to negotiate directly with nonunionized work-
ners, who previously received the same benefits as a bloc between German and French bosses, the more so now that London is on the way to “Brexit.”

Macron’s attacks on the labor movement are aimed at strengthening French capital in competition in the EU, as well as in convincing Germany’s rulers, who reap the biggest profits from the 28-nation EU capital-
tialist bloc, that Paris is a partner to be listened to.

Macron, Merkel look to bloc

Macron has challenged the German rulers to agree to steps to strengthen the European Union in the face of the competing interests of the ruling capitalist families in each European nation-state that pull the EU apart. He has called for appointing an EU financial minister to oversee a single eurozone budget that would make funds available to bail out the countries with deeper eco-

demic challenges, like Greece, Italy and others.

German Chancellor Merkel, who is up for election this month, said she backs these proposals by Macron, “so that we get a higher degree of united compara-
tiveness.” But she says the focus should be a fund that can make “small contributions” to reward challenged countries for carrying out structural reforms.

While Berlin needs Paris, and vice versa, if the EU is going to advance, what’s really posed here is wheth-
er the German capitalists are willing to sacrifice some of the profits they make to shore up their competitors.

Gun control debate goes to firing line

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The American Civil Liberties Union has come un-

Acting as enforcers for the liberal politicians, the next day anti-fascists beat up Trump supporters and others they claim are white supremacists, as well as reporters, during an anti-racist protest in Berkeley.

An anonymous anarchist replied to criticism of an-
tifa thugs with a post on imgur.com titled “Eternal Liberal Handwringing: Response to Antifa Smears.” The essay is marked by the group’s glori-

However, the threat to the workers’ movement from the right is only one facet of the crisis.

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Liberals, antiifa

Continued from front page

No deportations! Amnesty now!

Continued from front page

their capitalist system that stand behind that vote. Both of their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans — are wrecked by deep divisions.

But against those they label as racists and fascists they say have been unleashed by Trump.

As a part of this dual, liberal Democratic and self-proclaimed anti-fa thugs are mounting attacks on freedom of speech and assembly. Their attempts to shut down conservatives and alleged white suprem-

And the genie is out of the bottle for the working class. Anti-fascists and self-proclaimed anti-fa thugs are mounting attacks on freedom of speech and assembly. Their attempts to shut down conservatives and alleged white suprema-

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Their group has invited to participate, could provoke antifa 

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tured into carrying loaded firearms,” well

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