

‘The power of workers is in their sticking together’

BY MAGGIE TROWE

“I know you!” retired coal miner Jake Westerfield told Socialist Workers Party member Jacquie Henderson when she and Steve Packard knocked on his door Oct. 20 in Beaver Dam, a

SWP SPEAKS IN INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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

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Build the unions! Working people need our own party!



Militant/Eric Simpson

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

SWP campaigns pose road to unite workers in struggle

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.

UPS workers had just voted down a two-tier concession package the bosses demanded, only to be told by Teamster union officials that they considered the contract had passed. “Our unions have to fight for what we need, for everyone, organized or not, and demand the government fund social needs — for health care, retirement and education,” Calero said.

“Workers need our own party, a labor party based on the unions,” he said, “independent of the Democrats, Republicans and all others who represent the interests of the capitalist rul-

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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

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

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO — Chants of “One job should be enough” and “What do we want — contract!” echoed through the streets as over 1,000 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.”

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Capitalist rulers in 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.

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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 ca-

shier 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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Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 (Week 2)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	125	32	125	23
Atlanta	85	34	85	20
Chicago	115	41	115	34
Dallas	50	19	50	13
Lincoln	15	5	15	4
Los Angeles	125	31	125	16
Louisville	30	9	30	10
Miami	40	4	40	14
New Jersey	35	4	35	7
New York	110	34	110	18
Oakland	85	19	85	16
Philadelphia	55	12	55	20
Pittsburg	15	2	15	3
Seattle	90	25	90	13
Twin Cities	65	10	65	0
Washington	80	24	80	38
Total U.S.	1,120	305	1,120	249
Prisoners	25	0		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	60	15	60	12
Manchester	50	17	50	7
Total U.K.	110	32	110	19
CANADA				
Montreal	50	12	50	7
Vancouver	45	11	45	13
Total Canada	95	23	95	20
New Zealand	40	8	30	3
Australia	0	0	0	0
Total	1,390	368	1,355	291
SHOULD BE	1,400	350	1,400	350

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‘IS has been defeated in Mosul,’ now we’re fighting for ideas’ 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Hospital workers in Pittsburgh mount one-day strike

UK hospital workers strike for wage equality

Oppose the Jew-hatred 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 League 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.”

“History tell 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 the 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-Jewish incidents each month in Britain. A Jewish cemetery in Urmston, Greater Manchester, was desecrated three times this year.

Many were also 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 ‘racist’ 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 reactionary Islamist group based in Gaza that calls for driving Jews in Israel into the sea, as his “friends.” And he has defended a mural that depicted hooknosed



Militant/Pete Clifford

Protesters join “Say ‘no’ to anti-Semitism” rally in Manchester Sept. 16 to oppose rising attacks on Jews, desecration of cemeteries and record of Jew-hating remarks by Labour Party leaders.

bankers — a timeworn caricature of Jews — running the world.

A video released by the London *Daily Mail* in August shows Corbyn making an anti-Jewish 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 is “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 Jewish people,” Glancy replied, is, “to put it in British, utter tosh.”

“I’d always thought that if Mr. Corbyn was ever nailed down on this issue, he’d be spouting the anti-Semitism of the international left,” he said. “Instead we got something much closer to home.” In other words, the deep-rooted anti-Semitism of the old landed aristocracy and of the capitalist class in Britain.

Recognize Palestine state and Israel

As part of responding to the rise of Jew-hatred, the Communist League is stepping up its use — on doorsteps and in workplaces — of the statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of

Israel,” put out by the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S.

Jonathan Silberman and other League members met forklift driver Raz Khan on his doorstep in Harlow, Essex, and showed him the statement.

“In opposition to Washington, to bourgeois governments and political organizations across the Middle East, and to the middle class left here in the United States,” it concludes, “the Socialist Workers Party has a different starting point: the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world.

“We are *for* whatever helps working people organize and act together to advance our demands 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 renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power,” the statement says.

“We need a Palestine that’s viable,” Khan said. “But without the support of the Israeli people, there can be no Palestinian homeland and no peace. Whatever the legality of the creation of Israel, the country has existed for 70 years now, we have to accept that.”

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

THE MILITANT

Back women’s fight for right to abortion!

Thousands marched in Dublin, Ireland, to celebrate victory in May vote overturning ban on abortions. The ‘Militant’ explains the fight for the right to choose abortion is critical to winning women’s emancipation and why this struggle is key for forging working-class unity.



Abortion Rights Campaign

Dublin march for abortion rights, Sept. 29.

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‘Power is in sticking together’

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.

Packard 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 books listed 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 cities, towns 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 campaigning.

“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 Clintons’ 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.

Ned Measel, SWP candidate for District of Columbia delegate to Congress, met hotel worker Leonard Carmichael in a Greenbelt, Maryland, apartment complex Oct. 19. They talked about the UNITE HERE hotel workers striking in Boston, San Francisco and other cities.

“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,



Militant

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

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.”

“Sign me up,” Carmichael said. He got a *Militant* subscription and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*. Later when Carmichael passed Mea-

sel and another SWP member talking with his neighbor down the street, he called out, “Give them a shot, they’re good people!”

In Dagenham, England, east of London, Communist League members Hugh Robertson and Paul Davies talked with plumber Lennie Spence Oct. 21 about the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, known as “Brexit,” that was passed in a 2016 referendum but has been stalled since by a wing of capitalist class politicians, including Conservative Party Prime Minister Theresa May and the leaders of the Labour Party.

“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 Milly 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).



Militant/Mary Martin

Edwin Fruit, right, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington state, talks with former fishing boat deckhand and current hospital worker Mitchell Coleman in West Seattle, Oct. 20. Coleman said he’s been thinking a lot about how to strengthen the union at work, but that many co-workers fear retaliation by the company. We need to build the union movement, Fruit said, and workers need our own political party. Coleman got a subscription to the *Militant*.

Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive			
Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 - Week 2			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Albany	\$6,000	\$1,035	17%
Atlanta	\$9,500	\$0	0%
Chicago	\$11,000	\$1,275	12%
Dallas	\$2,500	\$0	0%
Lincoln	\$225	\$103	46%
Los Angeles	\$10,000	\$200	2%
Louisville	\$800	\$0	0%
Miami	\$3,500	\$250	7%
New York	\$14,000	\$3,035	22%
New Jersey	\$2,500	\$0	0%
Oakland	\$12,500	\$0	0%
Philadelphia	\$3,000	\$400	13%
Pittsburgh	\$300	\$0	0%
Seattle	\$10,000	\$820	8%
Twin Cities	\$4,200	\$0	0%
Washington, DC	\$6,750	\$0	0%
Other	\$1,350	\$0	0%
Total	\$98,125	\$7,118	7%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$25,000	25%

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California

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Osborne Hart, US Senate

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, US Senate

Washington

Edwin Fruit, US Senate
Henry Dennison, US Congress, 9th CD

Washington, DC

Ned Measel, Delegate, US Congress

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 uncut 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 so American workers aren't put at a disadvantage." His measures have drawn praise from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

"In reality the government 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 same employers who have eroded wages and imposed worse conditions on workers here. The government's claim to defend workers is in fact an attempt to tie working people to those who exploit us at home and set us against fellow workers in China and elsewhere. Damage from the tariffs falls hardest on working people. The SWP unconditionally opposes Washington's tariffs."

Referring to the rising "great power competition" between Washington and Beijing, Vice President Michael Pence claimed Oct. 4 that Beijing wanted "nothing less than to push the United States of America from the Western Pacific." The administration, he vowed, would "continue to assert American interests across the Indo-Pacific."

The U.S. capitalist rulers viewed China and Asia as their biggest prize as victor in the second imperialist world war. They dreamed of decades of exploiting markets, minerals and labor there.

Washington imagined this would include snatching China from the

hands of the defeated Japanese colonial rulers, but both Chinese toilers and U.S. workers in the armed forces had other ideas. As the war drew to a close in 1945 tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers in the Philippines and elsewhere in Asia protested against Washington's intervention in the civil war developing in China, demanding to go home. They won widespread support among working people in the U.S. and Washington was forced to bring them home. The rule of U.S.-backed Chiang Kai-shek was overturned by workers and peasants in China in 1949.

After decades of Maoist Stalinist rule, the state-run economy and social relations deteriorated, and the Chinese rulers in the late 1970s turned increasingly to the use of capitalist methods. Once again, the U.S. propertied owners hoped that China would become a new arena for investment and for markets they would dominate. But in practice the Chinese rulers have turned into the U.S. rulers' biggest competitor across Asia, in Africa and elsewhere. Most importantly in the long run, the transformation of a largely peasant economy to one based increasingly 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. navy patrols in areas of the South China Seas that Beijing claims. It has signed new trade deals with Mexican and Canadian governments that penalize them if they sign a trade pact with Beijing. And the White House has increased 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 de-



Striking Walmart workers in Hefei, China, fight bosses "flexible" work schedules, March 2016. Development of Chinese industry and trade has bought Beijing into conflict with Washington, and led to huge growth of working class, which increasingly places its mark on politics there.

signed to undercut Beijing's mounting influence.

China's 'Belt 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.

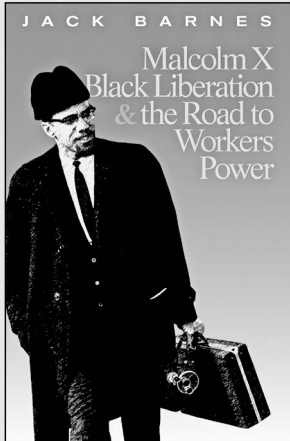
—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

**WASHINGTON
Seattle**
New Openings for the Working Class as Imperialist 'World Order' Unravels. Speakers: Edwin Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate; Henry Dennison, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, 9th C.D. Fri., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5418 Rainer Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

**UNITED KINGDOM
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Storms and Floods in Europe, Asia and America: The Disasters Flow from Capitalist Social Relations, Show the Need for Workers to Fight for Power. Speaker: Anne Howie, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place M12 6HS. Tel.: (0161) 258-2569.

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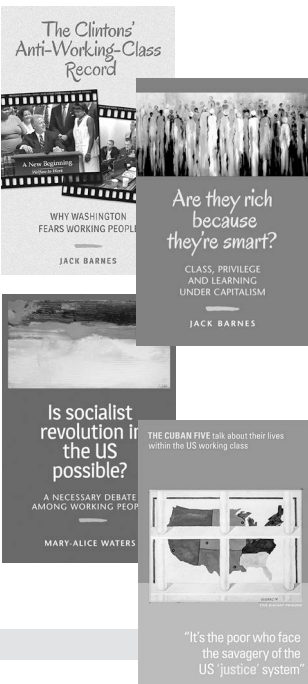
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by Mary-Alice Waters

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



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‘One job should be enough’

Continued from front page

The Bay Area strikers’ slogan, “One job should be enough,” is popular. Many work two, even 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 picketing here are paying \$2,500 and more for rent,” said Butch Avino, who has worked as a doorman for 35 years at the Marriott on Union Square. “Wages have to go up.”

Yao Lee, a cook on strike at the Oakland Marriott, works three jobs. He said he’s outraged at the company demand that workers pay more for medical care. “We can win,” he said. “We need it!”

Room cleaners face job cuts and speedup, due in part to Marriott’s “Green Choice” program that offers incentives to guests to clean their own rooms. While it takes longer to clean rooms that have not been serviced for several days, the company is demanding that workers clean more rooms per shift than before.

After over two weeks on strike, picket lines at the hotel entrances have stayed strong and loud. Workers keep up ceaseless drumming and horn and whistle blowing, and chanting of “Don’t check in! Check out!” Many drivers going by honk in support.

Despite working two jobs, David Lule, a cook at the Omni Hotel, finds time to join the picket line at the Palace in solidarity with workers there. A 17-year veteran of union struggles, he is one of many union members who remember past hotel workers’ battles that won gains in pay and benefits.

While picketing at the Oakland Marriott, housekeeper Jackeline Gonzalez compared the \$17 an hour she gets with the lower wages she made at a nonunion hotel in nearby Lafayette. “You can see the difference with a union,” she said.

Supporters from all over the northeast — from Rhode Island to Maryland — joined striking workers from seven Boston-area Marriott hotels in an Oct. 20 rally there organized by UNITE HERE Local 26.

“Ninety workers from the hotel where I work came to the rally today,” Josefin

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 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 Demechio 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.



Militant/Betsey Stone

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

ON THE PICKET LINE

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 heart of downtown Pittsburgh, the headquarters of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Oct. 4. The one-day strike by Service Employees International Union members put a spotlight on anti-union harassment 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 Jeffrey Romoff made a salary of more than \$6 million.

Strikers at 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, told the *Pittsburgh City Paper* how supervisors hound and harass workers, following them around while they’re trying to work.

When workers began to speak out about the conditions and that they wanted the union, the bosses retaliated. The National Labor Relations Board has cited the hospital with some 150 violations. In August, the NLRB ordered hospital officials to stop their pattern of unlawful surveillance, threats and intimidation.

The ruling also ordered the medical center to rehire workers they had illegally fired, pay them for lost time, stop anti-union activities and inform workers of their right to unionize. The union says the bosses have yet to implement the orders.

“Many of us are living at poverty level,” Ellie 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.”

“A union, to me, equals a voice,” Nila Payton, who works in the UPMC Presbyterian pathology department, told TribLIVE. “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.”

— Malcolm Jarrett

UK hospital workers strike for wage equality

BOLTON, England — “We’re not invisible any more!” Tina Travers, a porter and Unison 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 Unison union members are fighting for equal pay with other National Health Service workers.

Joanne Finch, a hospital domestic 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 £8.92 per hour (\$10.35), rising to £9.89 over two years, Integrated Facilities Management workers remain at £7.83 per hour.

“I 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. 22 that Integrated Facilities Management had agreed to the strikers’ demand for wage parity.

— Anne Howie

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 8, 1993

SULLIVAN, Indiana — Sandbags have become a symbol in the Midwest for resistance against last summer’s devastating floods. For the 54 coal miners on strike at the Buck Creek mine here the sandbags stacked against the outer wall of the picket shack state their determination to win their first contract.

The United Mine Workers of America members had to fortify their shack after a gunman fired a number of rifle rounds into the structure from a tightly guarded company complex.

Local police have done little to investigate the shooting. “They’d have 20 cops there in a minute if somebody fired a gun in town,” said Mike Coffin, a 22-year-old striker at the picket shack. “One policeman answered our call, and he just went over to talk with the company. That’s the last we saw of him.” The Buck Creek miners have been on strike since April 1.



November 8, 1968

NEW YORK — On Nov. 12 a mass political trial of 110 students will begin in Puerto Rico. Florencio Merced, 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.

Merced told the *Militant* that all Puerto 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 defendants are leaders 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 demonstration 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 persons caught “idling or loitering” on the streets. If an individual has no card or is away from his job during normal working hours, he will be arrested and arraigned in court.

Since the war for the “Four Freedoms” 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 permitted to quit their jobs. The Southern Bourbons have taught us: the fight for democracy begins at home.

Honduras immigrant caravan shows depth of capitalist crisis

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of Hondurans, overwhelmingly workers and farmers, have traveled through Guatemala into Mexico, and are making their way toward the U.S. border, hoping to enter the United States with or without permission of U.S. authorities. The size of the caravan, many times larger than similar ones over the past decade, is a sign of the deep capitalist economic and social crisis in Honduras and Central America.

President Donald Trump is trying to take advantage of the caravan to advance his efforts to increase the capitalist rulers' control over the pace and flow of immigration, including to force Congress to fund fortifying the wall at the border, and increase divisions among working people. When you look at the caravan, he tweeted, "blame the Democrats for not giving us the votes to change our pathetic Immigration Laws! Remember the Midterms! So unfair to those who come in legally."

SWP campaigns pose road to unite workers in struggle

Continued from front page

ers. We need to take political power into our own hands."

Calero is one of 19 SWP candidates running for U.S. Senate, governor or the House of Representatives across the country in the Nov. 6 election. The party is campaigning on workers' doorsteps, at strike picket lines, and at protests and rallies.

"Less than 7 percent of workers in the country's factories, mines, mills, warehouses, retail stores and other private employment have a union today," Calero said. "But the carnage we face from the bosses and their government that place the burden of the crisis of their capitalist system on our backs is making us think about how we can change things fundamentally."

"This is the first job I ever had," Carlos Ramos, 29, who works as a preloader at the UPS customer center, told Calero. "I grew up in the projects in Harlem and didn't think much about things around me when I was younger."

"I began to see that the union was important to fight the constant push to make us work faster," he said. "And it brings us together, people from all kinds of different backgrounds."

"It made me want to start reading, to learn why things were the way that they are," Ramos said.

He was excited to see the *Militant*, and books by party leaders like *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers' Power*. Calero made an appointment to get together with Ramos at the end of the week so he could buy them and start reading.

"I came here because it had a union. The company I was with before had no protection or benefits," Ricardo, a delivery truck driver originally from Puerto Rico, told Calero.

"The challenge we have as workers and as a class is to extend those same protections to all workers, including the unemployed," said Calero. He pointed to the *Militant* article on how port truckers in Los Angeles and the Teamsters local

He demanded that the governments of Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico stop the caravan — which he claimed included criminals and Middle Eastern "terrorists" — and send its participants back home, or face a cutoff of U.S. aid.

The caravan was initiated in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Oct. 12 by Bartolo Fuentes, a former congressman from the Libre Party, the main capitalist opposition party in Honduras. The party is headed by Manuel Zelaya, who was ousted as Honduran president by the military in 2009. Fuentes accompanied the marchers into Guatemala.

U.S.-based Pueblo Sin Fronteras (People without Borders) is helping to organize the 1,400-mile caravan.

The Democratic Party — from liberal establishment officials like Nancy Pelosi to so-called radicals like Democratic Socialists of America member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — have maintained a wall of silence on the issue. Convinced that most workers are reactionary, they

they're fighting to become members of are championing the defense of immigrant members who face deportation.

"The labor movement needs to do that at a national level and raise the demand for amnesty for all undocumented immigrants living in this country," Calero said.

Calero and SWP campaigner Peter Thierjung met with some pedicab drivers two days earlier.

"You make the money but you never see it. The system sucks it right back," said Aristide, a pedicab driver, at the Columbus Circle entrance to Central Park. Some of the pedicabbers, originally from Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and other African countries, also work as yellow cab drivers during the "off-season." They know firsthand the pressures faced by drivers for yellow cab companies, Uber and other ride-share companies. So far, seven drivers have committed suicide under the burden of spiraling debt.

The drivers explained how they had successfully defended themselves from moves by Democratic Party Mayor Bill de Blasio to move the nearly 300 pedicab drivers, as well as horse carriage drivers, into Central Park blocking their ability to pick up riders at the entrance and making it harder to make a living.

"Uniting the pedicab and horse carriage drivers might seem like a small thing, but it was a powerful experience for us," said Aristide. "If we hadn't united, they would have banned us, and a lot of families would have been affected."

"Protest police brutality!"

Vivian Sahner, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, joined a rally against police brutality outside the offices of the Fraternal Order of Police in Newark Oct. 22.

Sahner was interviewed by Zechariah Jackson from BASA News, speaking out against police brutality in New Jersey, like the 2014 killing of Jerame Reid by cops Braheme Days and Roger Worley, captured on their own dashcam video. She met Reid's stepfather Muneer



Honduran and other Central Americans march through Mexico Oct. 21 on way to U.S. border. Honduran toilers face crisis of both imperialist pillage and exploitation from native capitalists.

fear that Trump's use of the issue might aid Republican candidates in the mid-term elections.

But liberal newspapers have featured the caravan on their front pages — hoping that the images of suffering women and children would embarrass the White House and rouse Hispanics and

Muhammed at the protest.

Sahner pointed to the revolution made by workers and farmers in Cuba as an example for working people in the U.S. Jackson asked her whether this is possible in this country.

"They always underestimate us," she said in the interview, which is posted on YouTube, talking about the capitalist rulers. They said it was impossible we could do something like the civil rights movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, Sahner said. It is the working class that produces leaders like Malcolm X, she told Jackson.

Sahner met a worker named Daniel at the protest who responded to what she raised about the Cuban Revolution. He said he was glad she was running against both Republican Robert Hugin and Democrat Robert Menendez. "I can't vote for Menendez because he's against Fidel Castro and Cuba," he said. "I'm for Castro and the Cuban revolution."

Laura Garza, SWP candidate for governor of California, joined striking hotel workers picketing outside the Oakland Marriott City Center Oct. 20. She marched alongside Jason Russell, a banquet server, who said this was the first strike he had ever been in.

The Marriott bosses are demanding workers do more while they want to attack their health care and wages. (See story on front page.) "The more people hear our story, the more they will understand why having a union is so important," Russell said.

"The only way to counteract the bosses' efforts is to unite in struggle to fight for workers' rights," Garza told him. "That's why what you are doing is so important. And why I'm here with you today."

The SWP asks workers to join in getting out the word about their candidates and program for independent working-class political action.

Eric Simpson in Oakland contributed to this article.

Reuters/Ueslei Marcelino

'IS has been defeated in Mosul, now we're fighting for ideas'

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

ERBIL, Kurdish Region, Iraq — "Islamic State has been defeated on the ground. Now we are fighting for ideas," said Safwan Al-Madany. He was describing efforts by students, artists and others to bring books, music, concerts, theater and painting to life again in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, 50 miles from here.

Al-Madany was one of a group of young people from Mosul — all of whom had lived under the IS reign of terror for three years — who visited the Pathfinder Books stand at the Erbil International Book Fair Oct. 11 and 19. They came to the booth to look at our books and urge us to participate in upcoming cultural events in that city.

After its conquest of Mosul in 2014, Islamic State tore down statues of poets and writers and destroyed works of art and musical instruments. Books were banned, nonreligious art was taboo, and musicians and artists were killed. IS set fire to the Mosul University library, incinerating most of its hundreds of thousands of books.

The devastation caused by the reactionary group — followed by widespread destruction as Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by U.S. airstrikes, retook the city — resulted in thousands of deaths. One million people fled the fighting. The Old City, sitting on the west bank of the Tigris River,

was almost completely destroyed.

In May 2017, as the battle was still raging in the western part of the city, an arts exhibition was staged in eastern Mosul. "Pictures and paintings were exhibited against the blackened remains of a university building to the sounds of long-banned music," reported the German news agency *Deutsche Welle*.

More cultural festivals have been held in Mosul since, Al-Madany said. These are part of the efforts by working people to rebuild their lives following years of Islamic State tyranny. Thousands of volumes at the university library were rescued by students and other volunteers last year, and many more have been donated from abroad to replenish the shelves.

"Now we have a new idea," Al-Madany said. In November they are planning a festival to raise money for the treatment of children with cancer at East Mosul hospital. For an entry fee of 1,000 dinars, a little less than a U.S. dollar, each participant will get one book donated by supporters of the reconstruction effort. Pathfinder donated 10 books on the last day of the fair.

Islamic State said "they were bringing peace, they were bringing Islam," Al-Madany said. "But it was a lie. How can you fight for peace without knowledge? We want to bring life to Mosul. Not the black color of IS, but all the colors."



Top, Militant/Ogmundur Jonsson, above, Laith Mohammed and Ali Yousif Al-Baroodi Top, Munaf Ghanim, Mohammad Khalid Aswad, Safwan Al-Madany and Saad Salim, youth from Mosul fighting for rebirth of culture after defeat of Islamic State, visit Pathfinder booth at Erbil International Book Fair. Above, volunteers saving books from Mosul University library after IS burned it to the ground. "We want to bring life to Mosul," Al-Madany said.

Capitalist rulers in Mideast step up rivalry after killing of Khashoggi

Continued from front page

The administration of President Donald Trump is seeking to limit damage to its relations with the Saudi monarchy, an important ally for the U.S. capitalist rulers in the region.

After first denying that Khashoggi had been killed, the Saudi government now blames his death on a "rogue operation" within its security forces, seeking to distance Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman from the murder. Bin Salman issued his first statement on the killing Oct. 24, calling it "hideous" and pledging to cooperate with the investigation by the rival Turkish government.

The Saudi regime arrested 15 security agents and fired the deputy director of

intelligence. News outlets in the kingdom, heavily controlled by the ruling monarchy, claim the commotion over the slaying is stirred up by rival governments in Turkey, Qatar and Iran.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a rival for influence with the Saudi regime, has led the campaign to weaken it by leaking new details of the killing on a daily basis.

Khashoggi left Saudi Arabia last year, as bin Salman launched a widespread crackdown on political opponents. The regime's goal was to silence opposition to his course of combining steps to bring social relations in the monarchy more in line with the modern capitalist world and to strengthen the Saudi rulers' position in its rivalry with Tehran. The Saudi rulers seek to accelerate industrial development and trade and reduce reliance on oil rents, trim the authority of the country's "religious police," and relax restrictions on women's employment and participation in social life.

Khashoggi is a long-time defender of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group active across the Mideast. He writes as a defender of freedom of the press, but points to the dictatorial Ottoman Empire that came apart after the first imperialist world war as an example for what needs to be built today. He took up residence in the U.S. and also in Turkey, whose rulers are longtime rivals of the Saudi monarchy. Just prior to his killing Khashoggi castigated the Saudi rulers for failing to ally themselves with Islamist forces fighting the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria and for

not backing the Turkish rulers' intervention there.

He also disparaged Riyadh's military intervention in Yemen, criticizing the Saud family for failing to defeat the Houthi rebels, who are backed by Tehran. He said they needed to back the Islamist al-Islah party there, which has close ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. The Brotherhood is banned in Saudi Arabia.

Erdogan regime's brutal repression

The Turkish government, notorious for locking up tens of thousands of opponents and its decadeslong war against the national aspirations of the Kurdish people in Turkey, Syria and throughout the region, has seized on Khashoggi's killing to try to advance its own interests. Erdogan demanded Riyadh hand over those arrested in Saudi Arabia so they can be tried in Turkey. He says he will reveal more gruesome details about the killing and dismemberment of Khashoggi.

President Trump has threatened the Saudi government with "severe" consequences if it is implicated in the killing, while also stating his determination to maintain relations with an "ally." Alongside the governments of Israel and Egypt, Washington views the Saudi ruling family as a bulwark against the political and military clout of the Iranian rulers in the region. The White House also sees the Saudi regime as an ally in seeking a new Israeli-Palestinian deal.

The cleric-led capitalist government in Tehran has tried to blame Washington for the killing. "I don't think without

U.S. support that a country would dare to commit such a crime," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Oct. 24, calling for a full investigation.

The regime in Tehran was born out of a counterrevolution against the mass working-class movement that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah in 1979. Today the Iranian rulers are seeking to extend their counterrevolutionary sway, intervening in conflicts in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. It has entrenched its military bases in these countries, aiming to extend collaboration with Hezbollah and other allied Shiite militia.

Events unfolding today in the region take place against a winding down of the civil war in Syria, as the Assad regime, backed by Moscow and Tehran, has put down the rebellion that grew out of its crushing of mass popular protests against the regime in 2011.

Washington views Tehran's growing military presence in the region as a threat to both its allies and its own interests, and is determined to force the Iranian rulers back. It has reimposed sanctions on Iran that fall hardest on working people and is relying on the Saudi rulers to increase oil production as Washington's sanctions cut Iranian-refined oil from world markets.

Washington provides bombs and intelligence to Saudi armed forces carrying out airstrikes in Yemen, which has led to a growing famine.

Washington has been embroiled in decadeslong wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the region, wars that have caused death and misery for thousands.

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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. In speeches and articles, Reed (1905-1979), a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, explores the economic and social roots of women's oppression from prehistoric society to modern capitalism. She explains why the oppression of women is a result of specific property relations, not relations between sexes, and points the road forward toward women's emancipation. Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

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 submissive role. Only in recent years have women come out of the kitchens and nurseries to challenge men's monopoly. But the essential inequality still remains.

This inequality of 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



Maxi Luna/Téla

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."

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 to men. And what is the proof? 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 in struggle 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, discrimina-

tions, 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 of maternity. And this robbery was perpetrated through a twofold myth. On the one side, motherhood is represented as a biological affliction arising out of the maternal organs of women. Alongside this vulgar materialism, motherhood is represented as being 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.

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 dispossession of the men. On the contrary, primitive society knew no social inequalities, inferiorities, or discriminations of any kind. Primitive society was completely equalitarian. In fact, it was through the leadership of the women that the men were brought forward out of a more backward condition into a higher social and cultural role.

In this early society maternity, far from being an affliction or a badge of inferiority, was regarded as a great natural endowment. Motherhood invested women with power and prestige — and there were very good reasons for this.

Humanity arose out of the animal kingdom. Nature had endowed only one of the sexes — the female sex — with the organs and functions of maternity. This biological endowment provided the natural bridge to humanity. ... It was the female of the species who had the care and responsibility of feeding, tending, and protecting the young.

However, as Marx and Engels have demonstrated, all societies both past and present are founded upon labor. Thus, it was not simply the capacity of women to give birth that played the decisive role, for all female animals also give birth. What was decisive for the human species was the fact that maternity led to labor — and it was in the fusion of maternity and labor that the first human social system was founded.

It was the mothers who first took the road of labor, and by the same token blazed the trail toward humanity. It was the mothers who became the chief producers; the workers and farmers; the leaders in scientific, intellectual and cultural life. And they became all this precisely because they were the mothers, and in the beginning maternity was fused with labor. This fusion still remains in the languages of primitive peoples, where the term for "mother" is identical with "producer-procreatrix."

We do not draw the conclusion from this that women are thereby naturally the superior sex. Each sex arose out of natural evolution, and each played its specific and indispensable role. However, if we use the same yardstick for women of the past as is used for men today — social leadership — then we must say that women were the leaders in society long before men, and for a far longer stretch of time.

October

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Amnesty for all immigrants in the US!

Continued from front page

situation for workers and farmers there even worse.

That is what is happening in Honduras and the rest of Central America. In Honduras a nearly \$9 billion foreign debt is owed to bankers and speculators in the north. The capitalist crisis and the further carnage hitting workers and peasants as the Honduran capitalist rulers move to make workers sacrifice more to pay for the debt, is what propels tens of thousands of immigrants to head for the U.S.

Workers in Honduras face the same challenge that workers face in the United States. How to build a fighting union movement, forge an alliance of the working class and working famers, and build our own party, a working-class party, based on the unions that can fight to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

We both have an example to look to in the Cuban Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and began to build a workers and farmers government.

The parties of the capitalist rulers in Honduras — including those involved in organizing the caravan currently traveling toward the U.S.— also bear responsibility for the economic and social disaster working people face there.

The Socialist Workers Party demands cancel Honduras’ foreign debt. The fight for this can put working people in a better position to win higher wages and better working and living conditions.

The representatives of the capitalist rulers in the U.S. — the Democrats and Republicans — favor controls over immigration to divide the working class. Calls by some in the Democratic Party to “abolish ICE” have no intention of eliminating the rulers’ immigration police and their efforts to control the pace of immigration.

The demand for an “open border” is utopian under capitalism and an obstacle to forging international solidarity in struggle among working people.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates fight for the labor movement to demand amnesty for the 11 million immigrant workers living and working in the United States without “proper papers.” “Not having papers” is a weapon the bosses use when immigrant and native-born workers move to organize in common struggle, as we are seeing in the fight to unionize port drivers in Los Angeles.

This is why the SWP candidates join with these workers and their union in demanding the government restore and make permanent the Temporary Protected Status that thousands of workers from Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan held, allowing them to live and work in the U.S. without fear of deportation.

We say, “Join the union. Let’s fight together against the bosses.”

That is the road to boosting the self-confidence, fighting spirit and class consciousness of working people toward rebuilding the labor movement.

There is less racism and less anti-immigrant prejudice among working people today than ever before. That puts us in a better position to organize against the grinding assaults on wages, the brutal work schedules and hazardous conditions we face. And to fight to unify the working class.

Workers need our own party, a labor party, that can lead the working class and our allies to fight to take power out of the hands of the capitalist exploiters.

We say amnesty for the 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S.! Cancel the foreign debt of Honduras! Extend a hand of solidarity to workers and farmers in Central America in their battle against both the ravages of U.S. imperialism and their own national exploiting class as well!

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 this year, 2,800 workers at Chiquita 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 criminal 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 the 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 uptick in hiring 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,” Danira Reyes, 38, a chef from La Ceiba, told *Time* magazine.

U.S. workers aren’t reactionary

It’s not true that workers who voted for Trump — or those who didn’t — are clamoring to deport immigrants in the U.S. or have no sympathy for those on the caravan.

That was demonstrated recently in O’Neill, Nebraska, an area that voted overwhelmingly for Trump in the 2016 election. While an Aug. 8 Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid was in progress there, workers and young people protested. Some held signs that said “Illegal Friends, Neighbors, Coworkers, Classmates.”

They are continuing today to help immigrant workers who live there. High school science teacher Bryan Corkle, who helped organize the protest, told the media a month later, “These are families that are part of our community. They are O’Neill.”

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Walmart cashiers win right to sit at work

Continued from front page

standing, so they can move around to greet customers and look inside the carts. When the work gets slow cashiers are required to stock and straighten shelves. The bosses also argued that sitting makes workers less efficient. And customers, they claimed, prefer cashiers who stand. To have to provide stools to cashiers who asked for them, they said, would cause significant loss of revenue.

Walmart decided not to go to trial and signed the agreement. It was clear it would be difficult to win in court, since the company had already conceded that those cashiers already sitting had no difficulty doing their work.

Most of the cashiers at the store where I work say they’re pleased with the proposed settlement, though not all. A few had already won the right to sit, though management made them get letters from their doctors and give them to the personnel department in the store.

A 14-year veteran behind the register told me she thought this was great, because you don’t need to stand all day to do the job. Some days — particularly on the weekend — the store gets very busy and by the time we get to go home we’re beat.

Another cashier said that when she took a trip to Europe everyone she saw at the cash registers in the big retail stores was sitting. And they worked as fast as we do.



Cashier in Europe sits down while working at supermarket.

Some other co-workers say they think the bosses were right, that you shouldn’t sit down. You need to stand to do the job, one cashier who had previously worked a white collar job told me. How else can you look into customers’ baskets to make sure you’ve scanned everything they brought up to purchase?

Last year Bank of America paid \$15 million to settle a lawsuit brought by tellers who wanted the right to sit. The pharmacy chain CVS and Home Depot recently settled suits allowing their cashiers to sit at work.

Although Walmart has agreed that cashiers can sit, we still have to see how this plays out in the stores. It might take a fight.

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 there. 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 McCulloch

Tauranga, New Zealand

Verbal incivility

I see the verbal incivility in society now moving into turmoil and explosions on quite a scale, including perhaps even some murder attempts on elected President Trump, from his foes both outside and in-

side the state security system. And on the Clinton grouping too. I suggest that you consider changing the banner-name to: The Working-Class Militant.

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 pay raise. The liberals don’t know much about the lives and times of people like me. If they did, they would not be so crazy about the Russian issues. I am pretty sure that the U.S. has done worse.

Joan Smith

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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