

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Revolutionary Cuba answers
US rulers at Peru 'Summit'
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 18 MAY 7, 2018

SWP uses the 'Militant' to get support for labor battles

BY DAN FEIN

"I support the teachers," Alfonso Delgado Jr., a landscaper, told Joel Britton and Betsey Stone when they knocked on his door in Superior, Arizona, April 21. "The government has cut a lot in the schools, including shop

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY SPRING DRIVES

courses and auto repair."

He said his support was strong, "because you're talking about how children will develop as people." Delgado's mother is a teacher's aide, his father was a copper worker in the mines nearby. Copper workers in southeastern Arizona have been through years of pitched battles with the mine owners, and seen conditions in the area worsen. Britton and Stone were there as part of teams the Socialist Workers Party is organizing to join

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US rulers try to block gains in Mideast by Iran, Moscow

BY TERRY EVANS

The U.S. government is campaigning to toughen the deal signed by the Barack Obama administration and Tehran aimed at slowing down the Iranian rulers' acquisition of nuclear weapons. The dispute occurs as the U.S. propertied rulers seek to constrain Tehran's rising influence won as a result of its intervention in the wars in Syria and Iraq.

Over 400,000 Syrians have been killed since they rose up to fight to overthrow the dictatorial regime of Bashar al-Assad in 2011, and more than half the population has been driven from their homes. The regime has succeeded in turning back the opposition with aid of troops from Iran, its ally Hezbollah and other Shiite militias, as well as murderous air support from Moscow.

On a visit to China, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that the Russian and Chinese govern-

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Support teachers' fight in Arizona, Colorado!

Build solidarity with walk-ins, protests, strikes



AP Photo/Matt York

"Walk-in" by teachers in Mesa April 25, one of hundreds across Arizona in last few weeks. Actions are part of effort to build broad social movement as part of fight for school funds.

BY JOEL BRITTON

SUPERIOR, Ariz. — "My coach wears her 'RedforEd' T-shirt every day and wants to go on strike," Korinna Romero, a player on the high school softball team here and the daughter of one of the area's many copper miners, told members of the Socialist Workers Party here April 21. "I agree with her. They are doing the right thing. The state has cut a lot of

school programs, music and art."

Here and in nearby Globe we found widespread support for the teachers and other school workers fighting for pay raises and increased funding for schools.

School workers here saw thousands of teachers march, rally and strike against low pay, deteriorating conditions and shrinking school funding in

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Attacks by NY contractors grow, how can construction workers fight back?



Count Me In

April 4 Times Square march against bosses' moves to step up nonunion construction in N.Y.

BY TERRY EVANS

NEW YORK — "All workers need unions, they make us stronger," said Wilmer Serrano, a construction worker who takes part in daily protests

agreement during the second phase of the project, instead hiring workers from nonunion contractors.

"We've been protesting for three weeks and moved the union hiring hall here," said Terry Moore, the local's business manager. "Our guys get paid at least \$72 an hour. The guys they hire now get between \$15 and \$30."

Especially since the 2008 capitalist financial crisis and a sharpening of cutthroat competition for bids and

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Protests hit Barstow cop killing of Diante Yarber in California

BY LAURA GARZA

BARSTOW, Calif. — "I knew Diante, knew the family. He was a good kid. The police had him, he couldn't go anywhere. There was no need to do anything. They shot to kill," Marcella Ezpinosa told members of the Socialist Workers Party when they knocked on

her door April 21. "That's happening with the police all over the country."

Diante Yarber drove with his cousin and two friends to Walmart in the morning April 5. The Barstow Police Department says they got a report of a "suspicious vehicle" and honed in on Yarber's Mustang. When they were through, they had fired some 30 shots into the car, kill-

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Hundreds demand driver's licenses for immigrants in New Jersey protest

BY SETH GALINSKY

TRENTON, N.J. — "Our people are workers, they are not criminals," Rev. Francisco Pozo, vicar at Christ Episcopal Church, told some 400 people at a rally for driver's licenses for all here April 21. "Workers are the same around the world. It doesn't matter where you come from. Workers are workers. And deserve respect and dignity in every country. And

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Minneapolis beer truck drivers
strike over staffing, safety

New Zealand bus drivers walk
out over pay, work schedules

AS I SEE IT

here organized by Ironworkers Union Local 46 outside the 50 Hudson Yards development. Bosses at Related Companies, the largest developer in the city, have refused to sign a union

Communist League in UK kicks off election campaign

BY TREVOR HARRIS

MANCHESTER, England — “We need something like that here,” Beryl Mahomet said April 5 after she looked at the *Militant’s* coverage of the successful strike by teachers in West Virginia. Hugo Wils, Communist League candidate for Tameside Council in Stalybridge North here, who knocked on her door, described the unity teachers forged with other school workers and the working-class social movement they built in support of their strike, providing an example to millions.

“I am in the union, I think we need strong unions to fight for better pay and conditions,” Mahomet said. She works two jobs, as a cleaner and a kitchen porter, to make ends meet. She took out an introductory subscription to the paper.

Joining Wils standing for the Communist League against the Conservatives and Labour — the bosses parties — is Hugh Robertson, candidate in Plaistow, for Newham Council, London, and Catharina Tirsén, who is on the ballot in the Longsight Ward for Manchester City Council. The CL presents a revolutionary way forward in face of the social and moral crisis of the capitalist rulers in the U.K. and around the world.

Wils joined a demonstration of some 1,000 nursery workers, parents and others March 24 protesting attacks by the Salford City Council, which threatened to close five local preschool nurseries near Manchester.

“People need to make their voices heard. My daughter is supposed to go to the Winton nursery. We were lucky to get a place and then we hear it’s going to

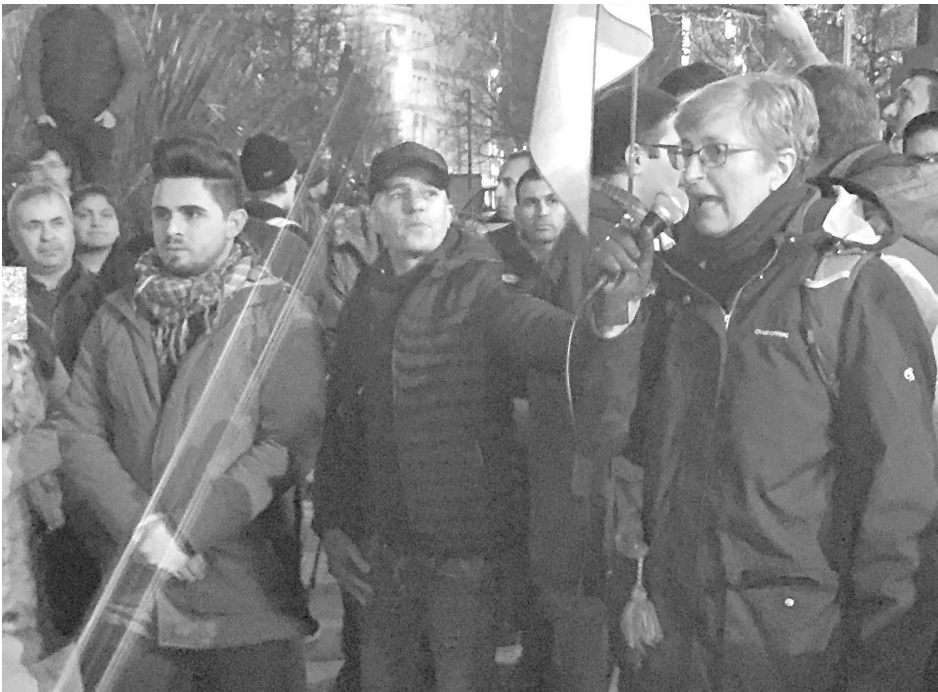
close,” said Kayley Johnson, a support worker at a retirement home in Wigan. Wils responded that by expanding actions like this one — backed by the trade union movement — working people can push back the assaults by the bosses and their political parties. The Labour-led City Council and mayor backed off after the protests, and promised to keep funding the nurseries through July 2019.

The outspoken anti-Semitism of some prominent Labour Party leaders has pushed the Jewish question to the fore in politics here. The party has tolerated anti-Semitic slanders for years, along with the demonization of Israel and calls for its destruction.

The December 2017 Socialist Workers Party statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel” has proved to be a powerful tool for the campaign. It starts from “the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East,” and presents a course that “helps working people organize and act together to advance our common demands and struggles against capitalist governments and ruling classes.”

Wils and Communist League member Dag Tirsén discussed this with Effel Shepherd, a retired worker in Stalybridge. She told them she had always voted Labour. “I don’t like how these Arab groups go and bomb market squares in Israel,” she said.

“Working people in the Middle East need more political space to debate perspectives and organize,” Wils said. “That’s why we call for the immediate recognition of a Palestinian state and of



Militant/Dag Tirsén

“We start from common class interests and solidarity of workers and farmers across the Middle East and the rest of the world,” Catharina Tirsén told Jan. 24 rally opposing Turkish attacks on Afrin, Syria. She is now Communist League candidate for Longsight Ward in Manchester.

Israel. It’s only through common struggle that working class interests in the region can be advanced.”

“As anti-Semitic attacks are growing around the world, the right of Jews around the world to go and live in Israel is very important,” Wils said.

“Yes, you can see anti-Semitism in the Labour party now,” Effel said. She signed up for the *Militant* to look more deeply into revolutionary politics and follow the campaign.

Capitalism’s dog-eat-dog morality

When Catharina Tirsén knocked on Zigela Ca’s door in London April 7 to introduce the League, they got into a discussion on the widely reported increase in gun and knife deaths there. The Labour Party calls for more repressive measures, including reversing Conservative Party cuts in the number of police. Sadiq Khan, Labour Party mayor of London, has urged more stops and searches of black youth by the cops. “I wish there was a way to stop money from being so decisive to how youth think and act. It drives people to all kinds of things including violence,” said Ca, a teacher. “I’ve had drug dealers say to me they’re ‘better people’ because they have more money.”

“We face the debilitating social effects of the workings of the capitalist system and their profit-driven dog-eat-dog mo-

rality,” Tirsén responded. “When there is a struggle, like the powerful mass mobilizations in the fight for Black rights in the 1960s in the United States, young workers get something to fight for. They begin to learn social consciousness and self-discipline. Crime went way down during those struggles.”

“Ultimately you have to overthrow the capitalist class to begin to eliminate its values,” Tirsén said. “That’s why the Communist League explains that the working class needs to make a revolution, like Cuba’s socialist revolution. The government there starts from the interests of working people, not the profits of a handful, when they decide their priorities.” She showed Ca *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, pointing to the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso that Sankara led as another example for workers to follow. Ca decided to get the book.

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Verde Olivo

Fidel Castro, center, at Playa Girón 1961, U.S. imperialism’s first defeat in Americas.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

SWP: Support labor battles

Continued from front page teachers' battles and bring the party, its paper and books to workers in Arizona, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Colorado and West Virginia.

"I didn't vote for either Trump or Clinton for president," Delgado said. "I don't buy into their BS. But a number of my friends voted for Trump, because he says he backs the Second Amendment and because they thought he talked straight."

Delgado said he enjoys talking politics, which he credited to having been a member of MEChA, a Chicano activist group in schools in the 1990s. He bought a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

A number of other workers were interested in the paper and books by SWP leaders as party members knocked on doors in copper mining towns here just a few days before teachers planned to go on strike across the state. They're fighting for higher pay for all school workers and more state money for the schools. This "copper corridor" is peopled by many Chicano, Caucasian and Native American workers.

Valentina Kenton, an Apache, in Globe, Arizona, another mining town north of Tucson, said she wasn't sure about the strike. She was worried about the way it would affect young people. Britton and Stone explained that the teachers' group that was spearheading the fight, the Arizona Educators United, and their union, the Arizona Education Association, were organizing members and volunteers to make sure anyone in need would have a place to

go and food to eat. Kenton wanted to learn more about the SWP and its program, and got a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Barnes, with her subscription.

'These strikes are great'

"I support what you are doing," Vinita Meadows told SWP campaigner Jacob Perasso in Albany, New York. "These strikes are great! Teachers aren't paid enough. I'm getting the *Militant* newspaper subscription because I'm curious about what else you are covering." Perasso was going door to door there when he met Meadows, a retired New York state government tax worker. Meadows also picked up a copy of the *Workers Power* book.

SWP members and supporters, and members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K., are at the halfway point in their spring eight-week campaign to win 1,400 workers and youth to subscribe to the *Militant*, buy an equal number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries on special offer, and to raise \$112,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The fund helps cover the *Militant's* operating expenses.

"In the evening, Baskaran Appu and I were invited to join a gathering of workers and their families who are originally from India," Communist League member Felicity Coggan wrote from Auckland, New Zealand, April 21. "After nearly two hours of discussion and debate, spanning topics from conditions for workers in India compared to New Zealand, the example of the Cuban Revolution, the counter-revolutionary role of Stalinism, and the

activities of the Communist League, several in the group pooled their money to buy three introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, and a copy of each of the five books offered at half price with a subscription." (See ad below.)

As we were leaving, Sukhdev Badhan, a 52-year-old greenhouse worker, said, "I thought we would only be discussing the problems of the caste system in India, but we ended up discussing capi-



Militant Cheryl Douglas signed up for Militant when SWP member Kevin Dwire knocked on her door in Chandler, Oklahoma, to talk about party and teacher battles. Douglas, who is half Native American, said problems facing millions of working people fall on family, especially women.

talism and the whole world!" George Chalmers joined around 60 others marching to City Hall in Philadelphia April 19 to protest the arrest of two Black men at a downtown Starbucks coffee shop. "Two of the marchers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*," Chalmers writes. "One is a union organizer for UNITE HERE. The other is a student from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, who told me, 'I'm excited to get more involved in working-class issues.'"

SWP campaigners from Los Angeles visited Barstow, California, where Di-

ante Yarber was shot and killed by four cops in a Walmart parking lot. (See article on front page.) "We met a number of workers going door to door near the Walmart who were outraged over the killing and glad to meet us," Laura Garza wrote. "Two of them subscribed to the *Militant* and three made donations to the Militant Fighting Fund."

If you're interested in helping to expand the readership of the *Militant* and books on the party's program and perspectives, and to raise funds for the paper, contact the SWP branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

Massachusetts nurses protest over staffing levels and health coverage

BY JACOB PERASSO

GREENFIELD, Mass. — Two hundred members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association held a one-day protest strike at Baystate Franklin Medical Center here April 11. At issue is staffing levels and health insurance for nurses, who haven't had a contract since 2017.

"There are a lot of labor struggles going on. Teachers are on strike in West Virginia, Oklahoma and elsewhere. This is part of that," Patrick Burke, an organizer for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1459, said at a rally on the picket line.

"My schedule looks like Swiss cheese. They gave me six weeks of schedules in advance with hundreds of hours of holes in it!" Donna Stern, senior co-chair of

the union's bargaining committee, told the rally.

The Medical Center locked out the nurses a day before and after the strike, saying they had to hire replacement nurses for three days. During that time the union held at least five rallies and organized a "Baystate Bankers, Bigwigs and Business Owners Brigade," where nurses and their supporters picketed in front of Baystate offices and businesses owned or operated by members of the hospital board of trustees.

"I came to the rally because I know and trust the nurses and what they stand for," said Woody Bliss, who goes to the medical center for chemotherapy. "Baystate is trying to cut corners. Adequate staffing is important."

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, fund March 24–May 22 (week four)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	95	56	95	38	\$5,000	\$2,675
Atlanta	90	34	90	23	\$9,700	\$1,965
Chicago	110	74	110	58	\$11,500	\$4,089
Dallas*	50	37	40	21	\$1,900	\$475
Lincoln	20	16	20	11	\$300	\$116
Los Angeles	125	93	125	76	\$10,000	\$3,484
Miami	35	15	35	18	\$3,200	\$1,868
New York	165	85	165	64	\$16,700	\$5,004
Oakland	85	37	85	23	\$13,000	\$5,474
Philadelphia	65	38	65	25	\$3,600	\$700
Seattle	95	47	95	26	\$7,900	\$4,023
Twin Cities*	85	45	85	37	\$4,500	\$593
Washington	70	43	70	22	\$7,500	\$3,224
Total U.S.	1,090	620	1,080	442	\$94,800	\$33,690
Prisoners	25	11				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	70	46	70	32	\$2,500	\$480
Manchester	50	12	50	4	\$950	\$142
Total U.K.	120	58	120	36	\$3,450	\$622
CANADA						
Montreal	60	16	60	26	\$5,700	\$3,010
Vancouver	45	23	45	18	\$3,000	\$417
Total Canada	105	39	105	44	\$8,700	\$3,427
NEW ZEALAND						
	45	28	45	16	\$4,000	\$1,656
AUSTRALIA						
	40	19	40	10	\$800	\$375
FRANCE						
					500	120
Other						
						500
Total	1,425	775	1,390	548	\$112,250	\$40,390
SHOULD BE	1,400	700	1,400	700	\$112,000	\$56,000
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To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8

Over 300,000 march, demand Madrid free Catalan leaders

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Hundreds of thousands of people rallied in Barcelona April 15, demanding the release and return to Catalonia of jailed leaders of pro-independence parties and groups who fled the country to escape charges and imprisonment. This was the latest protest against the Spanish government's relentless campaign against Catalonia's self-rule and those who advocate independence.

Madrid took over the Catalan administration Oct. 30 after Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy suspended Catalonia's autonomy and imposed direct federal rule. He called snap elections Dec. 21, hoping a slate of candidates pledged to unity with Madrid would win. But his Popular Party was the biggest loser, becoming the smallest of the parties in parliament. Supporters of independence won a plurality, but have been prevented from forming a government. Madrid has rejected everyone elected as president in Catalonia, since they were either in exile or prison.

Using the cops and courts, Rajoy's party has led attacks, some violent and thuggish, against Catalan national rights for the past decade.

The Dec. 21 elections took place amid a sharply polarized political situation. Madrid imposed direct rule after the Catalan parliament declared independence after an Oct. 1 popular referendum that the government declared illegal. Madrid tried to stop the vote by brute force, sending in thousands of Civil Guards and National Police, but the attempt failed. Rajoy then overturned the independence vote, and sacked the Catalan president, the government and members of parliament.

The April 15 rally was organized by the National Catalan Assembly and Omnium Cultural, two major civic groups favoring independence, to mark six months behind bars for their presidents, Jordi Cuixart and Jordi Sànchez. The Catalan branches of Spain's two leading trade unions supported the protest, along with a wide array of other groups. Not all of them are pro-independence, but they oppose the detentions.

Cuixart and Sànchez are two of nine imprisoned pro-independence leaders. Among the others are previous Vice President Oriol Junqueras and several former ministers and legislators. Spain's Attorney General José Manuel Maza has filed charges of rebellion, sedition and embezzlement against a total of 25 Catalan leaders. If found guilty they could face 30 years in prison.

Seven of those charged left the country to avoid arrest. Among them is Carles Puigdemont, the previous president, who has been residing in Belgium. He

was also elected to parliament and was its first choice for president. But Rajoy said he would be seized and arrested if he tried to re-enter the country.

Sànchez was one of the pro-independence leaders elected in December. After Madrid prevented Puigdemont from being seated, Sànchez was proposed to become the new president. But Madrid refused to let him out of prison. In his place the Catalan parliament nominated Jordi Turull, who Madrid then arrested March 23.

Acting on an extradition request from Madrid, Puigdemont was taken into custody when he traveled to Germany March 25. After a German court rejected his extradition on charges of rebellion, he was released April 5. But he is still ordered to remain in the country until the court decides whether to ship him to Spain on lesser embezzlement charges.

Polarized political situation

Over the course of the monthslong battle between Madrid and the elected governments in Catalonia, sizable demonstrations have taken place there both in favor of and against independence.

The polarization is part of the differentiated responses of social classes to the conditions generated by capitalism's global crisis of trade, production and employment on working people. The steep 2007-2008 downturn increased



Sipa USA via AP

March in Barcelona April 15 demands release of jailed leaders of pro-independence parties in Catalonia. Spanish government took over and suspended Catalan autonomy in October.

economic and class divisions throughout the imperialist world, but more so in Spain, including in Catalonia, than in many other countries.

The Spanish Constitutional Court revoked major aspects of Catalan autonomy in 2010, including parts of a 2006 Autonomy Charter that recognized "Catalonia as a nation." The charter was a conquest gained after the overthrow of the decadeslong dictatorial Spanish regime of Generalissimo Francisco Franco. The court also ruled unconstitutional the preferential use of the Catalan language.

The heart of support for Catalan independence is the urban professional and middle classes, students and rural toilers. Industrial workers in the

province's large auto plants, chemical factories and on the docks have not been central to the mobilizations, and backing for a complete break with Spain is smaller in working-class areas. In recent decades many workers moved to Catalonia from other parts of Spain and abroad, looking for jobs in the highly industrialized region.

Driven by the deepening capitalist crisis, Catalan pro-independence governments have all too often joined forces with the federal government in attacks on workers' conditions. This has weakened support for independence.

If no government can be formed in Catalonia by May 22, the Rajoy administration says it will hold elections there again to get a government to its liking.

'Roseanne' reboot infuriates liberals, stirs debate

BY TERRY EVANS

The remake of TV comedy "Roseanne," coming 21 years after the last series ended, has incurred the wrath of liberal commentators and critics. The reason for their anger? The lead character, like the show's creator Roseanne Barr, voted for President Donald Trump. The clamor about the series says a lot more about the desperation of liberals trying to drive Trump from office than it does about the show.

It airs on ABC-TV Tuesdays at 8 p.m. EDT and is available online.

Megan Garber, writing in *The Atlantic* magazine, praises the earlier show, but complains that the new series fails to portray U.S. politics in "systematic crisis" — as if that should be the criteria for a successful situation comedy.

Actually, it *does* show the "systematic crisis" facing working people today, but that isn't what Garber is talking about.

Linda Holmes, host of NPR's "Pop Culture Happy Hour" race-baits the main characters, dismissing the show because she says it "treats politics as an emotional issue for white people."

What the show actually does is present a working-class family grappling with economic, social and political questions that resonate with millions of working people of all skin colors in each storyline. One of Barr's on-screen adult daughters has had to move back in with her parents. There are scenes about rejected credit card payments. Barr and her on-screen husband, played by John Goodman, are unable to afford medicine and trade painkillers with each other. One of the grandkids is Black, a grandson sometimes goes to school wearing nail polish.

Another daughter works as a waitress, struggling to make ends meet and considers boosting her income by becoming a surrogate mother.

Roxanne Gay grumbled in the *New York Times*, "This fictional character and the show's very real creator are further normalizing Trump and his warped, harmful political ideologies." Despite describing the new series first two episodes as "excellent," Gay is so indignant about Barr's political views that she refuses to watch another episode. She says this act of resistance is "a small line to draw, but it's a start."

"What's most disturbing about the new 'Roseanne' is how the network takes a populist movement that at its root and head is racist and tries to cleanse it," complains TV critic Jeff Jarvis. In his eyes anything other than a hateful, bigoted character would not accurately portray a Trump voter.

Millions of workers, many who previously voted for Obama, voted for Trump because they rejected what had been done to them by successive Democratic and Republican administrations. Angry at the never-ending wars and the social, moral and economic crisis ravaging working people, they were attracted to a candidate promising to "drain the swamp" in Washington and jump-start jobs. Trump's popularity is in fact growing.

A headline in *Elle* magazine falsely claims, "The New Roseanne Ignores the Very Real Racism of Many White Working-Class Families." Desperate to make the allegations of racism stick, some critics point to an exchange between Barr and on-screen husband Dan Conner during the new series. Dan wakes up after sleeping through

the evening's TV shows and says, "We missed all the shows about Black and Asian families." Barr's character replies, "They're just like us! There, now you're all caught up."

Barr's comments merely point out the common crisis facing working people of all skin colors today.

Contrary to the *Elle* headline, more working people today than ever before are unwilling to accept racist assaults. The Black-led mass movement that tore down Jim Crow segregation had a lasting impact on the outlook and actions of millions of workers, both Black and Caucasian. One reflection of this is the widespread outrage in recent weeks towards the cop killings of Stephon Clark, Saheed Vassell and Diante Yarber, all Black.

The critics' reaction to the new "Roseanne" is a reflection of the fact that many of them deeply despise and fear the millions of "deplorable" workers who elected Trump. They sense deeper working-class battles to come.

But the large audience for tuning in suggest their hysterical reviews haven't discouraged too many people from watching the show. I recommend it.

Correction

The article "Lessons of 1979-83 Grenada Revolution Debated in UK," in issue no. 16 incorrectly said that Fidel Castro's remarks about Bernard Coard's "Pol Pot-type group" were presented at a rally in Havana. Castro's remarks were presented in a 1985 interview with Jeffrey Elliot and Mervyn Dymally, printed in *Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Minneapolis beer truck drivers strike over staffing, safety

MINNEAPOLIS — “We’re striking for safety,” Todd Tucker, a 20-year driver for J.J. Taylor, Minnesota’s largest beer distributor, told Socialist Workers Party members and supporters when we joined their picket line here April 17.

The 95 drivers, helpers and warehouse workers, members of Teamsters Local 792, went on strike April 9. “The company is demanding we accept a contract that would allow them to eliminate helpers on routes,” Tucker said, “including ones with deliveries of kegs that weigh up to 175 pounds.”

The bosses offered some wage increases in exchange for the elimination of the two-man truck crew. “If we accept that,” he said, “we know we *will* get hurt. It’s guaranteed.

“Those teachers that went on strike in West Virginia and other states are showing people what we can do when we stand up for what’s right,” Tucker said.

The company wants to cut its labor costs by creating a “more elastic” delivery route structure, eliminating most keg-only routes that now require a driver and “qualified helper,” and combining keg and packaged beer deliveries. “We were trying to balance out the routes but we were never doing so to compromise safety,” David Miller, head of the company’s human resources and safety department at the company’s head office in Jupiter, Florida, told the *St Paul Pioneer Press*. He claimed the company is one of the safest wholesalers in the country.

The bosses hired strikebreaking company Huffmaster to staff routes and provide security during the strike. Strikers report that replacement workers, brought to and from work in vans with tinted windows, weren’t told about the contract dispute, but that they were needed to “help with the busy season.”

Huffmaster on its website says it has “earned its reputation as the leading strike management resource on the front lines of many of the nation’s most difficult and high-profile labor disputes. ... We can provide replacement workers, strike-trained uniformed officers and a full array of supporting services.”

“We are getting a lot of support,” said

Greg Flohaug, who has worked for J.J. Taylor for 18 years. “People have come here with pizza and other food, water, coffee, lots of things — even raincoats last week,” he said. Some Walmart workers who have joined the picketing have been warmly welcomed.

“I built my business with working people,” Marv Koppen, owner of Party Time Liquors in St. Paul told WCCO-TV April 12, “and when they go on strike I have never taken a delivery.”

“I’ve expected this for years,” Flohaug said. “We have been pushed back so much. Now they have pushed too hard. Safety is a question facing all workers and we need all the support we are getting.”

Send messages of support or contributions to Teamsters Local 792, 3001 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Email: www.teamster-slocal792.org.

—Jacquie Henderson

New Zealand bus drivers walk out over pay, work schedules

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — “I worked 69 hours last week. Some worked more,” bus driver Elizabeth Kaulima told the *Militant* on a picket line here outside Pavlovich Coachlines April 19. “We’re working long hours to try and make ends meet. I



Teamsters Local 792 members on strike against beer distributor J.J. Taylor in Minneapolis picket April 12. Company demand to eliminate two-person truck crew threatens workers’ safety.

can’t pay my bills on 40 hours work.”

Members of the First Union struck for two hours to press their fight against rock-bottom pay and bad conditions. Union membership at the company has been growing, Kaulima said, and this was their first action.

Auckland Transport controls all the public transport services throughout this city. Different bus companies compete to secure contracts to run each route, with bosses going after drivers’ pay and working conditions.

Pavlovich has won many of the contracts. “There’s a reason they have all the work, they pay bottom dollar,”

First Union organizer Graham McKean told the media.

Rosters are often changed so drivers arrive at work not knowing what their hours will be. Their training includes a “fatigue management module,” which requires workers to ensure they aren’t too tired to drive. “But we’re obligated to do our rosters,” Kaulima said.

Tramways Union bus drivers working for NZ Bus joined in the 30-worker-strong picket. They’re fighting for a better contract as well. Over the previous two days they held two-hour strikes at different depots.

—Janet Roth

Despite protests, Ottawa deports Guatemalan woman

BY ANNETTE KOURI AND JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Despite solidarity picket lines and other actions here, in Toronto and other Canadian cities April 13, Canadian Border Services Agency immigration cops deported 42-year-old Lucy Francineth Granados back to Guatemala. She had been living and working without papers in Canada for nine years. The expulsion came a day after a federal court rejected her motion for a stay of deportation until her request for permanent resident status on humanitarian grounds had been heard.

“Lucy is not a criminal,” Anabelle Segovia, one of the organizers of a number of protests at subway entranc-

es and other public places April 10, told Communist League members who joined the picket line at the Beaubien subway stop here. “The government says she has to go back to Guatemala and then apply to come back. If that happens she won’t come back.”

“Stop the deportation of Lucy,” 15 supporters organized by Solidarity Without Borders chanted as they handed out information on her fight to stay in Canada to those entering and leaving the subway. They chalked slogans on the sidewalk, including Solidarity with Lucy” and “Amnesty for all immigrants without papers.”

Threatened by criminal gangs that are rife in Guatemala, Granados left her

three children with relatives and made her way to Canada in 2009. Ottawa rejected her application for refugee status and Granados was ordered deported in 2012. She continued to work, the sole source of income for her children. She became a member of the Non-Status Women’s Collective and the Temporary Workers Association.

Last September Granados applied for permanent resident status on humanitarian grounds. In January Canadian Border Services Agency officials said she would have to present herself for arrest before her file could be processed, a demand her lawyer said was illegal. On March 20 agency cops seized her at her apartment, injuring one of her arms and neck. She was shackled and thrown in a cell in the notorious Laval Immigration Detention Centre north of Montreal to await deportation set for March 27.

Because her deteriorating health necessitated hospitalizations, the deportation date was postponed until April 13. Canadian Border Services Agency lawyers opposed her request for a federal court hearing on her request for a stay.

Granados has won considerable support. Over 10,000 people have signed a petition in support of her getting permanent residence. Professors and students at several universities have signed open letters calling for her rights to be respected. The president of the Quebec Federation of Women has spoken out in her defense.

Granados’ case is far from unique. Last November the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported there were 15,000 immigrants on the border agency’s deportation list. According to Radio-Canada, there are between 200,000 and 500,000 immigrants without papers in Canada.

To support Granados, send protest letters to Minister of Immigration Ahmed Hussen at Ahmed.Hussen@parl.gc.ca.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 10, 1993

KENNETT SQUARE, Pennsylvania — Representing labor, church, student and community groups, 500 people marched through this town April 24 in support of striking mushroom workers. The march followed by a rally at a park next to the struck Kaolin mushroom farm, was called by the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights.

The march led off with 75 strikers, who wore red caps with the initials of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. The strikers decided to affiliate with the RWDSU.

The strikers are overwhelmingly Mexican immigrants. Labor contractors are bringing in Vietnamese and Cambodian immigrant workers to work as replacements. Describing the effort to reach these Asian workers, organizer Ventura Gutiérrez told the rally, “No working person is our enemy. We are all part of one working class.”



May 10, 1968

NEW YORK — The massive entrance of teen-agers into the antiwar movement was dramatically demonstrated at the march and rally staged here April 27.

High school students were the largest single section in the antiwar protest action, which drew some 200,000 people.

While the traditional adult peace groups turned out in somewhat smaller numbers than previously, this was more than compensated for by the young people who made it clear that even though some of their elders may be lulled by [President] Johnson’s “peace” talk, they are not.

In organizing the action, a major source of support was the Student Mobilization Committee whose school strike the day previous to the parade was the most successful ever staged in this country.



May 8, 1943

“Mission To Moscow” is being peddled to movie audiences as a documentary film of events from 1936 to date as allegedly seen through the eyes of ex-Ambassador Joseph Davies. Nothing could be further from the truth. “Mission To Moscow” is a 100% Stalinist lie.

The resources of Hollywood and of the press have been mobilized — with the blessing of the authorities in Washington — to present as the “truth” the GPU version of the Moscow trials. In the space of three years (1936, 1937, 1938) Stalin murdered the entire generation of Russian Bolsheviks, Lenin’s collaborators, lifelong revolutionists.

The stage for these monstrous crimes was set by the Moscow Trials, in which the chief defendants were Leon Trotsky and his son, Leon Sedov. In 1937 the Dewey Commission examined material evidence and documents and passed its verdict: NOT GUILTY!

Support teachers' fight!

Continued from front page

West Virginia, Kentucky and Oklahoma. They organized themselves, won allies and made gains.

In March music teacher Noah Karvelis initiated Arizona Educators United, a rank-and-file group whose Facebook page rapidly grew to 49,000 members. Karvelis got the idea from what teachers had done in West Virginia.

In a three-day statewide ballot last week, Arizona school workers discussed, debated and voted overwhelmingly to walk out April 26. Of the more than 57,000 teachers, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, crossing guards and others who cast a vote, 78 percent were in favor.

The results were announced at a joint news conference by AEU and the Arizona Education Association union April 19. "This is undeniably and clearly a mandate for action," union President Joe Thomas said.

Karvelis said they were waiting a week to start the strike because "we need to give our communities time to prepare." Teachers, other school workers and their supporters are organizing to use the time to make the strike as united and successful as possible.

When Cami Winsor, a daughter of a copper miner, heard that coal miners backed the teachers in West Virginia, she said, "That's really cool." Winsor told us proudly that when she was 10 she walked the picket line when her father was on strike. In 2005, some 1,500 workers at Asarco copper mines and smelters in Arizona beat back company attempts to impose cuts to wages and benefits in a four-month strike.

They won a new contract in 2017, after a bitter four-year fight with company bosses.

Governor tries to divide workers

At a March 28 rally of thousands outside the state Capitol in Phoenix, Karvelis got roaring approval when he presented the Arizona Educators United's demands. They include a 20 percent pay raise for teachers, raises for all other school workers and restoration of school funding to its 2008 level, which would require \$1 billion more in the state budget. The Arizona government spends \$924 less per student in inflation-adjusted dollars today than it did 10 years ago.

"Site liaisons" — volunteer organizers — have been assigned by Arizona Educators United at 1,000 schools, to coordinate the work of the group and the union. On April 11, more than 100,000 school workers, students, parents and supporters participated in walk-ins at schools across the state.

The following day Gov. Doug Ducey announced a proposal to the legislature to raise teachers' wages by 9 percent this year and 5 percent in each of the next two years. But Arizona Educators United and the union dismissed this as an attempt to sow divisions among workers and weaken their fight. Ducey didn't set raises for other school workers or propose increased funding for schools.

"If our district chooses to walk out, I will," Ruth Vining, a Jack Daley Primary

School teacher in Thatcher, 74 miles southeast of here, told the April 23 *Eastern Arizona Courier*. "We're apprehensive because we don't know the repercussions. What we do know is that it has to be all or none, we have to be unified."

Walk-ins were organized on the three mornings before April 26. Rank-and-file leaders took initiatives to build the social movement necessary to broaden support and to blunt opposition from local school authorities. Experiences from the West Virginia strike and past copper mine battles clearly weighed in.

Organizing to take care of students

The *Sahuarita Sun* reported April 21 on a meeting by five Arizona Educators United liaisons with 50 parents and teachers to discuss plans to feed and take care of the students. The town south of Tucson is near Asarco and Freeport McMoRan mines.

They spent two hours discussing what will happen if the Sahuarita Unified School District closes down. Barb Tingle, a kindergarten teacher, reported that churches, community organizations, school board staff, teachers and volunteers are lining up to make lunch boxes and sack lunches for the many students who depend on the schools' breakfast and lunch programs. One church in the area has agreed to be a drop-off location for food and gift card donations and a "delivery squad" has been formed to reach students in Sahuarita and outlying areas.

Danielle Pack, a reading specialist, said a Facebook page has been set up for volunteers willing to watch children and for those in need of having their children watched. By the time of the meeting more than 570 people had joined the Sahuarita Walk Out Childcare Network.

Several of the participants asked how they could support the school workers. The liaisons encouraged them to donate food, volunteer for child care, wear RedforEd T-shirts, make signs and participate in the events organized during the walkout, including the daylong rally planned for April 26 at the state Capitol.

This area in the southeast has some of the biggest copper mines in the country. Freeport McMoRan and Asarco operate eight mines and smelters in the state, employing some 9,000 workers.

Pilar Ramos from Globe, a long-time smelter worker and former member of the United Steelworkers union, described the conditions Mexican workers faced in the mines when he was hired in the 1960s, including seeing a "white only" sign on the bathroom. He participated in several union battles over the years.

Ramos described the militant three-year-long strike copper work-

Join May 1 actions for amnesty for immigrants, worker rights

Join protests against deportations and for workers rights in cities across the U.S.

For information about events in your area, contact Socialist Workers Party branches listed on page 8 or contact us at themilitant@mac.com or call (212) 244-4899.



School workers' protests are spreading around the country. Above, rally inside state Capitol in Denver, April 16. Below, teachers, supporters march April 24 in Oakland, California.

ers waged against the Phelps Dodge Morenci mine bosses that started in 1983. It ended with the decertification of all 13 unions. Today Freeport owns the Morenci mine, the state's biggest copper mine, employing 3,300 people. Like all of Freeport's Arizona

mines, it is nonunion. "Companies have changed hands many times," Ramos said. "Big business doesn't care about the workers."

Emma Johnson and Betsey Stone contributed to this article.

Hundreds demand driver's licenses for immigrants in NJ protest

Continued from front page

they deserve a driver's license to go to work."

"We don't say illegal here. We don't say undocumented here," Pozo said. "We say without U.S. documentation. Because no one is illegal on earth."

The spirited march was organized by Cosecha-New Jersey and drew people from all over the state. Cosecha — Spanish for "harvest" — is a nationwide organization fighting for "permanent protection, dignity and respect for the 11 million" immigrants with papers the U.S. government doesn't consider sufficient, its website says. The group has been organizing actions demanding licenses in cities and towns around New Jersey building for the march.

Construction and factory workers; immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Nicaragua; local church groups; members of the Socialist Workers Party from New York and Philadelphia; and a contingent from the Trenton Education Association joined the march, which ended at the governor's Statehouse.

SWP members carried signs supporting the fight for driver's licenses and adding, "Amnesty for all immigrants now! No deportations! Organize the unorganized."

Naomi Johnson-Lafleur, president of the Trenton Education Association, spoke at both the beginning and end of the march. "Fifty-four percent of our students are Latino," she told the *Militant* at the rally. "Our parents should be able to drive their children



March for driver's licenses for immigrants in Trenton April 21. Sign at right says, "Licenses yes, promises no."

to school. Now some of them walk 2 miles or more every day. They deserve the same rights as everybody else."

Marchers chanted "Sin papeles, sin miedo" (Without papers, without fear) and "Licencias sí, promesas no" (Licenses yes, promises no). During the 2017 election campaign, Phil Murphy, who was elected governor, promised to protect "immigrants and dreamers," including giving them access to driver's licenses, but has done nothing since taking office in January.

A bill before the state legislature would allow workers without papers to get a special "limited" driver's license that could be used to drive in the state,

Revolutionary Cuba answers US rulers at Peru 'Summit'

BY SETH GALINSKY

Although the ostensible theme of the April 13-15 "VIII Summit of the Americas" in Lima, Peru, was to advance "the fight against corruption," Washington and its allies used the meeting to push their campaign to bring down the government of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela.

The U.S. rulers got Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski to revoke Maduro's invitation to the meeting, because the Venezuelan government had the temerity to refuse to call off elections scheduled there for May 20 when Washington said they should do so. Claiming the right to intervene in Venezuela's internal affairs, Washington charges the elections are rigged.

But despite a big buildup, the summit ended with barely a whimper. Less than half the 34 invited heads of state attended. Instead, most sent their foreign ministers, vice presidents or other officials. President Donald Trump — saying he was too busy deciding what kind of military strike to launch against Syria — sent Vice President Mike Pence.

The corruption theme turned out to be ironic in more ways than one. Just three weeks before the summit's opening, Kuczynski had to resign to avoid impeachment over charges he had taken bribes. Martín Vizcarra was named Peru's president in his stead.

The Organization of American States, which sponsors the summit, has a long history as a tool of U.S. colonial

domination in the hemisphere. At U.S. insistence it expelled Cuba in 1962, to punish working people there for overthrowing the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. In 1976 it demonstratively supported Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet by holding a meeting in Chile.

In 2009 Cuba rejoined, as Washington had to bow to growing pressure from a number of governments in the region that saw Cuba's continuing exclusion as an affront to their own independence and sovereignty. Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez represented Cuba at the summit.

U.S. imperialist hypocrisy

Pence used his plenary speech to attack revolutionary Cuba and the Venezuelan government. He called the Cuban government "a tired communist regime" with a "failed ideology," charged it was "aiding and abetting the corrupt dictatorship in Venezuela."

He blamed the unfolding economic crisis in Venezuela entirely on Maduro and his government, which face deep economic sanctions from Washington, and said, "The United States of America will not stand idly by as Venezuela crumbles."

Despite the heated rhetoric, and Washington's decision to slash in half the number of personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, the Trump administration has continued to hold regular joint meetings with Cuba on security, migration and other issues.



Cuban delegation to People's Summit in Peru that met at same time as Summit of the Americas.

These meetings began after the two governments re-established diplomatic relations during the last year of the Obama administration.

And while Washington rails at Maduro, it has no intention of invading Venezuela. The U.S. rulers believe the economic crisis there will hasten Maduro's fall.

Cuban leader Rodríguez answered Pence's hypocritical remarks and denounced the exclusion of Venezuela's sovereign government. "The moral vacuum of the U.S. government can't be, is not a reference point for Latin America and the Caribbean," Rodríguez said. "All of the despotic governments of the region, all without exception, have been imposed by or received the support of the U.S. government, including the most cruel military dictatorships." Among those Rodríguez highlighted was the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, installed in a U.S.-backed coup that killed thousands in 1973.

Rodríguez pointed out that April was the 57th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs, when U.S.-trained mercenaries attempted to invade and overthrow the Cuban Revolution, but were utterly defeated in only three days by a mobilization of the country's combatants and workers and peasants.

Capitalism breeds corruption

Bolivian President Evo Morales also exposed the U.S. rulers and their backers. "We should discuss the structures of corruption, what feeds them, who tolerates and promotes them," he said. "The real challenge is to dismantle the

system in which corruption prospers, capitalism."

"Just like in the past when they used the pretext of the fight against communism, the fight against drug trafficking or the fight against terrorism, today they try to use the false struggle against corruption to overthrow legitimate democratic governments," Morales said, "and to criminalize political projects of change."

U.S. imperialism is the biggest "threat to democracy, peace and freedom," he said.

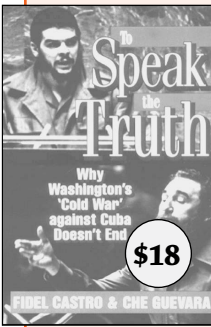
The sharp debates over the exclusion of Venezuela, and the U.S. campaign to vilify Venezuela and the Cuban Revolution continued at a series of parallel meetings, including an official "civil society" forum and an unofficial "People's summit," attended by left parties and organizations.

Delegates from a number of Cuban mass organizations, including from the Federation of University Students, protested their exclusion from some of the official events, while counterrevolutionary Cubans financed by Washington were invited in.

Because the summit operates by consensus, Washington was unable to get any anti-Venezuela or anti-Cuba planks included in the final declaration.

Instead, Washington engineered a statement that was released during the summit by the Group of Lima — 15 compliant Latin American governments that align themselves with Washington — that called for turning up economic and financial pressure against Venezuela.

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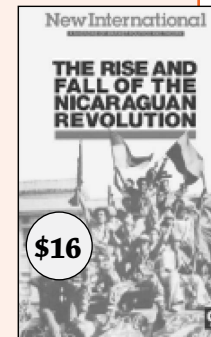
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'Summon masses to struggle against imperialism and war'

Below is an excerpt from Lenin's *Struggle for a Revolutionary International*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. In September 1916 the last national conference of the united Socialist Democratic Party of Germany took place before it split. The right-wing leadership assured itself a majority, but the revolutionary socialists, organized in the Internationale Group — popularly called Spartacists — were able to present their program in a speech titled, "Use Workers' Strength to End the War." It is excerpted below. Copyright © 1984 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY KÄTE DUNCKER

Comrades! The Internationale Group asked me to speak here, not only because we sharply oppose the majority's policy, but also because we are critical of the Social Democratic Working Group on certain essential points, above all on the International and defense of the fatherland. To the extent that they go beyond simple rejection of the war credits, the Working Group and its followers seek to return the party and the International to their pre-August 4 positions, thus resuming the supposedly well-tested and triumphant policies of that period. In fact, August 4 clearly revealed that these policies failed precisely when put to the test. ("Very true!") They did not lead to victory but rather to devastating defeat.



German army reservists on way to the front, 1914. "Proletarians beyond our borders are our brothers and class comrades," German revolutionary Kate Duncker argued in congress debate. "We are closer and more committed to them than to the ruling classes of our own country."

We consider that the Second International collapsed irretrievably on August 4, 1914. Despite all the fine speeches and resolutions at international congresses it could only collapse, because it was not an organic whole, but only a loose structure without internal cohesion. The national parties were autonomous and the German party in particular would never allow its freedom of action to be restricted by binding international decisions. Every attempt to make the International a real power ran aground when the German delegation replied, "Unacceptable."

We are striving for an International that stands above the national parties. It must be the central goal and pivot of the proletarian class organization. It must decide on all questions whose significance extends beyond national frontiers, for example, the question of militarism and expansion of the navy, colonial policy, and above all what course of action to adopt in case of war. We want to build the International after the war on a sounder basis and make it into a real political force. The concept of internationalism, together with the idea of class struggle, must therefore become the very essence of our informational and educational work in the nation. Every party member in every village must sense and realize that the proletarians beyond our borders are our brothers and class comrades. We are closer and more committed to them than to the ruling classes of our own country. We counterpose internationalist ideology to the nationalist ideology to which the party

capitulated on August 4.

Organizationally we do not conceive of the new International as a loose structure of autonomous parties with some office in Brussels or The Hague where comrades gather for non-binding discussions of international questions. However, contrary to the criticisms made by a Working Group publication, we do not envision the International as a commanding general staff reigning above the clouds and sending down orders from on high to the troops of the international proletariat. Rather we seek a permanent and much tighter organizational structure, one equipped with decision-making power. Resting on the internationalist consciousness of the masses in all capitalist countries, its decisions will therefore be binding for the Social Democracy in all these countries. ("How will you bring this about?") You might say that we demand the transformation of the present loose confederation of provinces into a federal state.

Our stand on national defense flows from this position on the International and from our understanding of the imperialist nature of the war. As you know, every war begins with the battle cry, "The fatherland is in danger!" because it is such an excellent way to mislead the less informed masses. In previous wars this slogan was usually a conscious deception. It is all the more clearly a deception today, in the age of imperialism, when war is waged to determine relationships among the great imperialist states.

Between the big imperialist states there are no longer any defensive wars. The claim that one goes to war to preserve borders and national sovereignty is today an outright swindle of the people. ("How's that again?") When one pirate ship attacks another to take away its loot, we do not talk about justified self-defense. The imperialist powers always aim for expansion and plunder, and from the outset their wars are wars of conquest. ("Very true!") It makes absolutely no difference on whose territory the war is fought. Of course, when there's a war, it has to be fought somewhere. (Laughter) Just where, is a question of military fortune; it is not the basis for our judgment of the war. ("Very true!")

As a human being and a Socialist I find it just as painful and shocking to see French, Belgian, and Russian proletarians killed as to see the massacre of German proletarians. "Sound the alarm, they're killing our brothers!" — that must be the approach of internationalist Socialists, wherever war strikes. For that reason we cannot derive our position on this war and on approval of war credits from the military situation at any given moment. ...

We call on all those who uphold the class struggle and international socialism to defend the integrity of our principles and display discipline in defending our world outlook. They must not be intimidated because of the protests of these fanatics over violations of party unity and discipline.

That means we must openly renounce obedience to the policy of the party establishment. We must break with the politics of half-measures and abandon the illusion that the crisis begins and ends with the purely parliamentary question of granting or rejecting the war credits. It means summoning the masses to a mighty struggle against imperialism and the war. Let us be clear on one thing: if the war ends as it began, as a gift from on high, as a result of diplomatic dealings, and without the intervention of the proletariat, then this peace will seal the defeat that socialism suffered in the war. If this peace is won through employing all the proletariat's instruments of power, it is an entirely different matter. Such a peace will then prepare the victory of socialism and shape the International into a power that would forever prevent the reoccurrence of such a horrible genocidal slaughter.

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How can construction workers fight back?

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profits, the bosses pushed the union out of more and more sites and pushed the workers harder, resulting in a grisly rise in deaths and injuries on the job. Across New York state the number of fatalities reached a 14-year high in 2016. Construction workers make up 5 percent of the city’s workforce, but account for 27 percent of all workplace deaths.

Thousands of workers, chanting “Union!” rallied at Times Square April 4 to protest the bosses’ anti-union assault. Several hundred rally twice a week at the Hudson Yards site as part of a “Count Me In” campaign organized by building trade unions.

For decades the union officials have relied on backing Democratic Party candidates as the key to defending the union instead of leading workers in a sustained fight against the bosses’ attacks. And as competition from nonunion contractors increased, union officials offered significant concessions to try to convince the bosses to keep using union labor.

As a consequence union membership in the city’s construction industry has plummeted from 90 percent in the 1970s to less than 31 percent today. And this weakens the labor movement as a whole.

Union officials often signed “project labor agreements” that include wage cuts and no-strike clauses in an effort to win contracts. The Building and Construction Trades Council made concessions to secure a contract with Related Companies in the first phase of the Hudson Yards development.

Union officials say they are not opposed to the nonunion workers. Some say they would prefer to get them in the union, but since many are immigrants

without proper papers, even if they signed up, they say, the bosses would run their names through E-Verify and fire them. Echoing the officials, some workers say there’s not enough work to go around and it should go to those already in the union. Competition between workers for jobs is built into capitalism.

Unless the unorganized workers are brought into the union, the unions will continue to lose ground.

This is a life-and-death question for workers in construction and many other industries. It highlights the critical importance of the labor movement joining fights in defense of the undocumented, calling for an amnesty for all workers without papers.

The unions should also fight for a government-funded public works program to build the things working people need, from housing to hospitals, schools, mass transit and day care centers. Such a program would put millions to work, including in construction.

The road to overcome the divisions that the bosses, their government and immigration cops sow amongst working people can transform our unions into fighting instruments of the workers. Unions need to campaign for all the oppressed and exploited, like they would do if they fought for amnesty, to build solidarity and working-class unity. You can see glimmers of this in the social movement being built around teachers’ battles today.

How the nonunion workers can be organized is something many workers at the protests are trying to think out and the debate is lively.

“We need to get the nonunion guys on board, the union should do more to reach out to win them,” Wilmer Serrano told the *Militant*.

US rulers try to block gains by Iran, Moscow

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ments, signatories to the deal with Tehran, would “obstruct attempts” by Washington to alter the agreement. Under the deal’s terms, some sanctions on Iran, sanctions that fall hardest on working people, were relaxed in exchange for Tehran pausing its moves to develop nuclear weapons.

The Donald Trump administration says it will decide by May 12 whether to quit the deal and resume full sanctions against Iran. Washington, with a vast nuclear arsenal, is the only government to have ever used nuclear weapons, incinerating towns — and people — of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in 1945.

Through their military intervention in Syria and Iraq, Iran’s capitalist rulers have conquered a land corridor to Hezbollah in Lebanon to enforce their counterrevolutionary political influence. With Tehran establishing bases in Syria, including close to the Israeli border, the stakes have risen for the Israeli rulers and U.S. imperialism in pushing back the Iranian government’s weapons programs and expanding reach.

Washington, which has over 2,000 troops in Syria, and tens of thousands more stationed across the Middle East, wants to add measures to the agreement that would punish Iran for the development of ballistic missiles and extend the deal’s restrictions beyond the 2025 date when it starts to expire. The governments of France, Germany and the U.K. say they back further sanctions targeting Tehran’s ballistic missiles. French President Emmanuel Macron met with President Trump April 24 and urged Washington to stay in the agreement, but also prepare new measures that take up Washington’s demands.

Others are pressing the Trump administration to go after Tehran’s ability to help fund the Assad regime and its ongoing war against the Syrian people. Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, leaders of a conservative lobby group calling itself the Foundation for Defense of Democracies called for the reimposition of sanc-

tions on Iranian banks that provide credit to the Syrian rulers and on companies that fund the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah, military forces that have been decisive to the Syrian regime’s advances against opposition forces on the battlefield.

The deadly impact of the Iranian rulers participation in the wars wracking the region lay behind the widespread working-class-led protests that swept 90 cities and towns in Iran in early January.

Israeli Defense Forces launched missile strikes at Syrian government military positions after a mortar shell landed inside Israel, April 23. The Syrian government has been extending its control over parts of the country through assaults on towns held by opposition forces close to the Israeli border and through airstrikes and a siege of eastern Ghouta, near Damascus.

U.S. rulers face challenge from Moscow

The U.S. rulers also face a growing challenge to their economic and political sway in the region from Moscow’s rising intervention in the Mideast. To reinforce Assad the capitalist rulers in Russia are considering whether to supply his regime with anti-aircraft defense systems that could be used to shoot down Israeli missiles and planes. Tel Aviv has been using its superior air power to try to prevent Tehran and Hezbollah from setting up operations near the border. Specially trained Russian soldiers would be deployed to Syria to operate the anti-aircraft battery. Tel Aviv has asked Moscow to withhold the weaponry.

Moscow has helped Assad push back opposition forces and impose “de-escalation” arrangements that force them to give up their heavy weapons and be moved to Idlib or Homs in the north of the country.

Assad’s military has now taken the town of Dumayr near Damascus, after a siege and carpet bombing. The Turkish government has gotten agreement to transport opposition fighters to Afrin, a Kurdish area in northwest Syria that Turkish forces now control following their invasion and assault against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces there earlier this year. The Turkish rulers want to sharply expand the Arab population in hopes of using them as a bulwark of support against the Kurds who historically inhabited the area.

The Kurds are the world’s largest nationality without their own homeland — over 30 million strong, divided among Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Protest Yarber killing

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ing Yarber and seriously wounding his friend Mariana Tafoya. Yarber, 26, was a father of three young girls, ages 9, 7 and 1.

An autopsy shows Yarber died of asphyxiation, choking on his own blood, Lee Merritt, his family’s attorney, told a press conference April 23. Witnesses in the parking lot told Merritt, he said, that “at no time did they see law enforcement attempt to render aid or resuscitate or help Diante Yarber at all.”

The police claimed he rammed two of the police cars that were surrounding his, but family members and their attorney say a video since released by a bystander shows the car was moving slowly, backing up, when the cops opened fire. When his car was returned to the family, it had no dents or other evidence it had hit anything. The shooting and video have garnered national attention for this Mohave Desert town, where Blacks are 14.6 percent of the population. Yarber was African-American.

“This could have been my son or grandchildren,” said Ezpinoza. She said that was why she joined 100 of Yarber’s family members, friends and others who marched to the Barstow Police station April 10, carrying homemade signs saying, “We need answers” and “Justice for Butchie.”

Tressle White, a 24-year-old warehouse worker and former neighbor and friend of Yarber, said in a phone interview that she helped organize the march. “You hear about these things every day, but to hear that happened to him, and how everything went down, I felt I needed to do something and the march is a step to demand justice,” she said. “The police aren’t saying anything, not releasing footage, won’t talk to anybody about what happened. Walmart won’t release the footage they have. They gave it to the police but won’t give it to the attorneys for the families.”

White said she was preparing for another march April 25 from Walmart to the police station.

In what has become standard operating procedure for the cops, they went on a campaign to smear Yarber. They released his record and said he was a suspect in a stolen vehicle case and had a long history of crime.

“My son and Butchie were best friends. He called me the night before the shooting, knowing I was sick, to wish me well,” Felecia Taylor said. “People here are outraged that they left the body in the car for seven hours. This keeps happening and cops get away with it. This is way out of control.”

“The things people are being killed for are minor, a broken tail light, having a cellphone in your hand and not dropping it,” Essie Jackson, a longtime civil rights and NAACP activist, told the *Militant*. “But if the police say, ‘we feared for our life,’ it’s OK.”

The San Bernardino County sheriff’s department, which is responsible for investigating deaths caused by cops here, has a record that speaks for itself. In November 2015 Nathaniel Pickett II was shot and killed by one of their sheriffs. Jackson was one of those who fought for charges to be filed against Kyle Woods, the cop who shot him.

Although the district attorney refused to indict Woods, claiming the shooting was justified, a jury in a civil case filed by his parents found the facts of the case so egregious it awarded \$33.5 million in punitive and compensatory damages to them.

“My son did not commit a crime. He was not armed. He was 100 feet from his front door. All he wanted to do was go home,” Pickett’s mother, Dominic Archibald, told the media. “Woods, a deputy with less than two years on the force, beat him and then shot him, claiming later he had hopped a fence, fled, and assaulted the officer.”

But video evidence and testimony gave lie to all that, ABC-TV Channel 7 said, including proving Woods’ claim that Pickett was high on methamphetamine to be false.

The sheriff’s department has also paid out nearly \$4 million in federal lawsuits and settled a class action lawsuit in the last several years stemming from abuse of prisoners at the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga.

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