

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Social catastrophe from storms
are product of capitalist rule**
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 36 OCTOBER 1, 2018

‘We need to get a union into the place where I work’

BY EMMA JOHNSON

“We need a union where I work,” Stephanie Revill, 42, who has worked at National Beef for 11 years, told Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Georgia governor.

SWP SPEAKS WITH, FOR WORKING PEOPLE

“We work in the cold and never know when we’ll get off. We don’t get paid enough for the conditions. The supervisors are always telling us to hurry up, hurry up. But they get the bonuses, and we get nothing.”

Fruit knocked on Revill’s door Sept. 15 as SWP members were introducing themselves to workers in Moultrie, an agricultural town of 15,000 some 200 miles southeast of Atlanta. Meeting workers and farmers on their doorsteps is the central activity for the

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‘Militant’ wins a round, fight against prison censors goes on

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Florida Department of Corrections overturned the impoundment of issue no. 29 of the *Militant* Sept. 12. The department’s Literature Review Committee also recently overturned the ban on five other issues of the paper. These are victories for all those who defend the right of free speech and the press and for the rights of workers behind bars.

At the same meeting the committee decided not to reverse Florida State Prison officials’ decision to impound issue no. 25. They declined to give any explanation.

In the last year and a half, Florida officials have banned at least 18 issues of the paper, but then overturned the ban on all but a few after the *Militant* protested. Amnesty International, PEN America, the National Lawyers Guild, chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union, church groups and

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Iraq protests shake up moves to form new gov’t

Rulers in US, Moscow, Tehran vie to protect interests



AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani

Demonstrators Sept. 12 in Basra hold Iraqi flags and images of protesters killed at previous actions demanding water, electricity, jobs and an end to Iranian interference in the country.

BY TERRY EVANS

Following widespread protests by working people and others against the Iraqi government’s failure to supply basic necessities and the impact of the Iranian rulers’ military intervention and assaults on Iraqi sovereignty, talks to establish a coalition government between U.S.-backed Prime

Minister Haider al-Abadi and Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr collapsed.

Al-Sadr’s Sairoon bloc got the largest vote, on a platform that included opposition to Tehran’s and Washington’s intervention in the country. But it is now in talks to form a government

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Protests in Dallas demand cop who killed Botham Jean be fired



Protesters attend Dallas City Council hearing Sept. 12, demanding Dallas cop Amber Guyger be fired, jailed for shooting and killing of Botham Jean, 26, in his own apartment.

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

RICHARDSON, Texas — “The sound of the gunshots did not have the resonance to be heard on our small island, but its impact was of nuclear proportions,” Ignatius Jean told the more than 1,500 people who filled the Greenville Church of Christ here Sept. 13 at the funeral service for his nephew, Botham Jean.

Jean was shot and killed Sept. 6 by Dallas cop Amber Guyger. Jean, 26, was a native of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia and a member of the

Church of Christ.

Guyger, 30, lived in the same downtown Dallas apartment building as Botham Jean, one floor below. She claimed she went to the wrong floor and mistook Jean’s apartment for hers, even though its big red rug at the entrance doesn’t look anything like hers.

She first said she used her key to get in, but later claimed the door was unlocked when she entered and fired two shots at Jean, one hitting him in the

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Are frenzied liberals afflicted with ‘Trump derangement syndrome’?

BY TERRY EVANS

As the November midterm elections loom, liberals in the Democratic Party and media, and the middle-class left, are grabbing anything to try and advance their frenetic “resistance” against

the Donald Trump presidency. They are driven by fear of the workers who voted for Trump, who they claim are racist and reactionary and have to be controlled.

Their frenzy is deepening the splintering in the Democratic Party, as the Democratic Socialists battle the “progressives” to represent the “resistance” this November.

Trump and some of his supporters have responded by saying the liberals have the “Trump Derangement Syn-

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Join and build the Socialist Workers Party 2018 campaign!

The propertied rulers organize their exploitation of working people, their wars and their class rule through the capitalist two party system. Workers will be

EDITORIAL

urged and badgered to choose between the lesser of two evils this November and subordinate our own interests to one of the parties that defends the rule of the exploiters.

The *Militant* urges workers to back the Socialist Workers Party candidates who

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Striking Chicago hotel workers rally for yearlong health care

Industrial glass strikers in Montreal win solidarity

Great Russian artists of 19th century and 1917 Bolshevik Revolution

BY DAVE PRINCE

On July 29 the *Weekly Standard* ran an article entitled “Pig and People,” by Gary Saul Morson, a professor of Russian art and literature at Northwestern University. The article is available on-line. Morson develops his view that “Russia’s greatest writers, painters, and composers [of the closing decades of the

COMMENTARY

19th century] all reflected on, if they did not participate in, what one historian called “the agony of populist art.””

He concludes his article: “If Russian history demonstrates anything, it is that nothing causes more evil than the attempt to abolish it altogether. The scarlet flower blooms in the Gulag. ... For Russians, faith in the people’s virtue is equaled only by another belief: in the moral glory of Russian literature. That belief is warranted.”

The great Russian writers and artists were uncompromising in their artistic integrity to the truth. But contrary to Morson’s view, the glory of what the Russian artists created was defended by the proletarian Bolshevik Revolution he opposes. That glory will be taken again by new proletarian revolutions creating through generations a truly international culture — taken from the hands of the bourgeoisie, its state and institutions that promote bourgeois values.

V.I. Lenin’s evaluation of Leo Tolstoy and his esteem for the writer Gleb Uspensky (1843-1902), who is prominently presented in Morson’s article, placed the defense of their contributions in the hands of the proletarian revolution, and accurately placed their work in those



Ilya Repin’s painting “Barge Haulers on the Volga” (1870-73), discussed in article by Morson. Inset, Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910), who wrote *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*.

decades of one of the greatest turning points in world class history.

Karl Marx in January 1860 wrote to Frederick Engels, “The most momentous thing happening in the world today is the slave movement — on the one hand, in America, started by the death of [John] Brown, and in Russia, on the other.”

The end of serfdom, differentiations in the peasantry, the explosive rise of capitalism and a modern proletariat — these were the class forces that the Bolsheviks led by Lenin would unite in revolutionary mobilizations, and the insurrection of October 1917.

In a March 1919 session of the Petrograd soviet, Lenin presented the following proletarian appreciation of Uspensky:

If you now read Gleb Uspensky — we

are erecting a monument to him as one of the best writers about peasant life — you will find descriptions dating back to the eighties and nineties of honest old peasants and sometimes just ordinary elderly people who said frankly that it had been better under serfdom. When an old social order is destroyed, it cannot be destroyed immediately in the minds of all people, there will always be some who are drawn to the old.

This is in sharp contrast to Morson’s bourgeois pity for Uspensky’s character. A great artist and what his ideals bring him to: he writes that Uspensky spent his last years in an asylum. “With unrelieved guilt for his ‘swinishness’ [‘the educated Russian’] Uspensky came to believe he really was a pig and tried to turn his face into a snout.” Thus the title of Morson’s article, “Pig and People.”

The article only makes small mention of Tolstoy.

Lenin’s November 1910 appreciation of Tolstoy, on his death, in its entirety is a powerful presentation of the class dynamic of the closing decades of the 19th century and the defense by the proletarian revolution of the great artists of that period.

A couple of excerpts:

Tolstoy, the artist, is known to an infinitesimal minority even in Rus-


sia. If his great works are really to be made the possession of *all*, a struggle must be waged against the system of society which condemns millions and scores of millions to ignorance, benightedness, drudgery and poverty — a socialist revolution must be accomplished.

And:

Tolstoy is dead, and the pre-revolutionary Russia whose weakness and impotence found their expression in the philosophy and are depicted in the works of the great artist, has become a thing of the past. But the heritage which he has left includes that which has not become a thing of the past but belongs to the future. This heritage is accepted and is being worked upon by the Russian proletariat.

In the next issue, the Militant will re-print Lenin’s full article, “An Appraisal of Leo Tolstoy,” and its appreciation of how the great writer described the historic class and political changes taking place in Russia.

More good reading



“Art, like science, not only does not seek order, but by its essence, cannot tolerate them. Truly intellectual creation is incompatible with lies, hypocrisy and the spirit of conformity. Art can become a strong ally of revolution only insofar as it remains faithful to itself.”

— Leon Trotsky, 1938

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THE MILITANT

For a Korea free of all nuclear weapons!

The Korea talks open the door for expanding political space for working people. To advance this effort the ‘Militant’ presses for Washington to sign a peace treaty ending 1950-53 Korean War, halt U.S. war games with Seoul, agree with DPRK on a Korea free of nuclear weapons.



EPA/How Hwee Young
Sept. 9 Pyongyang rally called for reunifying Korea and economic development.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

‘We need to get a union’

Continued from front page

SWP and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

These face-to-face exchanges in cities, towns and rural areas offer party members and supporters the opportunity to share experiences and discuss and debate the key political issues facing workers today. They give the best platform to respond to developments in the class struggle, on the job and in social protest actions.

“We need to build the labor movement. The unions are our basic instrument of defense, and can become leaders of broader class struggles,” Fruit said.

“With the growing economy and more hiring workers are a little more confident today to organize for better conditions and wages,” Fruit told Revill. “We see steelworkers, hotel workers, retail workers and others standing up against the bosses.”

Revill decided to subscribe to the party’s paper, the *Militant*, and make a contribution to the SWP campaign.

The party speaks out as a tribune of the people against all the capitalist rulers’ assaults — on jobs, wages and working conditions; on women’s right to choose abortion; the debt slavery forced on working farm families; and police brutality. The SWP also calls for amnesty for immigrant workers living in the U.S.

Members and supporters stress the need for the labor movement to chart a class-struggle course independent

of the capitalist rulers, their state and their parties. The heart of the discussions is what will it take for working people to gain the confidence and experience needed to overturn the capitalist system and take political power. And why they should join the SWP to pursue this course.

Do workers need our own party?

Steve Warshell, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, and Cindy Jaquith visited Lake Worth in Palm Beach County Sept. 8. The area is home to many farmworkers and is surrounded by sugar cane fields, vegetable farms and nurseries.

“We met immigrant workers who wanted to talk, but requested we not use their names, because some don’t have papers the authorities consider proper,” Warshell wrote.

A worker originally from Peru asked if Warshell would vote with the Republican or the Democratic bloc in the Senate if he was elected, and whether he supported President Trump or the “resistance.”

“We aren’t either Democrats or Republicans — they are both parties of the propertied rulers. The president is a member of the boss class. We say workers need their own party, a revolutionary party, to overturn capitalist exploitation, oppression and wars,” Warshell replied. “Some of Trump’s actions, like the negotiations with North Korea, have reduced war tensions — and that’s in the interests of all workers, here and in Korea.



Militant/John Steele

Child care worker Venecia Acosta, right, invited Communist League member Beverly Bernardo back for political discussion Sept. 17. They met previous week when Bernardo knocked on doors in Acosta’s Montreal neighborhood. Acosta signed up for the *Militant* and got *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and the *Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

“The so-called anti-Trump ‘resistance’ is a hysterical response of fear of the working class, who the liberals think are racist and reactionary,” he said.

Amnesty for all immigrants

“A lot of immigrants only make minimum wage,” child care worker Venecia Acosta, who is originally from the Dominican Republic, told Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in the Oct. 1 Quebec provincial election. Acosta invited Bernardo to her house Sept. 17 after they met the previous week when Bernardo was knocking on doors in Acosta’s neighborhood.

“The bosses pay immigrants less to lower everyone’s wages and divide workers born here from foreign-born workers,” said Bernardo. “The Communist League calls for amnesty for all immigrants here without papers to unite the working class,” she said.

“About eight years ago my son was arrested by the police in Ontario and framed up for drug trafficking, and

then deported back to the Dominican Republic, even though he grew up in Canada,” said Acosta, who is still fighting for her son to be able to return.

“Working people need to make a socialist revolution and take political power,” Bernardo said, pointing to the example of the Cuban Revolution, where the July 26 Movement under Fidel Castro’s leadership organized the working class and its allies in a broad popular struggle that overturned the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship there in 1959. Cuban workers and farmers built their own government and have extended the hand of solidarity to toilers worldwide.

Acosta signed up for the *Militant* and purchased the Spanish-language edition of *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and the *Road to Workers Power* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. It’s one of five books on special with a subscription. (See ad below.)

To join with the party in door-to-door discussions with fellow workers, or learn more about our program and activities, contact the SWP or Communist League nearest you, listed on page 8.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Why the Liberals’ ‘Resistance’ Campaign to End the Trump Presidency Is a Dangerous Diversion for Working People. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 314-1928.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Demand U.S. Rulers Sign Peace Treaty with North Korea! Get U.S. Troops, Planes, Bombers Out! Fri., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

NEW YORK

New York

The Legacy of the 1979 to 1983 Revolution in Grenada: Lessons for Today’s Struggles. Speaker: Tamar Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 13th floor. Tel.: (646) 964-4793.

CANADA

Vancouver

Why the Liberals’ ‘Resistance’ Campaign to Unseat President Trump Is a Dangerous Diversion for Working People. Speaker: Lynda Little, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 190 East 48th Ave. Tel.: (604) 322-4223.

—CALENDAR—

CANADA

Montreal

Support the Working-Class Alternative to the Capitalist System of War, Oppression and Exploitation. Build the Labor Movement. Speaker: Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in Oct. 1 Quebec provincial election. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840. Sponsored by the Communist League.

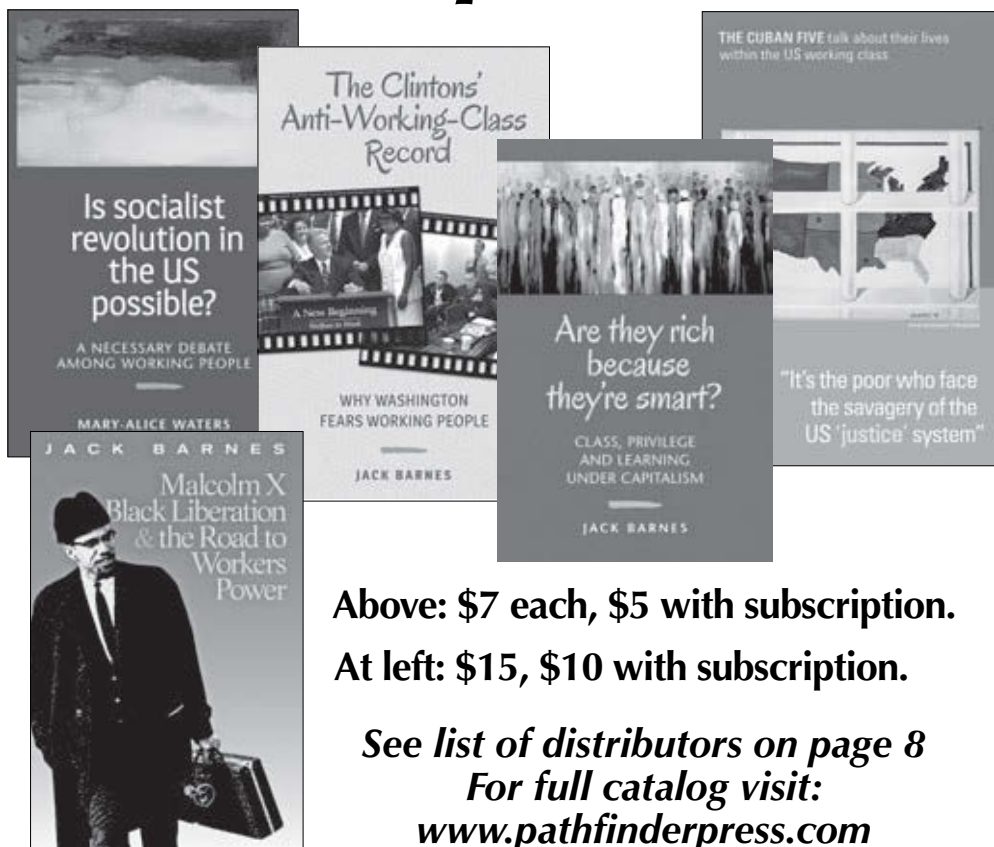
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Pa. prison authorities curb letters, books, newspapers

BY SETH GALINSKY

Pennsylvania prison officials and liberal Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf announced new rules and regulations Sept. 5 that severely restrict prisoners' access to books, magazines, newspapers, photos and letters.

The Department of Corrections imposed the rules — and a 12-day lockdown — after claiming that dozens of prison staff and some inmates had been sickened over the last few weeks by touching so-called synthetic marijuana sprayed on letters and books sent to prisoners.

"They've wanted to implement more control over the content and incarcerated people's access to books for a long time," Jodi Lincoln, co-chair of Book 'Em, told the *Militant* by phone Sept. 15. Pittsburgh-based Book 'Em and Philadelphia-based Books Through Bars send thousands of used books free of charge to Pennsylvania prisoners every year. "They're just using the drugs as a scapegoat."

The new rules were announced in the midst of the lockdown of nearly 47,000 prisoners from Aug. 29 to Sept. 10. During this time no visitors were allowed into the state's 25 prisons, mail service and book delivery was halted, and inmates were confined to their cells.

"This is a stack of books that are on hold to send to Pennsylvania prisoners," Tom Haney, who has volunteered with Books Through Bars for six years, told Socialist Workers Party member Janet Post when she went to their office from Philadelphia to express solidarity. "Next to that is another stack just sent back this month from the prisons."

Haney said they are fighting to reverse the new policy.

Starting immediately, all personal letters to Pennsylvania state prisoners must be sent to Smart Communications in St. Petersburg, Florida. The company, which was awarded a \$4 million annual contract, will scan all the mail, including greeting cards, family photos and news clippings, and send them to prisons digitally. Each prison will then review the mail, and, if they deem it appropriate, print them out and deliver it to prisoners. The digital copies will be kept on file by Smart for seven years. Authorities don't say what those records will be used for.

Correspondence with lawyers will still go directly to each prison, but will be opened by guards in the presence of the inmate, copied and a photocopy given to them. This means prison guards will see every confidential letter between inmates and their lawyers.

Workers behind bars will no longer

be able to order books directly from publishers, only through the Department of Corrections. And they won't be able to request free books from organizations like Books Through Bars and Book 'Em that have been sending books without problems for years.

Prisoners will have to go to a kiosk in the prison to request a book. Then prison officials will decide whether or not to approve the request. They have no time limit for making a decision. If the answer is yes, they'll inform the prisoner and report the price. The inmate has two business days to pay for the book in full.

Prison officials say they offer an alternative: Buy e-books, which exist only for a small percentage of titles, to read on a special tablet that costs \$147 plus tax. Pennsylvania inmates who work earn between 19 and 42 cents an hour.

The same procedure applies to newspapers but with a twist. Papers will still be given to prisoner subscribers until their subscription expires. After that prison officials say that they will buy approved subscriptions in bulk and then distribute issues to those who have paid for them.

Constitutional rights threatened

The *Militant* has more than two dozen subscribers in Pennsylvania prisons, whose constitutional rights are being threatened by the new rules.

Prisoners can also ask prison libraries to purchase books and subscriptions. "The Department of Corrections says they are going to expand the libraries," Book 'Em's Lincoln said. "But the libraries are in abysmal

'Militant' wins round in fight against prison censorship

Continued from front page

others have often joined in demanding reversal of the bans.

The only thing the bans have in common is they are "arbitrary, irrational, inconsistent, unlawful, and unconstitutional," in the words of *Militant* attorney David Goldstein from the well-known law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman.

Every impoundment notice so far has falsely claimed that the paper "presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline" of the prison. Some point to specific articles prison authorities don't like, others give no reason. What they really don't like is the politics of the *Militant*, which point a road forward for workers — inside and outside the propertied rulers' prisons — in the face of the crisis of capitalism.

There is no difference in the politics of issue no. 25 and no. 29. Issue no. 25 had front page articles on the fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S., protests against the police killing of Antwon Rose in Pittsburgh, U.N. hearings on Puerto Rico's struggle for independence, the Socialist Workers Party-sponsored Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, an article on the fight against previous prison censorship in Florida, and an editorial explaining why workers should oppose the call by some liberals to harass supporters



Militant/Janet Post

Tom Haney, right, with Philadelphia-based Books Through Bars, points to stacks of books returned by prison authorities because of new rules restricting prisoners' right to receive them.

shape and they have no plan to improve them."

Some doctors scoffed at Pennsylvania officials' claims that employees were sickened by touching paper soaked in drugs. That's not how you absorb the drug, they say, but by smoking or eating the drug-infused paper.

"It's implausible," Dr. Lewis Nelson, chair of emergency medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "[Synthetic cannabinoids] don't cause the effects these folks are having, and certainly not by the route that they're being exposed."

New York state prisons had set up a test program last year with similar restrictions, saying prisoners could only order books from a handful of approved vendors with a limited selection. They were forced to back down in the face of protests from civil

liberties organizations, and other defenders of free speech and the rights of prisoners. The Federal Bureau of Prisons and Maryland prison officials also began and then rescinded similar rules.

Other prison officials across the country are watching closely what happens in Pennsylvania, Lincoln said. "If these restrictions are not challenged, it could have a ripple effect," she said.

Book 'Em, Books Through Bars and the Amistad Law Project have encouraged supporters of prisoners' rights to call Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf and demand that he revoke the restrictions.

Send letters to Gov. Tom Wolf, 508 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, or fax him at (717) 772-8284. Send emails to Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel at ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov.

of Donald Trump.

Issue no. 29 was banned, Tomoka Correctional Institution authorities said, because of "Page 1-3." The articles on these pages reported on protests against a killing by cops in Chicago, the launching of the Socialist Workers Party 2018 election campaigns, protests and political developments in Iraq, and an article on openings for the working class as the imperialist "world order" unravels. This issue didn't have any coverage of the *Militant's* fight against prison censorship, but numerous previous issues did and were either not banned or their bans were overturned.

The *Militant* was totally banned, in violation of federal regulations, by prison officials at the Federal Correctional Institution in Greenville, Illinois, in June.

The reason? It is "associated with the Socialist Workers Party and encourages change by protesting and striking."

The decision was sent back for further review in August by Federal Bureau of Prisons Regional Director Sara Revell, but the *Militant* hasn't heard anything since. Goldstein wrote Revell Sept. 14 asking where things stand.

"As the class struggle heats up, we will see

more attempts by prison officials to cut workers behind bars off from the world," *Militant* editor John Studer said Sept. 17. "In Pennsylvania right now government and prison authorities are restricting prisoners' access to books and periodicals across the board.

"That's why the fights against censorship of the *Militant* are so important," Studer said. "They are part of the broader fight to defend critically needed political rights today and help to break down barriers among workers. These are rights won in the Constitution and defended in blood by working people over decades.

"We encourage all those who back the *Militant's* fight against censorship to keep up the pressure," he said, "and to join with those opposing the unconstitutional restrictions on books, periodicals and letters in Pennsylvania."

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus \$2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767 Atlanta GA 30321-2767 Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info: www.pathfinderpress.com

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today — from teachers and school workers, to miners, steelworkers, rail and factory and retail workers looking to stand and fight. Send in articles, photos and letters on picket lines and other labor protests to themilitant@mac.com, post them directly on our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SF hotel workers rally, say ‘One job should be enough’

SAN FRANCISCO — Chanting “One job should be enough!” some 1,000 hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2, and their supporters marched here on Labor Day Sept. 3. Actions took place that day at Marriott-owned hotels in seven other U.S. cities where contracts have recently expired.

Many workers told the *Militant* they had to work two jobs to make ends meet. Others said they could only pay their bills by working lots of extra hours.

“I’ve worked so much overtime I had little time for my family,” said Jose Alvarado, a Hyatt restaurant worker for 45 years. His co-worker, Salvador Aviles, told the *Militant* that keeping his medical insurance and pension is his greatest concern.

“If workers can unite, all together we can make real change,” said Doshawn-tae Abernathy, a worker at the St. Regis Hotel, who was inspired by the protest.

“Marriott proposed a total dollar amount to be divided up between our medical benefits, pension and wages,” said a Local 2 flier issued after the action. That is “much less than our last contract.”

On Sept. 13 Local 2 members — cooks, servers, room cleaners, bellmen and others — from seven Marriott hotels here voted by 98.6 percent to authorize a strike.

— Joel Britton

Striking hotel workers in Chicago rally for yearlong health care

CHICAGO — “Every winter when the hotel business slows down, the lower seniority workers get laid off or our hours get cut. Then the hotel owners say we don’t work enough hours to get health insurance, and we’re without until business picks up. That’s the main reason we’re on strike,” said Laura McKinney, a housekeeper at the Holiday Inn with two years on the job. “We need year-round health insurance. Hav-



Militant/Raul Gonzalez

Hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2, march in San Francisco Sept. 3 after contract with Marriott hotels expired. Many are forced to work two jobs to make ends meet.

ing no health insurance for months can be very expensive.”

McKinney was one of more than 3,000 striking hotel workers and their supporters marching and rallying here Sept. 13. The union contract covering the workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 1, expired Sept. 1. The strike involves some 6,000 workers at 26 hotels. Picketing is 24/7. This is the biggest strike in years in the Chicago area.

The march began in the downtown loop and ended up at the Palmer House on the North Side. There was real excitement in the air because this was the first time strikers from all 26 hotels gathered together.

Bennie Scott, who has worked at the Hilton for 16 years, told the *Militant* that he’d been on strike there before. “But this is much better, with all of us striking together, instead of hotel by hotel,” he said.

He said the bosses are really trying to speed up the work and to make workers do multiple jobs. “Everyone is tired of it,” he said, adding, “if it wasn’t for the union, half of us would be fired.”

Maria Barragan is originally from Guerrero, Mexico, and has worked as a housekeeper at the Hilton for eight years. “Over the years we took on more and more work. Since they laid off customer service workers a while back,” she said, “we now do some of that work

also.”

“Not only do we want year-round health insurance, we want to maintain our vacation days, and our sick days pay,” said Lanita Payton, who works as a room attendant at the Palmer House. “We want to live better.”

Ahiraz Maher, originally from Sri Lanka, has worked five years at the Kinzie Hotel as a doorman. “We take luggage to and from rooms, do paperwork for the valet and other things that come up from the customers. We get \$10 per hour pay and count on tips,” he said. “The problem is these days most people don’t carry cash, so our tips are down 80 percent.”

The strike is having an impact. Some hotel restaurants have been forced to close down and at least two conferences have relocated.

— Dan Fein

Industrial glass strikers in Montreal win solidarity

MONTREAL — “They want us to do overtime without overtime pay,” Oldcastle Building Envelope striker Bruno Zaviolette told the *Militant* on the Unifor Local 6000 picket line here Sept. 12.

“All we want is a wage increase to cover the rise in the cost of living and a bit more, but the bosses are playing with our breaks, vacation pay and other work conditions,” said Zaviolette, an assembler with 15 years in the plant. “They are pushing for more production too.”

The workers make glass windows, skylights, storefronts and facades for the construction industry. The plant is located in the Montreal borough of Pointe-aux-Trembles. Some 100 unionists went on strike July 6 after their contract expired in March, setting up a tent and a trailer in front of the plant.

Strikers gave a warm welcome to Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in the Oct. 1 Quebec provincial election, when she joined the picket line to bring solidarity and to learn more about their fight.

The strikers are getting a lot of support.

“On Aug. 24, 250 Unifor members, many from other locals, including from across the country, turned out to a solidarity barbecue,” Local 6000 President Véronique Figliuzzi told Bernardo. That same day a Unifor rally in solidarity with the Quebec strikers took place at the Oldcastle plant in Vaughn, Ontario, near Toronto. Eighty-five of the strikers attended the Aug. 17-19 Unifor Canadian Council meeting and received a standing ovation from the delegates.

— John Steele



Militant

Thousands of hotel workers on strike in Chicago march through city demanding new contract. “Hotel owners say we don’t work enough hours to get health insurance,” said housekeeper Laura McKinney at the demonstration. “That’s the main reason we’re on strike.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 4, 1993

MARSHALL, Minnesota — Pent-up anger over months of racist abuse of immigrant workers from Somalia by bosses at Heartland Foods sparked walkouts and protests at the turkey-processing plant here in southwestern Minnesota farm country.

The actions, which began September 10, virtually shut down production on the plant’s night shift, which is composed almost entirely of workers who are Somali. About 150 of Heartland’s 600 workers are from Somalia. The plant is organized by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The walkout was touched off when the son-in-law of an operations manager hurled a turkey drumstick at a Somali worker. Grievances ranged from insufficient break periods and refusal by supervisors to allow workers to warm their hands after working in ice, to line production speed.



October 4, 1968

On the eve of the Olympic Games in Mexico City, civil strife in the nation’s capital has flared into street fighting in a number of neighborhoods.

A Sept. 23 police attack on a demonstration near the National Polytechnic Institute led to an all-night battle between cops and students. The students, most of whom were of high-school age, defended themselves against police gunfire with firearms. The battle only ended after army detachments had been called to reinforce the police.

The cause of the flareup was a decision by the Diaz Ordaz government to use all the military force necessary to end the student movement that has been building up around the central slogan, “Free Mexico’s Political Prisoners!”

The police violence has served only to broaden the protest movement, to give it fresh dynamism, and thus to intensify the crisis.



October 2, 1943

With the impudent deceit of a New Deal liberal covering up for Wall Street, Governor Rexford Guy Tugwell pretends that the trouble with Puerto Rico is that Washington has no policy toward its Caribbean colonial possession.

Tugwell knows better than anyone what that policy is because he has been administering it for the past few years. Puerto Rico has been kept in an impoverished and economically backward state for the profit of the sugar-growing corporations, shipping companies and absentee landlords.

The Puerto Rican people know only too well the real nature of their ruler’s policies. Puerto Ricans are no better off today than they were when the island was wrested from Spain in 1898.

Against this policy of colonial starvation and repression, the *Militant* calls for the immediate and unconditional independence of Puerto Rico.

Protests shake up Iraq gov't

Continued from front page

ment with Shiite militia commander Hadi al-Amiri, who is strongly linked to the Iranian rulers.

No new government has been formed since elections were held in May. Sizeable working-class protests in Basra demanded Abadi end a visit there Sept. 10, blaming his administration for the crises they face. Working people have been protesting across southern Iraq for weeks against frequent power cuts during the high heat of summer in this oil-rich region; persistent joblessness; the government's failure over months to provide safe drinking water, resulting in tens of thousands getting sick; and the impact of the Iranian rulers' military and political intrusion.

The recent protests in Basra targeted the Iranian consulate and the headquarters of the Badr Organization — the largest Shiite armed group supported by Tehran, which is also the biggest faction within the Iraqi state security forces. The offices of three different militias, all backed by Iran's cleric-led regime, were attacked. Protesters carried a banner reading, "No to the militias, your militias under our feet."

Demonstrators also torched government buildings in the city.

These developments take place as the Middle East is at a turning point. Islamic State has been shattered as a major force in both Iraq and Syria. Washington and Moscow, as well as the capitalist rulers in the region, are jockeying for how best to defend their conflicting national interests in the new situation. The interventions of Moscow and Tehran, along with Lebanese ally Hezbollah, have enabled the tottering Syrian dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad to regain control over much of the country.

For Moscow, this means more permanent military bases there and growing influence in the region. For Tehran, it means a further step in extending its counterrevolutionary reach to the Mediterranean Sea.

In addition to sharpening conflicts between Tehran and Washington, the Iranian capitalist rulers expansion has sparked growing clashes with the rulers in Israel. Tel Aviv's missiles hit a shipment of arms from Tehran to Hezbollah at the airport in Damascus Sept. 15, the latest of dozens of similar attacks this year.

The Iranian rulers intervention

deeper into the Mideast goes back to their efforts to consolidate a counter-revolution they carried out at home in the early 1980s, aimed at crushing the rising self-confidence of working people that followed the revolutionary overthrow of the U.S.-backed shah in 1979. Millions of workers and farmers had taken to the streets, occupied oil fields, formed workers councils and won gains for women and oppressed nationalities.

The Iranian capitalists sought to end this and extend abroad the assaults they carried out on working people at home. They fought to establish a corridor of military power, political influence and economic exploitation across the region.

Attacks on Iranian Kurds

Side by side with their intervention in Syria and Iraq, the Iranian government has stepped up its assaults at home. Over the Sept. 8-9 weekend it launched a bombing raid on Iranian Kurds based just across the border in Iraq and executed six Kurdish political prisoners incarcerated for years in Iran.

Shopkeepers in several cities in Kurdish parts of Iran Sept. 12 organized a strike to oppose both the executions and the airstrikes. The Kurds are a 30 million strong oppressed national minority living in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey. They have been fighting for decades for their national rights.

Events unfolding today in Iraq are built on years of imperialist foreign



PDKI

Shopkeepers in Kurdish region in eastern Iran went on strike Sept. 12 to protest Iranian regime's execution of Kurdish political prisoners and airstrikes on Iranian Kurdish groups in Iraq.

intervention, including Washington's bombing and invasion in 2003. The U.S. rulers failed to establish a stable capitalist regime and Iraq increasingly fractured along religious and national lines. This led to an opening for the Kurds in Iraq to organize and win a measure of autonomy. The weak government in Baghdad was incapable of organizing effective resistance to reactionary Islamic State, which overran parts of the country in 2014 as the Iraqi army bolted.

In addition to U.S. air power, Baghdad relied increasingly on peshmerga fighters from the Kurdistan Regional Government and Tehran-organized Shiite militias to combat and defeat Islamic State's brutal anti-working-class rule. Thousands of Iraqis, including many working people, joined

these militias and gave their lives to successfully repel the Islamist sect. But this was achieved at the cost of further undermining Iraqi sovereignty, bolstering the Iranian rulers' predatory foothold in the country and increasing its widely despised influence over the Iraqi government and state. Tehran-backed militias also built a reputation for carrying out brutal reprisals against Sunni Muslims and independence-minded Kurds.

Iraqi government forces have now put Basra under lockdown, deploying troops with heavily armored vehicles at checkpoints across the city "We'll suspend protests now to spare blood and we'll return," Naqeeb al-Luaibi, an organizer of the demonstrations, told the Associated Press. "We will not give up until our demands are met."

Colo. meatpackers win suit against right to pray firings

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After a three-year-long fight, Muslim packinghouse workers in Fort Morgan, Colorado, won a \$1.5 million settlement from Cargill Meat Solutions for civil rights violations after the company denied them the right to take prayer breaks on the job and then fired them for taking action to defend their rights.

On Dec. 21, 2015, workers walked off the job in protest after company officials told them to go home if they wanted to pray. The company then began firing them, claiming they had violated the company's three-day "no call, no-show" policy. The fired workers were mostly from Somalia, with some from Senegal, Mali and the Mideast.

Workers told the *Militant* at the time that they got solidarity from their co-workers. "I am Muslim and the guy next to me is not, Yusuf Abdi Mohamed, who had 10 years in the plant, said. "If he had to go to the bathroom I would do his job as well as mine to cover him, and when I needed to go for prayers, he would cover me."

The settlement will be paid to 138 workers who filed complaints against Cargill, Amy Burkholder, director of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, told the media. Each worker will get about \$12,000. The workers were represented by the Council on American-

Islamic Relations.

Twenty workers also filed complaints against Teamsters Local 455, which organizes workers at the plant, because union officials didn't pursue their discrimination grievances against the company. Teamsters officials agreed to pay them \$153,000 as part of the settlement.

"Over the three years the dispute has played out," reported the *Denver Post* Sept. 14, "the workers have prevailed in every legal challenge." In August

2016, the Colorado Department of Labor ruled that the fired workers were eligible for unemployment compensation because the company had fired them unfairly. Cargill filed challenges but soon abandoned this effort after losing 20 cases.

Hundreds of Somali-Americans currently work at the Fort Morgan plant, including about two dozen workers who were part of the protests. Cargill now allows them to pray at work.

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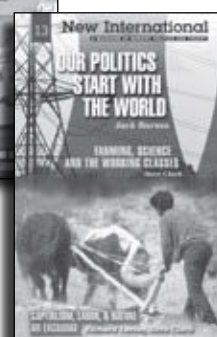
— Jack Barnes



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Social catastrophe from storms are a product of capitalist rule

BY SETH GALINSKY

According to the liberal news media, nature's inevitable storms and floods, exacerbated by rampant global warming, are the reason for the unfolding social disasters in North Carolina, the Philippines and Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Florence, Typhoon Mangkhut and Hurricane Maria.

The *Washington Post* went so far as to blame President Donald Trump because of his stance on climate change. "Another hurricane is about to batter our coast. Trump is complicit," the *Post* editorialized Sept. 11 before Florence struck.

And when they're not blaming global warming or Trump, the capitalist press blames working people for choosing to live in harm's way.

But all this takes the fire off the real cause of the deaths and destruction — the profit drive and dog-eat-dog morality of capitalism.

The biggest damage from Florence came not from wind, but from flooding. But the dangers of flooding on the North Carolina coast and rivers is nothing new. Nonetheless North Carolina legislators in 2014 scrapped a code requiring new construction in flood zones to rise a foot or more above the Federal Emergency Management Agency base flood level.

Contractors, real estate interests, land speculators and banks, backed by governments at every level, promote profit-generating construction in low-lying areas and flood zones.

The higher risk of flooding makes

the land cheaper, pushing workers to live in those riskiest areas. In Lumberton, North Carolina, those who live in the low-lying areas around the Lumber River are among the poorest in Robeson County. When Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016, the river crested more than 24 feet. The city flooded again this time.

As of Sept. 18 there were no official statistics on how many homes were damaged by the hurricane or how many people left homeless. But in New Bern, North Carolina, alone more than 4,300 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Many workers will be hit with a double whammy. "Florence Is a Tragedy for Homeowners, Not Insurers," says the headline of the Sept. 17 *Wall Street Journal*, noting that wind damage is covered by most insurance policies — for those working people who can afford them — but not flood damage.

Landlords profit from storms

The next day the *Journal* noted that the storm will be a boon for big landlords. The paper said after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas last year, landlords took advantage of the increased demand for housing by jacking up rents. With thousands made homeless by Florence, North Carolina landlords with buildings still standing seek to make a killing.

As Florence approached, state and local governments in the Carolinas and Virginia ordered some 1.5 million people to evacuate. But working people were left on their own to comply.



Reuters/Randall Hill

Cajun Navy volunteer helps evacuate trailer park in Lumberton, North Carolina, Sept. 15.

No nearby relatives in a safe area? Not enough money for a hotel or gas? No car? At best you might get loaded on a bus and taken to an overcrowded shelter.

Few warnings about Florence were issued in Spanish and many of North Carolina's 150,000 farmworkers were unaware of the scope of the coming storm.

Capitalism creates the same types of challenges worldwide. Philippine officials claim they had learned from their mistakes during 2013's Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated a large part of the country, leaving 6,000 dead and destroying 1.2 million homes. The government did little to organize an evacuation or position relief supplies in advance.

This year officials evacuated more than 105,000 people to temporary shelters before the arrival of 550-mile-wide Super Typhoon Mangkhut. The storm cut a swath through less densely popu-

lated areas, mainly on Luzon Island, the food breadbasket of the Philippines, but still put millions at risk.

Like in the U.S., it's working people and the poor who are forced to live in the areas most vulnerable to flooding and landslides. Most of the dozens who died in this year's storm were buried in landslides in mountainous regions due to the heavy rainfall.

Many small farmers ignored calls to evacuate, worried they would lose what little they have in a region where many get by on \$2 or less a day. They saw staying put as the lesser evil. "Our house was blown away. We were flooded," Diday Llorente told Agence France-Presse. "We did not evacuate because we didn't want to leave our carabao (water buffalo) and livestock."

At least 32 people died in a mining town in Benguet province when they took shelter in a church that was buried in a landslide. Dozens of miners joined rescue teams, trying to find survivors and dig out bodies by hand.

That's another side of the social disaster that working people share around the globe. They find they can't rely on the government, but have to take care of each other in the face of the disaster.

In North Carolina, like in Texas last year, working people, including volunteers from the self-organized Cajun Navy, used their own boats to rescue people trapped in their homes or cars.

In Wilmington, North Carolina, with all roads to the city impassable and food running short, a group of workers pooled whatever they had. Deborah Phillips told the *Journal* that her neighbors scraped together a few vegetables, a tomato and a hambone. They called it "Hurricane Florence soup," she said. "It was pretty good."

Only in Cuba are things done differently.

Led by their government, working people in revolutionary Cuba are organized to put human lives first when a dangerous storm approaches. Everyone in a danger zone, and their pets, are evacuated. Volunteers help harvest crops before the storm hits and move livestock to safety. Shelters are stocked with food and water and staffed with doctors and nurses. From getting ready before the storm arrives, to weathering it, to rebuilding afterwards, no one is left on their own.

This is possible because working people in Cuba made a revolution in 1959 and took power out of the hands of the capitalist class. Workers and farmers from the U.S. to Puerto Rico to the Philippines need to do the same.

Manila book fair draws over 100,000 participants

BY JANET ROTH AND RON POULSEN

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila International Book Fair, held for 39 years, opened here Sept. 12. For the first time in nearly three decades U.S.-based Pathfinder Press, which publishes books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other working-class revolutionaries, is among the exhibitors and has been welcomed with enthusiasm by many participants.

Organizers say they expected the five-day fair to attract 150,000 participants, though the attendance may be affected by heavy rains, wind and flooding accompanying the super typhoon hammering the northern tip of the country.

Over 100 bookstores, distributors and publishers, mainly from the Philippines, are here. Two book store chains, National Book Store and Fully Booked, occupy the largest booths. You can find text and reference books, children's and young adults' books, numerous Catholic and Evangelical publishing houses, university presses and publishers of Filipino and world literature. Pathfinder is the only stand offering a broad range of books on working-class history and politics.

Author presentations, book signings and related activities take place daily.

Most booths have large quantities of titles in English, which children start learning in kindergarten. Many also carry books in Filipino, the country's of-

ficial language, which used to be known as Tagalog.

The Pathfinder Press booth is organized by Pathfinder Books, its Sydney, Australia, distributor. Its promotional flyer encourages participants to "view and discuss books for today's deepening debate among working people looking for a way out of the political crises, economic and social devastation, national oppression and wars — inevitable products of the world capitalist system."

"Pathfinder's wide range includes titles drawing the lessons from the modern working-class movement in all its forms," the flyer states, "from the founding Communist Manifesto to the Russian and Cuban revolutions, battles of the US working class, movements for national liberation and socialism worldwide, the struggle for women's liberation, and much more. Told by revolutionary leaders of integrity in their own words."

Young artists Vaughn Calimag and Jevon Lumagui, came by the Pathfinder booth the first day. They pored over the books, trying to decide what to buy. "This booth is different. It's intriguing. The books are about reality. We have the same set of problems here," Calimag said. "These are books for working-class people to have a voice. They empower us," added Lumagui.

They ended up buying *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP; *Origins of Materialism* by George Novack; *Sexism and Science* by Evelyn Reed; and a subscription to the *Militant*.



Militant/Baskaran Appu

Manila book fairgoers crowd into Pathfinder booth featuring books by revolutionary leaders.

Imperialism pauses only when it faces a people ready to fight

Below are excerpts from Making History: Interviews With Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. The Spanish edition is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. The section quoted is from the interview with Néstor López Cuba on Oct. 20, 1997, by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes, Pathfinder Press President Mary-Alice Waters and Pathfinder editor Martín Koppel. López Cuba joined the revolutionary struggle in 1957 at the age of 19. He led a tank unit as part of defending the revolution against the failed U.S.-backed invasion at Bay of Pigs in 1961 and was part of Cuba's defense of Angola against invasion by apartheid South Africa in 1976. Copyright ©1999 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

JACK BARNES: As you know, the way the history of the 1962 October Crisis is written in the United States, [U.S. president John] Kennedy and [Soviet premier Nikita] Khrushchev saved the world from nuclear holocaust. But we have always told people that the truth lies elsewhere. It was the Cuban people and its Revolutionary Armed Forces that saved the world.

Kennedy fully intended to mount an invasion of Cuba in October 1962, as he had been planning to do for more than a year. Previously classified documents released in the past few years, however,



Courtesy Néstor López Cuba

"It was understood in Washington that the people would fight and the invasion would be costly," says Cuban Gen. Néstor López Cuba about U.S. rulers' plans to invade Cuba in 1962. Above, López Cuba, third from left in hat, during internationalist mission in Angola 1976.

show that his hand was stayed when the Pentagon informed him that he could expect an estimated 18,000 U.S. troop casualties during the first ten days alone of an invasion. The Cuban people were armed and mobilized on a massive scale, Kennedy was told by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Cuban army was large for a small country, and, together with the militias, very combat-ready.

Kennedy feared the domestic political consequences as a flood of body bags began coming home. So that's when he started seriously probing Khrushchev for a deal. ...

So we'd like to ask you about where you were during the October Crisis and your memory of the response by workers and farmers, in and out of uniform, during those days.

LÓPEZ CUBA: It's very true, as you say, that the armed forces, and the people of Cuba above all, played a decisive role in preventing a nuclear holocaust. Because it was understood in Washington that the people would fight and the invasion would be costly. ...

Now, let me turn to your question about what I was doing during the October Crisis. After Girón I went to the Soviet Union to take my first study course for tank crews. That's where I was when the October Crisis hit. So I was not one of the protagonists in those events.

BARNES: Perhaps you can tell us what the atmosphere was like among the Cubans who were in Russia during the

crisis? And among those in the Russian military who were training you?

LÓPEZ CUBA: Well, information began to arrive immediately. Those of us at the military academy were told that the instructions from Cuba were for us to remain calm, that there were sufficient forces there to solve the problem.

But we planned to hijack a plane from the Moscow airport and return to Cuba. This coincided with a visit by Che [Guevara] to Africa, so our leaders sent him to Moscow to meet with us and calm us down, since they knew we were prepared to return to Cuba at all costs. We were ready to head to the airport and seize a plane by force, militarily. We were going to steal the guns from the stockade at the school. But we had it all planned, because we knew we were not going to be allowed to leave otherwise.

That was the situation. But there was something else. We had already spent eight months at the academy, and were well liked by the teachers and personnel, who were also closely following the situation in Cuba. So we had volunteers to come join us in the expedition!

I've never told this story before. But that's what happened. We came up with a plot to figure out how we were going to return to Cuba, no matter what.

The Soviet people — our teachers, ordinary people — showed a great deal of solidarity with us. They knew about the unilateral decisions taken by the Khrushchev government and were

against them. They also knew about Fidel's declaration that the moral missiles we possessed in Cuba were more powerful than the nuclear missiles. All these speeches reached the Soviet people.

WATERS: During those same days in October 1962, we were organizing demonstrations in the United States. Jack and I were both university students at that time, in different cities.

LÓPEZ CUBA: You were organizing support activities?

WATERS: Yes. To demand "U.S. Hands Off Cuba!" "U.S. Out of Guantánamo!" "Stop the Invasion!"

BARNES: Communists in the United States had had no contact with revolutionists in Cuba when the crisis began, of course. But we supported the Cuban revolution, wholeheartedly. Some revolutionary-minded young people in the U.S., including myself, were actually won to communism in Cuba. I spent several months here in Cuba in the summer of 1960. I recall asking a Cuban compañero I had come to trust whether he thought I should stay in Cuba or go back to the United States. I wanted to stay, because we all knew the invasion was coming.

"Go back to the United States," he told me, "and make a revolution there."

I decided he was right. And I've never gone back on that agreement. ...

The big majority in the communist movement in the U.S. — young or old — responded as we did. We knew the Cuban people were ready to fight, and we were determined to fight alongside them. The most important lesson for young revolutionists to learn is that the imperialists pause only when they have to face those who are ready to fight like you are in Cuba. Otherwise one starts believing that all of history is negotiated by big governments.

LÓPEZ CUBA: What you say is very important because popular pressure in the United States is what forced the U.S. government to pull its troops out of Vietnam.

The Cuban revolution today remains on a firm footing. At the same time, the U.S. government knows that the progressive people of the United States, the working people, will take to the streets to oppose an attack on Cuba, as they did during Vietnam. There is solidarity with Cuba around the world, as well, and this too has acted as a brake on Washington.

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Join Socialist Workers Party campaign!

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speak out for and join struggles of working people here and worldwide. They raise proposals to defend workers' interests, build unity and explain developments in world politics. They explain our conditions will not be advanced by electing either wing of the Democrats, the reformers of capitalism or the meritocratic liberals; nor Republicans of any stripe, from Trump to Never Trumpers; nor those presenting themselves as "independent" third party defenders of capitalism.

Workers confront a system incapable of meeting our basic needs: government indifference to the conditions of veterans of the U.S. rulers' bloody wars; its inability to offer a fruitful life under capitalism to the growing numbers of people who succumb to opioid addiction; a criminal "justice" system built on cop brutality and killings, the plea-bargain highway to prison, and new restrictions on access to books for workers behind bars. These are symptoms of capitalist morality. They're built into the rule of the profit-driven capitalist class.

The SWP joins in actions by workers and farmers today to defend themselves from the attacks by the bosses and their government. The party demands amnesty for all workers here without papers the rulers consider proper; joins meetings and protests backing

working farmers squeezed between high production costs and the low prices they get; and backs women fighting for the right to choose abortion.

SWP candidates explain that deeper class battles and revolutionary struggles will be forced on working people by the assaults of the bosses in coming years. In struggle workers will become more conscious of our interests as an international class, more self-confident and more courageous in the face of the rulers' assaults. We will be transformed by our experiences, becoming capable of doing here what workers and their allies did in Cuba in 1959, in Grenada in 1979, in Burkina Faso in 1983, and in Russia in 1917. They took power, defended themselves and deepened workers control in the factories and the fields, joining the worldwide struggle for socialism.

Today SWP members engage in discussion and debate about this perspective with workers on their doorsteps around the country. There is a thirst among millions of workers to find a way forward and to learn more about revolutionary leaders of the working class from Malcolm X, to Fidel Castro and Thomas Sankara, and to read books written today by SWP leaders that explain how the working-class party we need can be built. Join the SWP campaign!

Liberals have 'Trump derangement syndrome'?

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drome." This description has ruffled the feathers of prominent *New York Times* columnists.

In his Sept. 16 column titled, "Not Deranged. Determined!" *Times* scribe Charles Blow argues the president was elected by "white racial anxiety, reaction to the first black president, unease about the possibility of the first female president, voter suppression and voter apathy, and an attack on our elections by the Russians."

He says that because Trump is president "we live a life with nerves frayed and bodies pushed to the edge of our seats." He adds, "This constant state of chaos and anxiety has been exhausting and nearly unbearable." And the workers are a problem, because "there are people who support him without hesitation and without question." Blow does sound a little unhinged.

The response of the liberals has been an all-out effort to paint the administration as beyond the pale.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters called for resisters to seek out administration members and harass them. Incitement like this led to its ultimate outcome last year when Bernie Sanders supporter James T. Hodgkinson went to a congressional softball practice and opened fire on Republican legislators, attempting to assassinate as many as possible. He shot and nearly killed Rep. Steve Scalise before he was stopped.

Other "resisters" propose restrictions on political rights and the right to vote of the workers Hillary Clinton described as "deplorables" in her losing 2016 campaign. The latest call comes from another *Times* columnist, David Leonhardt, who demands term limits on Supreme Court justices. He denounces the "randomness of how long justices live."

His proposal would turn the Supreme Court even more into another legislative body, a constant dream of the liberals, with a membership changing to push each administration's political agenda. He says this would require a change in the Constitution, but to liberals that document is outdated.

Calling Donald Trump a fascist does a great disservice to workers seeking to understand class society and defend their interests. The *Times* reviewed *How Fascism Works* by Jason Stanley, who says fascism is "ultranationalism of some variety (ethnic, religious, cultural) with the nation represented in the person of an authoritarian leader who speaks on its behalf."

He argues Trump fits the bill. "And 20 months into Trump's presidency, the evidence is mounting that he's right," *Times* reviewer Peter Beinart says.

But the U.S. isn't a fascist country today. Workers haven't been crushed in blood after seeking to take political power. The capitalist rulers feel no need to turn power over to a Bonapartist dictator as the only way to defend their system. Workers today can and do fight to defend and expand their political rights.

It's a canard that workers are more racist and reactionary today. Because of the mass proletarian battle for Black rights, and decades of working and living side by side with immigrant co-workers, workers today are less racist, less anti-immigrant than ever before.

Leonhardt wrote another column for the *Times* Sept. 16, titled "'Trump Derangement Syndrome' Is a Myth." He attacks the Bernie Sanders and Democratic Socialists of America wing of the party, saying the Democrats "have not actually become radical leftists." He believes the "leftists" are a danger to the Democrats' chances in the elections.

Most importantly, he concludes, "The one mistake no voter should make is pretending that the two parties are just different versions of the same thing." But that is one thing many workers correctly sense and why the Socialist Workers Party gets a hearing today.

Rulers' 'world order' decaying

The U.S. rulers face a historic turning point as the "world order" they imposed after emerging the victor in the second imperialist world slaughter in the 1940s is coming apart. The Trump White House recognizes this and has ceased operating on the false premise — relied on by the last several Democratic and Republican administration alike — that the U.S. capitalist rulers can still impose their will anywhere they choose.

They are pushing against institutions and alliances from the past, seeking bilateral agreements to blunt war threats and achieve some stability for U.S. capital.

In an article in the *Washington Post* Aug. 30, headlined "The Trump Presidency Marks the End of the American Century," Mitchell Lerner laments "the potential demise of the international alliance system that lies at the heart of the modern American success story." Lerner claims bodies like NATO, the U.N. and International Court ensure "peace and prosperity." But the crisis of capitalism, and growing antagonism among former allies, is ripping this apart.

Moves by the White House — from Korea to Afghanistan and the Middle East — are aimed at advancing the interests of the ruling rich. But they have unintended results that are good for working people, opening space for political discussion, debate and action by workers to defend their rights and class interests.

"The Socialist Workers Party starts from the fact that the U.S. is divided into opposing classes, as are the competing capitalist powers. Workers advance our interests when we organize independently of the bosses, their parties and their state," Róger Calero, SWP candidate for governor in New York, said Sept. 19. "This is the road to increasing workers' self-confidence and class consciousness. It advances international working-class solidarity. It's the course to build a movement that can take political power."

Protest: Jail Dallas cop

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chest. Her key was found in the lock. She thought he was a burglar, she said, claiming he ignored "verbal commands." Other residents on the floor said they heard her yelling for Jean to let her in and shooting him without any warning.

It wasn't until three days later that Guyger was arrested, charged with manslaughter and released on \$300,000 bond.

The killing of Botham Jean came on the heels of the Aug. 28 murder conviction of Dallas County police officer Roy Oliver for the 2017 killing of 15-year-old African-American Jordan Edwards. The next day the jury sentenced Oliver to 15 years in prison.

"We need to know, are there special favors for the police? Why are there no answers?" Dr. Ben Foster, pastor at the Church of Christ in Garland, told the *Militant* at the service. "Are they protecting the cop?"

"I sat behind Botham in Bible class at school. He made a difference in a lot of people's lives. He showed us how to live. I never saw him angry. I want justice," said 25-year-old Courtney Davis from Plano. Botham Jean graduated from Harding University in Arkansas, where Davis goes to school. The school held a vigil for him the day after the shooting and many students and teachers attended the funeral.

There were a number of people who came from St. Lucia for the service. "My heart is heavy," Madilene Burnett said. "My parents know his mom. When the body is sent to St. Lucia the service will be large." She said that when the word spread of Jean's killing, a vigil was held there.

Family, clergy denounce killing, smear

"The undeniable reality is he was slain in his home, where he had the right to be and was abiding by the law," Sammie Barry, minister of the West Dallas Church of Christ where Jean was active, told a press conference attended by clergy, the family and its attorneys following Jean's funeral. "We are here and demand justice for our dear brother Bo."

Allison Jean, Botham's mother, denounced the cops at a Sept. 14 press conference for releasing a report on the day of her son's funeral claiming there was 10.4 grams of marijuana in his apartment.

"Give me justice for my son because he does not deserve what he got," she said. "I will not sit back and see that justice does not prevail."

"Twenty-six years without a blemish and it took being murdered by a white Dallas police officer in his own home to make Botham Jean a criminal," Lee Merritt, one of the family's attorneys, added.

Guyger, a five-year veteran of the Dallas police department, has been put on paid administrative leave. In an earlier 2017 incident, she shot Uvaldo Perez, who was a suspect in a criminal investigation, but she wasn't indicted.

Since the killing, there have been series of protests and vigils throughout Dallas demanding that Guyger be fired, prosecuted and jailed. "The officer needs to be fired immediately," attorney Merritt told the crowd at a Sept. 14 protest outside the Dallas police department. "And we cannot forget O'Shae Terry who was killed in Arlington Sept. 1. The cop pulled out his gun and shot him five times. We need to see these all the way through to conviction."

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, also spoke. "This is another example of why working people need to build a movement independent from the capitalist rulers, their state and their parties," she said. "Police brutality is a class question. You cannot reform the police. We must continue to fight police brutality against working people."

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

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