Build the unions! Working people need our own party!

BY JOHN STUDER
NEW YORK — “Workers need to have unions to defend ourselves from the bosses, organize solidarity with others involved in labor and social struggles, and unite the working class,” Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, told workers at the UPS barn in midtown Manhattan Oct. 22.

SWP campaigns pose road to unite workers in struggle

BY JOHN STUDER
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Demand amnesty for all immigrants in the US!

The following statement was released Oct. 24 by Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York.

SWP STATEMENT

The capitalist economic crisis is taking a heavy toll on workers around the world. And the imperialist plunder of the semicolonial world makes the continued on page 9

The power of workers is in their sticking together

BY MAGGIE TROVE
“I know you!” retired coal miner Jake Westerfield told Socialist Workers Party member Jacque Henderson when she and Steve Packard knocked on his door Oct. 20 in Beaver Dam, a town of 3,500 in a coal mining region 100 miles southwest of Louisville, Kentucky. The town has suffered many mine closures in recent years. “I met you at a rally in Columbus, Ohio, last July. I was there with miners and other unionists fighting for our pensions. Come sit down and talk.”

Westerfield, a member of the United Mine Workers of America for decades, was part of the 110-day miners strike in 1977-78. “The big thing about that strike was that we shut it down."

Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, calls hotel workers’ strike picket line outside Oakland Marriott City Center with striker Jason Russell Oct. 20.

Back striking hotel workers: ‘One job ought to be enough’

BY BETSEY STONE
S. SAN FRANCISCO — Chants of “One job should be enough” and “What do we want — contract!” echoed through the streets as over 1,100 hotel workers marched here Oct. 20, stopping outside four of the seven Marriott hotels where workers are on strike.

Across the bay in Oakland several hundred workers demonstrated at the downtown Marriott, joined by members of the Teamsters, the California Nurses Association and other unions. These actions were part of a national day of solidarity with hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE, who are striking the hotel chain in a number of cities, including Boston, Detroit, Honolulu, San Diego and in the Bay Area.

They are fighting for full-time guaranteed hours, job security, health care they can afford and higher wages.

“We are fighting Marriott because it’s the biggest and richest hotel chain and it’s trying to push a bad contract on us,” Carlos Narvaez, a longtime worker in receiving at the Palace Hotel, told the Militant. “They want us to pay a $300 a month premium for medical care, when now we pay no premium and it’s only $10 a visit. We also need a raise.”

Capitol killer's arrest relative to Middle East turmoil

Jamal Khashoggi, a writer and Islamist opponent of the Saudi government, was assassinated inside the Saudi Embassy in Istanbul Oct. 2. Since then, the capitalist governments of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the U.S., Moscow and other regimes in the region have been pressing to defend their conflicting interests. The capitalist rulers in all of these countries have blood on their hands after decades of wars and repression in the Middle East.

Calif. Walmart cashiers win victory in fight for right to sit while at work

BY JACK PARKER
OAKLAND, Calif. — In a settlement reached Oct. 10 with workers who sued Walmart, the retail giant agreed to provide seating to all cashiers who request it in their California stores. Walmart also agreed to pay $65 million to nearly 100,000 current and former front-end employees. The agreement stems from a lawsuit filed by Walmart employee Nisha Brown in 2009. It is set to be finalized at an Oct. 24 court hearing.

Anyone who has worked as a cashier knows that standing in one place for hours is hard on the body. Brown’s suit said the company was violating a 2001 California law that says employees must be given “suitable seats when the nature of the work reasonably permits.” Walmart has long provided seats for cashiers with medical disabilities. Walmart bosses admitted that those workers were able to do their jobs.

Nonetheless, Walmart attorneys argued that cashiers must always be

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Capitol ruler's Mideast step up rivalry after killing of Khashoggi

BY TERRY EVANS
Jamal Khashoggi, a writer and Islamist opponent of the Saudi government, was assassinated inside the Saudi Embassy in Istanbul Oct. 2. Since then, the capitalist governments of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the U.S., Moscow and other regimes in the region have been pressing to defend their conflicting interests. The capitalist rulers in all of these countries have blood on their hands after decades of wars and repression in the Middle East.
Oppose the Jew-hated of UK Labour Party leaders

BY HUGO WILS

MANCHESTER, England — “Why is anti-Semitism such a big issue?” Manchester factory worker Adam Herring asked his co-worker, Communist League member Pete Clifford. His question about Jew-hatred in the leadership of the Labour Party is one that comes up often when Labour members raise that countering this is a life-and-death question for the working class. And that anti-Semitism in the Labour Party must be confronted.

Clifford told Herring some things he had learned at a Sept. 16 “Say ‘no’ to anti-Semitism” national rally here. Two young Jewish workers had described to him stepped-up attacks in the mainly Jewish area of north Manchester. “Eggs are being thrown at us, abusive comments are being made, damage of cars now happens regularly,” driver Simon Kaye had told Clifford.

“I came back here from military service in Israel four years ago and can see a change,” said construction worker Ben Stein. “Young people from Manchester are now moving to Israel, you can walk the streets there without fear.”

“Heart tells us that Jew-hatred rises in times of capitalist crisis,” Clifford said. “The bosses use it to divert workers from fighting their real enemy, the capitalist system.

“Today we hear more talk of ‘the Jews control the banks,’ they ‘control foreign policy,’ along with the allegation of Jews being a ‘secret cabal’ looking after their interests at the expense of all others,” Clifford said. “This scapegoating is a poison that weakens our working class.”

One thousand people joined the rally, called by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and backed by 32 other organizations. According to reports there are more than 100 anti-Semitic incidents each month in Britain. A Jewish cemetery in Urmston, Greater Manchester, was desecrated three times this year.

Many were drawn to the rally in response to ongoing anti-Semitism in the Labour Party. Despite the party leadership’s recent symbolic adoption of a code of conduct around the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism, party leader Jeremy Corbyn and some of his supporters continue to make anti-Semitic remarks. And to associate with well-known purveyors of Jew-hatred.

They do so under cover of saying it’s just opposition to the leaders of Israel, which they depict as a pariah “existential” state, and say its existence and all who back the state are the problem. Corbyn claims that he has spent his “whole life fighting racism in any form,” as if this is proof that he can’t be anti-Semitic and as if Jew-hatred was just a form of racism.

“One of the best forms of trying to hide from the atrocities that you are committing,” Mark Serwotka, general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union and close ally of Corbyn, told a Sept. 11 Palestine Solidarity Campaign event is “to actually create a story that does not exist.” That “story” is that there is Jew-hatred in the Labour Party.

Corbyn has described Hamas, a re-actionary Islamist group based in Gaza that calls for driving Jews in Israel into the sea, as his “friends.” And he has defunded a mural that depicted hooded bankers — a time-worn caricature of Jews — running the world. A video released by the London Daily Mail in August shows Corbyn making an anti-Semitic slur at a 2013 conference.

“They clearly have two problems,” he said there, referring to “Zionists.” “One is that they don’t want to study history, and secondly, having lived in this country for a very long time, probably all their lives, they don’t understand English irony either.”

This “classic anti-Semitism,” Josh Glancy, a longtime Jewish supporter of the Labour Party, wrote in the New York Times.

“He smeared them not on the basis of disagreement but on the basis of their ethnicity. He accused them of failing to assimilate English values, of not fitting in, of still being a bit foreign.”

Corbyn’s claim that his reference to Zionists is not “as a euphemism for the anti-Semitism of the international left,” he said. “Instead we got just opposition to the leaders of Israel, and secondly, having lived in this country for a very long time, probably all their lives, they don’t understand English irony either.”

“We are for whatever helps working people organize and act together to fight our class enemies and struggles against the capitalist governments and ruling classes that exploit and oppress us and their petty bourgeois political servants and media apologists.

“We are for whatever renounces our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power and peace.”

“We need a Palestine that’s viable,” Jonathan Silberman and other League members told him the statement.

“Whatever helps work -

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Continued from front page

all down across the country and refused to move any coal until we got a contract we could work with. We need that kind of sticking together today and we need young people like this guy,” he said, pointing to Packard.

Bill showed him the Militant and told him how some striking Teamsters at a concrete plant in Louisville told him how important it is to learn from workers’ struggles around the world covered in the socialist paper. “I read that paper every week,” Westerfield said. “My neighbor brings it over to me. She signed up at the rally in Columbus.”

He bought Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, one of five books on special.

The SWP is on an eight-week campaign to win 1,400 Militant readers, sell 1,400 copies of the special campaign booklets on page 4, and collect $100,000 for the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. The drive is aimed at strengthening the central work of the party — knocking on workers’ doors in towns, cities and rural areas across the country to discuss what we face today and the need for the working class to build unions and organize our own political party, a labor party. As we go to press, 368 subscriptions and 291 books have been sold and $7,118 has been collected for the fund.

“I’m all for what you’re doing”

“The capitalists are making big profits today while workers make low wages, and many of us have to work more than one job to make ends meet,” Helen Meyers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, told Ramón Cuellar on the porch of his trailer in Roseville, Minnesota, Oct. 21, when I joined her campaign.

“I have to work two jobs — construction during the day and as a bartender at night,” Cuellar said. “I’m all for what you’re doing. Just let me know and I’ll come to protests or other activities.”

Cuellar subscribed to the Militant and got a copy of The Clinton’s Anti-Working-Class Record. At another trailer Bill, a van driver at a large manufacturing company and a single father, told Meyers, “I have to work on a strict budget. After I make payments on my trailer and my truck and cover utilities and food for me and my son, there’s not much left.

“It seems like us middle-class people work hard and can barely keep afloat,” he said, “while the rich are doing fine and the poor get state assistance.”

“Most people want to work and don’t want to be on welfare,” Meyers responded. “Bill Clinton pushed through an end to ‘welfare as we know it’ when he was president. A lot of women with children can’t get jobs that cover the cost of child care. I think we need unions and a working-class party that fights for jobs, for higher wages and to unify workers.”

“It will take a lot of people getting together to do that,” Bill said, getting a copy of the Militant and asking her to come back to talk more.


“I’m union, but I don’t have much use for them. It would be different if they did what they say they stand for,” Carmichael told Measel. “I make $23 an hour, but the hotel workers next door make minimum wage.”

“We need a fighting union movement that involves all the members, organizes the unorganized, speaks out for the struggles of all the oppressed and exploited, and breaks politically from the bosses’ Democrats and Republicans,” Measel said.

“The power of workers is in their unity. When we use our unions, we can begin transforming them. What workers need is a labor party that thinks socially and acts politically to defend the working class.”

“I remember you,” retired coal miner Jake Westerfield told SWP member Jacquie Henderson as she knocked on his door in Beaver Dam, Kentucky. They met at a union protest in Ohio.

“We people knew what they were voting for when they voted for Brexit,” Spence said, “but because the vote didn’t go the politicians’ way, they’re desperate for us to vote again. It’s like when millions marched against the Iraq war and they just ignored that too.”

“The European Union is a bosses association. It’s not for working people,” Davies responded. “But our biggest challenge is to stop relying on the capitalists’ parties and their domestic and foreign policy. Whether the U.K. is in or out of the EU, workers need to organize independently and build our own party.”

Spence got the Militant and asked Robertson and Davies to come back next week for more discussion.

Frances Washington, a retail co-worker of Mily Townsend in Albany, New York, gave her $20 for the Party-Building Fund on payday Oct. 19. This is a way I can help out what you and your party are doing,” she said.

Washington has a Militant subscription that her 17-year-old daughter shares, and is reading Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power and ‘It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System: The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class. She got the book about the Cuban Five’s experience in prison to learn more about what workers face there. Her son and brother are prisoners in New York and Florida respectively.

The SWP invites readers to join in the effort to take the party, its literature and its program to workers. Contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you (see directory on page 8).
US, Chinese rulers compete for influence and markets

BY TERRY EVANS

The U.S. capitalist rulers continue to seek ways to contain Beijing, the world’s second largest capitalist economy. In their cut-throat battle over which of the capitalist rulers can appropriate more of the wealth created by working people around the world, Washington remains the stronger power today, but they do face increasing competition. The Donald Trump administration complains that Beijing uses state resources to unseat the U.S. bosses and plans to extend additional tariffs on Chinese imports prior to a November summit between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The White House argues that Washington’s 10 percent tariff on $200 billion of Chinese imports will “put America first in trade with American workers aren’t put at a disadvantage.” His measures have drawn praise from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “Industries that the administration puts American bosses first at home and abroad,” James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Maryland, said. “These are the very employers who have eroded wages and imposed worse conditions on workers here. The government’s claim to defend workers is a mask. Trumka wants “nothing less than to push back” at what he describes as “the administration’s trade policy.” But in practice the Chinese rulers have turned into the U.S. rulers’ biggest competitor across Asia, in Africa and elsewhere. Most importantly: over the long run, the transformation of a largely peasant economy to one based on capitalist production and trade accelerated the growth of a working class that has begun resisting the conditions it toils under and pressing for union rights.

Today the U.S. administration’s use of tariffs wields the massive weight of the U.S. economy to gain advantage against Chinese capitalists, including the dollar’s unchallenged place as the world’s number one currency. Washington has stepped up U.S. naval patrols in areas of the South China Seas that Beijing claims. It has signed military and trade agreements with Mexican and Canadian governments that penalize them if they sign a trade pact with Beijing. And the White House has invaded restrictions on the sale of nuclear technology to China by U.S. companies.

With bipartisan support the administration rolled out a $60 billion loan program to capitalist governments in Asia, Africa and Latin America designed to undercut Beijing’s mounting influence.

China’s ‘Belk and Road Initiative’

The Chinese rulers are pushing what they call a Belt and Road Initiative of loans, transportation projects, sea lanes and massive construction projects in more than 60 countries to increase Chinese capitalists’ access to profits, influence and trade. In the early stages of the project, Chinese bosses have already secured more than $340 billion in construction contracts.

Many weaker capitalist government drawn into the “initiative” are finding themselves caught up in expanding debt, including Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan and others. Debts forced the Sri Lankan rulers to turn their main seaport over to Beijing for the next 99 years.

Liberals and others who despise the Trump administration — and the workers who they see as responsible for it — paint Washington’s efforts to take on Beijing as a destabilizing departure from global collaboration and previous administrations’ efforts to slow down Beijing’s expansion. Papers like the New York Times are full of talk of the opening of a China-U.S. Cold War.

But many among the U.S. ruling families anticipate Trump’s measures can effectively pressure Beijing, as Chinese bosses are more dependent on access to U.S. markets than their U.S. rivals are to markets in China. While the U.S. capitalist rulers and Beijing continue their rivalry, the most important change brought about by the development of capitalism in China — the massive expansion of the working class — will place its mark on politics there.

Unlike the conditions that existed across most of Asia, Africa and Latin America at the end of World War II, when millions of toilers lived outside capitalist social relations, workers there today have been transformed by the development of capitalist production and trade, accompanying class differentiation, and the huge growth of the working class. The question posed in the decades ahead will not be which of the capitalist classes the U.S. or Chinese — will prevail, but whether the working class, as it strives for independent political organization, will overturn capitalist exploitation and oppression and take control of the wealth they produce into their own hands.

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Hospital workers in Pittsburgh mount one-day strike

PITTSBURGH — Carrying signs saying, “Hospital Workers Rising” and “UPMC: Respect Our Rights,” 100 hospital workers and supporters from the United Steelworkers and other unions carried the fight for a union to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Oct. 4. The one-day strike by Service Employees International Union members put a spotlight on an union-busting attack by the medical center bosses.

The strike was the latest action in the workers’ three-year fight to organize UPMC, the largest private employer in western Pennsylvania. The multihospital company employs some 80,000 workers at sites across the state. Last year UPMC posted $1.3 billion in profits, and CEO Jef frey Romoff made a salary of more than $6 million.

A day before the march said many of them make less than $15 an hour and a lot can’t afford their own health care. The hospital bosses say they plan to raise their minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2021. Ashley Smith, a cafeteria worker at UPMC Presbyterian said, “It’s not right that we have to work and not be able to afford health care.”

“Many of us are living at poverty level,” Elie Lalonde, who works at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital, told the TribLIVE online paper at the protest. “We work in this system and provide health care, and yet we can’t afford to access it for ourselves — not without bills that are so outrageous that we avoid seeking out health care.”

“Union, to me, equals a voice,” Nila Payton, who works in the UPMC to Presbyterian pathology department, said. “We’re focused on our goal to actually have a union within UPMC, and it seems like they’re fighting tooth and nail to keep that from happening. But it would work out for all of us if we had a union, I feel.”

—not Malcolm Jarrett

UK hospital workers strike for wage equality

EASTBOURNE, England — “We’re not invisible any more!” Tina Travers, a porter and Union member, told a rally of unionists on strike at Royal Bolton Hospital here Oct. 12. This was the second day of a two-day walkout by over 300 hospital workers — caterers, cleaners and porters employed by Integrated Facilities Management Bolton. The Union members are fighting for equal pay with other National Health Service workers.

Joyce Finch, a domestic hospital from Wigan, urged the striking workers to “stick together just as you are now.” Earlier this year NHS workers there waged a successful strike to stop their jobs from being contracted out to an “independent” subsidiary company like Integrated Facilities Management.

Cliff Halliday, a porter at Royal Bolton, told the Militant that when they were transferred to IFM, which is wholly owned by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, they were promised their wages would continue to match those of NHS workers. But while the lowest paid health service workers get £9.92 per hour, NHS workers now earn only £9.89 over two years, Integrated Fa- cilities Management workers remain at £7.83 per hour.

“We never had to go on strike before, but we’re all standing together and I’m not scared,” Andrea Lee, a domestic at the hospital told Bolton News. “We’re NHS workers and we should be paid the NHS rates.”

Unison Regional Organizer Vance Butterworth confirmed in a phone interview Oct. 27 that Integrated Fa- cilities Management had agreed to the strikers’ demand for wage parity.

— Anne Howie

“One job should be enough’”

From continued page Front page

The Bay Area strikers’ slogan, “One job should be enough,” is popular. Many work a second or three jobs to keep up with rising prices and skyrocketing rents in the area.

“Thank goodness I don’t have a high mortgage but many workers working here are paying $2,500 and more for rent,” said Butch Avino, who has worked as a doorman for 35 years at the Magnificent Mile, said Demetcho Brown, who was a strike leader at the Hyatt Regency where workers settled.

“It’s a small hotel with only 58 union members, so the owner is holding out trying to run the hotel with management and temp workers.”

Sam Hamlin and Ellen Brickley from Albany, New York, and Dan Fein from Chicago contributed to this article.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Some 1,000 members of UNITE HERE on strike at Marriott hotels and supporters march in San Francisco Oct. 20 demanding guaranteed hours, affordable health care and higher pay.

25, 50, and 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

November 8, 1983

SULLIVAN, Indiana — Sandbags have become a symbol in the Midwest for resistance against last summer’s devast ating floods. More than 54 counties were on strike at the Buck Creek mine here as the sandbags stretched against the outer wall of the picket line to keep workers from breaking through organized by UNITE HERE Local 26.

“Ninety workers from the hotel where I work came to the rally today,” Josefina Perez, an 18-year veteran at Marriott, told the Militant. “That makes me more confident. I know we’ll win.”

At the same time, in Chicago, members of UNITE HERE Local 1 at 25 of the 26 hotels that went on strike Sept. 7 have won new contracts that give them three-year-round health care, their central demand.

“There is only one hotel still on strike and that’s the Cambria Hotel Chicago Magnificent Mile,” said Demetcho Brown, who was a strike leader at the Hyatt Regency where workers settled. “It’s a small hotel with only 58 union members, so the owner is holding out trying to run the hotel with management and temp workers.”

November 8, 1968

NEW YORK — On Nov. 12 a mass political trial of 110 students will begin in Puerto Rico. Paco Mercado, one of the 110, is now in the U.S. on a speaking tour to publicize the trial and to win support for the students.

Mercado told the Militant that all Puer to Rico will be watching the trial, which is part of an attempt by authorities to repress the growing revolutionary student movement there. Many of the de fendants are members of the Federation of University Students for Independence.

Eight-five of the defendants are charged with refusing induction into the U.S. Army, and the other 25 are facing five charges stemming from a demonstra tion organized by FUPI at the University of Puerto Rico in September 1967. The demonstration was attacked by police, and a taxi driver was killed and four students wounded when the police opened fire on the students.

November 6, 1943

The city government of Moultrie, Georgia, has enacted a “work or fight” program which is to be administered by the bosses and enforced by the police and courts. Cards are to be distributed to all workers showing their place and hours of employment. Workers are required to carry these cards at all times.

The police department has been authorized to make a check of all per- sons caught “idling or loitering” on the streets. If an individual has no card or is away from his job during normal work ing hours, he will be arrested and ar raigned in court.

Since the war for the “Four Free- doms” started, the American workers have been losing more and more of their freedom every day. They have lost the right to strike. They are no longer per mitted to quit their jobs. The Southern Bourbons have taught us: the fight for democracy begins at home.
Continued from front page

The party is campaigning on workers’ doorsteps, at strike picket lines, and at events organized by workers and farmers in Cuba as an example for working people in the U.S. Calero asked whether this is possible in this country.

“They always understand us,” she said in the interview, which is posted on YouTube, talking about the capitalistic rulers. They said it was impossible to do something like this civil rights movement that opened Jim Crow segregation. Sahner said. It is the working class that stops presidents like Castro and Hugo Chavez.

Sahner met a worker named Daniel at the protest who responded to what she said about the Cuban Revolution. He said that he was happy she was running against both Republican Bush and Democrat Memen.

“Can’t vote me anymore,” he said. “I’m for Castro and Hugo Chavez.”

The Marriott bosses are demanding workers do more while they want to be able to offer their lives and families was affected.

“Most capitalists are evil, the most fundamental one is how system is constituted as a condition of producing its profits. How its workings, its blind motivations, and its inhumanity to counteract the boss’s effort is to unite in struggle to fight for workers’ rights,” Sahner told. “That’s why you do what is so important to stop and to begin to talk to each other.”

The Marriott bosses are demanding workers do more while they want to take their health care and nutrition, and to improve their living standards and standards.

“We need to start learning to read, to look at things as they are,” she said. He added that being a unionist was a way to make people work.” He said. “It brings us together, people from all kinds of backgrounds.”

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“I began to see that the union was important for workers and families, to make us work,” he said. “And it brings us together, people from all kinds of backgrounds.”

“The labor movement needs to show that at a national level we have to change things fundamentally.”

“It is the first job ever I’ve had!” Carlos Ramos, 25, who works as a porter at the UPS customer center, told Calero. “I came here because it had a union.”

“I didn’t think about something around the corner,” he said.

“I began to see that the union was important for workers and families, to make us work,” he said. “And it brings us together, people from all kinds of backgrounds.”

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Myth of women’s inferiority is rooted in rise of class society

Below is an excerpt from Problems of Women’s Liberation by Evelyn Reed, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for October. For more speeches and articles, Reed (1903-1979), a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, explores the economic and social roots of women’s oppression from primitive society to modern capitalism. She explains why the oppression of women is a result of specific property relations, not relations between the sexes, and points the road forward toward women’s emancipation. Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

Myth of women’s inferiority is rooted in rise of class society

The Militant November 5, 2018

Buenos Aires, Argentina, protest March 8 demanding legalization of abortion. “Inequality of the sexes has marked class society from its very inception several thousand years ago,” wrote Evelyn Reed, and “perpetuated by the system of private property, the state, and the church.”

This is a falsification of natural and intellectual attributes. An equivalent myth about women in pre-literate societies held that the matriarchy which, as indicated by its name, means “mother’s laws,” was the leadership role of the two sexes. Women were neither sanctified nor deified, endowed with halos and blessed with special “instincts,” feelings and knowledge forever beyond the comprehension of men. Sanctity and degradation are simply two sides of the same coin of the social robbery of women under class society.

But class society did not always exist; it is only a few thousand years old. Men were not always the superior sex, for they were not always the industrial, intellectual, and cultural leaders. Quite the contrary. In primitive society, where women were neither sanctified nor degraded, it was the women who were the social and cultural leaders.

Primitive society was organized as a matriarchy which, as indicated by its very name, was a system where women, not men, were the leaders and organizers. But the distinction between the two social systems goes beyond this reversal of the leadership role of the two sexes.

The leadership of women in primitive society was not founded upon the division of the men. On the contrary, primitive societies were founded upon the irrational inequalities, inferiorities, or discriminations of any kind. Primitive society was completely egalitarian. In fact, it was the inequality of the sexes, that the men were brought forward out of a more backward condition into a higher social and cultural role.

One of the conspicuous features of capitalism, and of class society in general, is the inequality of the sexes. Men are the masters in economic, cultural, political, and intellectual life, while women play a subordinate and even subservial role. But men have won the road to the top because women have come out of the kitchens and nurseries to challenge men’s monopoly. But the essential inequality still remains.

This is a falsification of primitive society where the sexes has marked class society from its very inception several thousand years ago, and has persisted throughout its three main stages: chattel slavery, feudalism, and capitalism. For this reason class society is aptly characterized as male dominated. This domination has been upheld and perpetuated by the system of private property, the state, the church and the form of family that served men’s interests.

On the basis of this historical situation, certain false claims regarding the social superiority of the male sex have been propagated. It is often set forth as an immutable axiom that men are socially superior because they are naturally superior. Male supremacy, according to this myth, is not a social phenomenon at a particular stage of history, but a natural law. Men, it is claimed, are endowed by nature with superior physical and mental attributes.

An equivalent myth about women has been propagated to support this claim. It is set forth as an equally immutable axiom that women are socially inferior because they are naturally inferior. According to this fallacy, the women are not only cheated out of their animal functions of maternity. And yet, they are the mothers! Nature, it is claimed, has condemned the female sex to an inferior status.

This is a falsification of natural and social history. It is not nature but class society which lowered women and elevated men. Men won their social supremacy through against and conquest over the women. But this sexual struggle was part and parcel of a great social struggle — the overturn of primitive society and the institution of class society. Women’s inferiority is the product of a social system which has produced and fostered innumerable other inequalities, inferiorities, discriminations, and degradations.

It is not nature but class society which robbed women of their right to participate in the higher functions of society and placed the primary emphasis upon their animal functions and the care of the young. And this robbery was perpetrated through a twofold myth. On the one side, motherhood is regarded as a biological affinity arising out of the maternal organs of women. Alongside this vulgar materialism, motherhood is regarded as something almost mystical. To console women for their status as second-class citizens, mothers are sanctified, endowed with halos and blessed with special “instincts,” feelings and knowledge forever beyond the comprehension of men. Sanctity and degradation are simply two sides of the same coin of the social robbery of women under class society.

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Honduran caravan

Continued from page 6

well over a third of the population lives — 20 percent of the people earn less than $2 a day, a byproduct of U.S. imperialism’s exploitation of the country.

Bananas, one the country’s main export crops, is dominated by just two U.S. companies — Chiquita and Dole. Earlier in the year, 2,000 workers in the Caribbean ended a 77-day strike, unable to win their demands that the company reverse its attacks on workers’ health care.

The more than 90,000 small coffee farmers have been especially hard hit by the capitalist economic crisis, as the price of coffee beans has continued to drop over the last half decade. Violence by paramilitary gangs is rampant. Honduras has one of the world’s highest homicide rates. And paramilitary groups, financed by big landowners have killed dozens of peasants over the last several years in battles over land.

Some 57,000 Hondurans have worked in the U.S. for 20 years under the U.S. government’s Temporary Protected Status after that country was devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. But in Trump administration announced earlier this year it is canceling the program for Honduras in 2020 — over the strong opposition of the Honduran government — which would leave them subject to deportation.

Many on the caravan have pointed to the gang violence as the reason they plan to apply for political asylum when they reach the U.S. Others say they are motivated by the prospect of getting work. With the lack of housing in the U.S., bosses are looking for more cheap labor.

“I just want to be able to provide for my children, and I can’t do that at home,” Danin Reyes, 38, a chef from La Ceiba, told *Militant* magazine.

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**Letters**

Please come to Anoka

I would like Socialist Workers Party members to visit Anoka, Minnesota. It is heavily working class and was heavily affected by the depression. I just see such brutal conditions for the workers and the poor in places like Anoka. It would be great to see their presence here. It is a fairly conservative area, with a very anti-union mentality, though.

Byron Johnson-Blanchard

by email

Working class defense of art

The articles about the working class defense and need for art have been my favorites in the past few weeks.

J.S.

Portland, Oregon

‘Militant’ makes sense

I saw your article about the bus strike in Hamilton. Great! I love the Militant’s coverage of U.S. politics. I don’t read mainstream media coverage (“hysterical” to quote *Militant* writer Terry Evans), but it’s been almost impossible to find anything else to read that makes sense to me. This does!

Alison McCallic

Taumaru, New Zealand

Verbal incivility

I see the verbal incivility in society now moving into turncoats and scanlines on quite a scale, including perhaps even some murder attempts on elected President Trump, from his foes both outside and inside the state security system. And on the Clinton grouping too. I suggest that you consider changing the banner-name to: The Working-Class Party

Martin Marriott

by email

US has done worse

I am a working-class militant and union fighter who did not have a job for many years, and now I am back to work with a small raise. The liberals don’t know much about the lives and times of people like me. If they did, they wouldn’t be so crazy about the unions and anti-Russian issues. I am pretty sure that the U.S. has done worse.

Joan Smith

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Send your letter to themilitant@

mcm.com. Where necessary it will be abridged. Indicate if you prefer your initials be used rather than your full name.