

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Women's liberation is vital part of working-class struggle for emancipation  
— PAGE 6-7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 42 NOVEMBER 12, 2018

## Join in denouncing Jew-hatred, a deadly threat to working class



Militant/Lorraine Starsky

Overflow crowd at Pittsburgh vigil called by students at Taylor Allderdice High School Oct. 27.

### Condemn massacre at Pittsburgh synagogue!

*This statement by Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, was released in Pittsburgh Oct. 28.*

### SWP STATEMENT

The Socialist Workers Party condemns the anti-Semitic assault and killing of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh Oct. 27. Working people and the entire labor movement should speak out against

Continued on page 4

### Tens of thousands protest anti-Semitic assault, killings

BY MALCOLM JARRETT

PITTSBURGH — Tens of thousands of people coast to coast — and around the world — attended vigils and other gatherings to protest the Oct. 27 murder of 11 Jews by ultra-rightist Robert Bowers at the Tree of Life synagogue here, one of the worst acts of Jew-hatred in the U.S. in decades.

In the weeks before Bowers carried out his murderous rampage at the synagogue in the historically Jewish Squirrel Hill neighborhood, he posted a series of anti-Semitic slurs on the

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## SWP: Push back limits on franchise Restore voting rights to ex-prisoners!

*This following statement was released Oct. 29 by Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida.*

The Socialist Workers Party calls on all working people and supporters of democratic rights to vote Nov. 6 in favor of Amendment 4 to restore the right to vote for many Florida workers who have served time on felony convictions. Over 1 million people signed petitions to place the amendment to the state constitution on the ballot, reflecting the depth of support for the measure. To pass, Florida law requires a supermajority of 60 percent of the vote.

More than 10 percent of Florida's adult population is barred from being able to vote. This includes 23 percent of the state's African-Americans.

After workers behind bars get out of prison today, they have to wait at least five years before they can even apply to Florida's Office of Executive



Militant/Charles Guerra

Steve Warshell, SWP candidate for US Senate

Clemency to get their voting rights back. It takes years before petitions are heard and there's a growing waiting list.

Since 2011, the number of disenfranchised convicted felons living in Florida has increased by almost 150,000 to over 1.6 million. Nationally, laws that restrict the franchise for ex-felons prohibit more than 6 million

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## Workers need unions, solidarity, a labor party Vote Socialist Workers Party in 2018

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters are taking advantage of the last days before the Nov. 6 midterm elections to step up campaigning. They are presenting a course of struggle and independent working-class political action for workers and farmers against the blows inflicted on us by the crisis wracking the

own party, a labor party, that can fight to bring workers and farmers to power.

SWP campaigners are knocking on doors in cities and towns across the country, engaging workers in discussion and debate about how we can defend our

### SWP SPEAKS IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

capitalist system today.

The SWP campaign stands in sharp contrast to the Democratic and Republican parties, that try to convince working people that the dog-eat-dog capitalist system is as good as it gets, and saturate the airwaves with vitriolic attacks on one another.

The SWP appeals for workers' votes, but, more importantly, encourages them to join efforts to unify the working class by participating in labor battles and struggles that break out today. The party calls for building the unions, transforming them into instruments controlled by the rank and file and used to bring together the entire working class. Workers need our



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Róger Calero, SWP candidate for New York governor, discusses how to fight effects of capitalist economic, social crisis on working people with Rosa Vasquez in Brooklyn. "Struggle is the road to build a labor party," he said.

class interests and become stronger and more confident in the process.

The discussions with workers won't come to a halt after Nov. 6. The party,

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## US capitalist rulers seek bloc against Tehran amid Middle East rivalries

BY TERRY EVANS

Longstanding rifts between the capitalist rulers of Saudi Arabia and Turkey have been further exposed following the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, an Islamist opponent of the Saudi government, inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. The U.S. rulers are determined to prevent disputes over the gruesome slaying of Khashoggi from undermining efforts of Washington and its Mideast allies to drive back the Iranian rulers' growing military and political influence.

After emerging as the victor from the second imperialist world war, Washington replaced London as the dominant power in the Middle East. For decades the U.S. rulers relied on its relations with the shah of Iran, the Saudi monarchy and the rulers of Israel to help maintain their domination and hold in check struggles by working people and oppressed nationalities there.

Though its coffers were swelled by oil profits, the Saudi monarchy was the

weakest of these bastions of support for the U.S. propertied owners, because it rested on pre-capitalist social relations. It has only recently begun efforts to end

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Solidarity boosts Kentucky concrete workers strike 5



# US seeks bloc against Tehran

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its dependence on oil rents and drive forward industrial development and trade. Washington's domination of the region was dealt a huge blow in 1979 when revolutionary mobilizations of working people in Iran overthrew the hated tyranny of the shah. The capitalist class salvaged its rule through a counterrevolution carried out by the cleric-led regime, but it was never able to put a stop to working-class resistance. Washington has never replaced the shah as a stable bulwark of its interests in the region.

The U.S. rulers — mistakenly believing they “won” the Cold War when the Soviet Union imploded in 1991 — have since waged a series of wars that furthered the breakup of the imperialist order in the region. They backed the Saddam Hussein government of Iraq in its bloody but unsuccessful invasion of Iran in the 1980s, then waged two wars against the people of Iraq, eventually overturning Saddam's rule in 2003, and are now embroiled in the seven-year-long civil war in Syria.

This conflict — which grew out of a popular rebellion that was put down in blood by the dictatorial Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad — created a vacuum that the reactionary Islamic State stepped into, drew in Moscow's forces and air power, and opened the door to Tehran's expanded reach. It also created space for the rise of the Kurdish national struggle in Syria and across the region.

Today Washington is seeking to shore up a broader alliance to drive the Iranian rulers' military forces and Tehran-backed Islamist militias out of Syria and Iraq.

These developments are part of broad

shifts in world politics unfolding today that are busting apart the institutions and alliances that have marked our lifetimes. NATO, the U.N., related groups like the World Court, the European Union are all fraying at the seams.

### Challenges to US rulers' sway

In this context, the U.S. rulers see growing challenges to their sway, particularly by the explosive economic expansion by the bosses in China. But Washington remains the dominant world capitalist power — economically, politically and militarily. The Pentagon has some 54,000 troops deployed in military bases across the Mideast, along with hundreds of bombers and jets and a substantial naval fleet.

The U.S. Navy boasts 20 aircraft carriers. By contrast, the U.K., which the U.S. replaced as the dominant sea power, has two. Berlin, the strongest capitalist power in Europe, has zero. Beijing and Moscow each have one. And Moscow's Admiral Kuznetsov carrier, which had been used to shell rebels in Syria, was damaged Oct. 30 during repairs in Murmansk.

Conflicts between the Saudi and Turkish rulers have intensified in recent years. Khashoggi was an ally of Ankara and a defender of the Muslim Brotherhood, a bourgeois, Islamist current that has won some support across the Mideast after the discrediting of Arab nationalist and Stalinist parties over decades. He shared a common political perspective with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — rebuilding a Middle East power like the former Ottoman Empire. Erdogan proclaims Turkey is “the only country that can lead the Muslim world.”



Protest in Mashhad, Iran, last December against living conditions and mounting deaths from Tehran's military intervention in Syria and Iraq. Protests spread to 90 other cities and towns.

This clashes with the perspectives of the Saudi ruling family. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has derided Erdogan's government as part of a “triangle of evil” alongside Tehran and the Islamic State.

Both Ankara and Riyadh have expanded their military intervention in the region, especially in Syria, as they jostle for political and economic influence. The Saudi rulers have deepened their relations with Washington, while the Turkish rulers have increasingly come into conflict with the U.S. rulers, especially over the Kurdish national question and increased collaboration with Moscow.

While the Saudi rulers have sought to stifle the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood across the region, including banning it at home, the Turkish rulers have supported the group.

Sanctions targeting the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the extensive busi-

ness empire it controls were adopted by Washington Oct. 16. Far more extensive sanctions on Iran will go into effect Nov. 5, as the U.S. rulers seek to force Tehran into new negotiations. Governments around the world, including those that oppose Washington's measures, feel compelled to comply with them, and are largely doing so. Beijing announced it will halt its oil purchases from Iran.

The impact of the sanctions will fall hardest on working people, who face mounting deaths and suffering from the impact of wars Tehran has waged in Syria and Iraq. The price of milk has doubled since last year and tomatoes have gone up fivefold.

The Iranian rulers faced widespread working-class-led protests against these wars earlier this year, as well as recent protests across southern Iraq demanding an end to Tehran's political and military intervention across the region.

Teachers in several Iranian cities organized a 48-hour strike Oct. 14-15, Kurdistan 24 news channel reported, demanding higher pay, the release of imprisoned unionists and the right to teach in Kurdish and other languages spoken across the country.

### For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

- For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act
- For workers' solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

**Socialist Workers Party statement**

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# THE MILITANT

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*Progress in talks for denuclearization of Korean Peninsula and restart of program for families divided by Korean War to meet show potential for reunification of Korea. The 'Militant' explains why workers should back removal of U.S. troops, end to Washington's sanctions.*

Family divided since Korean War meets.

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Workers need our own party

Continued from front page and sister Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. are at the halfway point in an eight-week drive to sell 1,400 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 1,400 books by party leaders. As part of the drive, the SWP is also working to raise a party-building fund of \$100,000.

Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, was one of a number of party candidates who joined in vigils and protests against the Oct. 27 anti-Semitic attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue. She spoke at a vigil sponsored by the Dallas Peace and Justice Center the next day.

“We call on all working people and the unions to speak out against this and all acts of Jew-hatred,” Kennedy told the protesters. “History tells us that Jew-hatred rises in time of capitalist crisis. The bosses use it to divert workers from fighting their real enemy — capitalism.”

Maria Pecina first met the SWP in Dallas when party members knocked on her door and introduced themselves.



Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, speaks with SEIU union member Alva Rodriguez in Selma, California.

Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 (Week 3)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	115	40	115	25
Atlanta	85	37	85	21
Chicago	115	55	115	47
Dallas	50	28	50	17
Lincoln	15	9	15	7
Los Angeles	125	42	125	16
Louisville	30	10	30	10
Miami	40	6	40	14
New Jersey	35	6	35	7
New York	110	44	110	27
Oakland	85	28	85	16
Philadelphia	55	13	55	22
Pittsburgh	15	2	15	3
Seattle	90	28	90	17
Twin Cities	65	14	65	24
Washington	80	27	80	38
Total U.S.	1,110	389	1,110	311
Prisoners	25	9		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	60	30	60	19
Manchester	50	20	50	13
Total U.K.	110	50	110	32
CANADA				
Montreal	50	16	50	9
Vancouver	45	11	45	13
Total Canada	95	27	95	22
New Zealand	40	19	30	7
Australia	30	11	15	1
Total	1,410	505	1,360	373
SHOULD BE	1,400	525	1,400	525

Growing up she worked in the fields with her parents and got to like the idea of workers standing up for better conditions, which they did. She got a subscription to the *Militant* and bought *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Kennedy set up a dinner with Pecina last week to see what she thought of the party after reading about its views and activities, and to tell her about the party-building fund. “I like to support people who want to make a difference,” she told Kennedy. “I like that you stand for something that you believe in.” She renewed her subscription, bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes, and pledged \$100 for the fund.

Róger Calero, SWP candidate for New York governor, and party member Seth Galinsky talked with Rosa Vasquez, a retired preschool cook, at her apartment door in the Bushwick area of Brooklyn Oct. 25. She liked the SWP message about the working class fighting to defend its interests.

“She listened carefully when we said workers need our own party, a labor party based on the unions,” Galinsky said. “And that we need to break out of the framework of lesser-evil politics.”

Vasquez said that she intended to back the Democrats, but that she really believed that none of the politicians are on side of working people. “You have a point on these politicians all being the same,” she said. She signed up for a *Militant* subscription to follow the party and its campaigns.

Harry D’Agostino, a musician from Albany and the SWP candidate for lieutenant governor of New York, stopped in Louisville Oct. 26 as he was returning from a road trip. He joined SWP members to visit a picket line of Teamster union members on strike against Allied Ready Mix.

“Earlier this month, my campaign supporters walked the picket line of striking school bus drivers in Providence, Rhode Island,” D’Agostino told Allied striker Derrick Rowe. “They won their fight against attacks on their retirement. When workers fight back against the indignities we face from the bosses and their government, we begin building the confidence and experience we’ll need as a class to win bigger battles to come.”

Rowe decided to buy two books — *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* by Barnes.

“It’s not just the best coverage of our strike out there,” Eddie Pirrmann, an-



Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, speaking at vigil in Dallas protesting anti-Semitic attack in Pittsburgh. “Unions should speak out against Jew-hatred,” she said.

other picket, told SWP campaigners, explaining why he subscribes to the *Militant*. “This paper talks about the struggles of workers all around the world. Where else can you get that?”

Amnesty for immigrants!

In California SWP candidates are campaigning with a statement, “Amnesty for immigrants! Unite, organize all workers!” It describes how the Teamsters union that is fighting to win recognition for truckers at the Port of Los Angeles combined their October three-day strike with a protest against threatened deportation of immigrants. Some of these workers are truckers and union supporters whose Temporary Protected Status is under attack by the White House.

Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California, and his supporters took the campaign to the Sun-Maid plant gate near Fresno, where workers recently ended a strike. Many stopped their cars for discussions and 26 got copies of the *Militant*.

The SWP campaigners also knocked on doors in nearby Selma, where Richter spoke with plumber Dicky Gonzales and his wife Melissa Ocampo, a waitress whose aunt had been on strike against Sun-Maid.

“I’ve punched the clock since I was 15,” Gonzales told Richter. “I didn’t vote, but I leaned toward Trump because he was for small businesses and a better economy. He said he wasn’t against immigrants, but they need to work. He talked more about the working class than Clinton.”

“The majority of workers aren’t for deporting immigrants,” Richter said. “The SWP explains why amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S.

is in the interests of the working class and unites us.

“We don’t call for open borders, it’s utopian and dangerous under capitalism,” Richter said. “We support building a powerful working-class movement to bring solidarity to all workers struggling to make a living, here and abroad — from the Sun-Maid strike to the 77-day strike of Chiquita workers in Honduras earlier this year.”

“If you’ve never had to struggle to put food on the table, you can’t talk about what it is to struggle,” Gonzales said. “That’s why I haven’t voted for years.”

“We need our own party, and fighting unions,” Richter replied. “A labor party would fight against Washington’s wars,” he told the couple, who said they have several relatives who are veterans. “More than 2 million workers have cycled through the 18-year Afghanistan War and the U.S. rulers’ wars in Iraq, all fought in the interests of the handful of billionaire capitalist families. My campaign calls for withdrawal of all U.S. troops from the Mideast and Korea.”

They said they really appreciated the discussion and the literature.

Vote for the SWP candidates Nov. 6! Join the SWP’s ongoing campaign to extend the reach of the *Militant*, books by party leaders and to reach the \$100,000 goal of the party-building fund. To get involved, contact a party branch near you (see list on page 8).

Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 (Week 3)			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Albany	\$6,000	\$1,670	28%
Atlanta	\$9,500	\$2,100	22%
Chicago	\$11,000	\$1,275	12%
Dallas	\$2,500	\$470	19%
Lincoln	\$225	\$103	46%
Los Angeles	\$10,000	\$1,150	12%
Louisville	\$800	\$0	0%
Miami	\$3,500	\$450	13%
New York	\$14,000	\$4,385	31%
N. New Jersey	\$2,500	\$560	22%
Oakland	\$12,500	\$4,175	33%
Philadelphia	\$3,000	\$400	13%
Pittsburgh	\$300	\$0	0%
Seattle	\$10,000	\$1,794	18%
Twin Cities*	\$4,800	\$305	6%
Washington	\$6,750	\$1,405	21%
Other	\$1,350	\$0	0%
Total	\$98,725	\$20,242	20%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$37,500	38%
* Raised goal			

Join Socialist Workers Party campaigns!

**California**  
Laura Garza, Governor  
Dennis Richter, US Senate  
Carole Lesnick, US Congress,13th CD

**Florida**  
Steven Warshell, US Senate

**Georgia**  
Rachele Fruit, Governor

**Illinois**  
Dan Fein, Governor

**Maryland**  
James Harris, US Senate

**Minnesota**  
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David Rosenfeld, Governor

**New Jersey**  
Vivian Sahnner, US Senate

**New York**  
Róger Calero, Governor  
Margaret Trowe, US Senate  
Harry D’Agostino, Lt. Governor  
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**Pennsylvania**  
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



# Jew-hatred threat to workers

Continued from front page

this attack, and offer solidarity with the Jewish community here.

Robert Bowers, who was arrested for the killings, posted numerous threats against Jews and denunciations of Jewish organizations for their support to immigrants and refugees seeking asylum in the United States. Bowers attacked President Trump for being under the control of Jews.

This kind of Jew-hatred, and its murderous consequences, rises to the surface in times of crisis under capitalism, as class tensions sharpen. The scapegoating of Jews for economic and social problems is a deadly threat to the working class. It is used to turn working people away from challenging the roots of the carnage we face — the dog-eat-dog private-profit system that Democrats and Republicans work to uphold. Ultimately capitalist rulers use anti-Semitism to try to crush the labor movement and impose dictatorial rule when they determine it is the only way to save their system from the working class taking political power.

There is no broad expansion of rightist or fascist currents in the United States today. And the owners of industry and finance don't feel the need to turn to the goons and thugs of fascist gangs to preserve their class rule. They continue to rely on their Democratic and Republican parties, and their two-party shell game, to keep workers and others picking the "lesser evil." Much of today's anti-Semitism comes from the middle-class left, forces whose opposition to Israel carries over into broader Jew-hatred.

But history has shown capitalists will use Jew-hatred and fascist thuggery in increasingly organized and deadly ways as the decay and crisis of their system deepens. Attacks against Jews by isolated rightist outfits and individuals, like Bowers, will grow if not countered by the working class and its organizations. There is less racism, less anti-immigrant sentiment among working people today than at anytime in U.S. history.

Socialist Workers Party candidates campaign across the country uniting in struggle with anyone being scapegoated and victimized — Jews, Muslims, and immigrants. We oppose the U.S. government's attempts to use the killings in Pittsburgh to promote use of the death penalty. Our candidates are advancing a course to lead the working class and our allies to take power and begin organizing society in the interests of the vast majority.

In a statement issued last December by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, titled "For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel," the Socialist Workers Party explained, "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."...

"We are *for* whatever renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power."

Along those lines we join in fighting Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic attacks wherever and whenever they occur.

## 'One job should be enough,' Marriott hotel strikers say



Joe B. Yumang

EMERYVILLE, Calif. — The spirited strike of Marriott workers is in its fourth week at hotels in Boston, Detroit, Honolulu, San Diego and the Bay Area. "One job should be enough!" is their most popular chant. Low wages mean many workers have to work two or three jobs to get by. Other key issues include guaranteed hours, job security and affordable health care.

Hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE, joined picketing and a solidarity rally of hundreds of workers Oct. 24, during a three-day strike at a University of California San Francisco medical complex. Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in the U.C. system have been without a contract since December.

"When we got to the medical workers picket line, big cheers went up," Edgar Bayes, a housekeeper at the Oakland Marriott City Center hotel, told the *Militant*. The next day some 200 AFSCME strikers converged on the U.C. administration offices in Oakland across from the Marriott and joined the hotel workers picket line.

Strikers from the Oakland Marriott also picketed the nonunion Courtyard by Marriott here, above photo, Oct. 27, in response to Marriott bosses' attempts to recruit workers to serve as strikebreakers.

— JOEL BRITTON

# Tens of thousands join in protests against anti-Semitic attack, killings

Continued from front page

Gab internet site.

He had particular enmity for HIAS (originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), which helped resettle Jews in the U.S. for over a century and recently started aiding refugees, including Muslims and Arabs, from a wide variety of countries. They work with one of the congregations that meet at Tree of Life.

The last anti-Semitic screed he posted before taking an automatic rifle and three handguns and head-

ing to the synagogue said, "HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people. I can't stand by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics. I'm going in." As he started shooting, he reportedly yelled, "All Jews must die."

One of the first protest actions was a vigil organized by students from Taylor Allderdice, a public high school in Squirrel Hill, just hours after the shooting. Held at the Sixth Presbyterian Church, it drew over 3,000 people, filling the chapel to capacity. The

police closed nearby streets for the overflow crowd.

School officials had pressured students to not call the action. Emily Pressman, an Allderdice student said they refused, and that students said they needed to "act now."

"There is no excuse for what happened today," another student, Dakota Castro, told the *Militant*. "It's our job to fight it wherever it is."

Wasi Mohamed, executive director of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, spoke at the vigil. He announced the creation of Muslims United for Pittsburgh Synagogue, which has already raised \$210,000 to aid the Pittsburgh Jewish community in response to the tragedy.

The protests and commemorations around the world were marked by solidarity with victims of Jew-hatred and by a wide variety of explanations for the cause and solution for anti-Semitism.

Some 500 people attended a vigil at the JW3 Jewish community center in London Oct. 29 to protest the Pittsburgh attack. There has been an ongoing debate in the U.K. over Jew-hatred, especially by leaders of the Labour Party, under the guise of criticizing the state of Israel.

"What begins with Jews never ends with Jews," Marie van der Zyl, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, told the crowd.

Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, went to Pittsburgh after the massacre to express solidarity against Jew-hatred and explain the stakes involved for the working class.

"Working people and the entire labor movement should speak out against this attack, and offer solidarity with the Jewish community here," he said in a statement released there Oct. 28 and printed in this issue of the *Militant*. "The scapegoating of Jews for economic and social problems is a deadly threat to the working class. It is used to turn working people away from challenging the roots of the carnage we face — the dog-eat-dog private-profit system that Democrats and Republicans work to uphold."

This mass shooting came at a time when we see an increase worldwide in anti-Semitic attacks, a result of the sharpening class tensions under the crisis of capitalism.

## Liberals say problem is Trump

Liberals blame President Donald Trump, saying his politics spawn racism and division. They also blame the workers who elected him, saying they are all racists and reactionaries.

Some members and leaders of the Pittsburgh chapter of Bend the Arc, a Jewish group organized to be part of the Democratic Party liberals' "resistance" against Trump, issued an open letter claiming that the attack "is the direct culmination of your influence."

"Anti-Semitism and the widespread persecution of Jews represents one of the ugliest and darkest features of human history," President Trump told the convention of Future Farmers of America in Indianapolis Oct. 27. "The vile, hate-filled poison of anti-Semitism must be condemned and confronted everywhere and anywhere

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# Women workers in Glasgow lead battle to win equal pay

BY ANNE HOWIE

GLASGOW, Scotland — Chanting “What do we want? Equal pay. When do we want it? Now!” Some 8,000 workers, mainly women, marched here Oct. 23 on the first day of a two-day strike. School cleaners, cooks and teaching assistants, home-care workers and others — members of Unison and GMB trade unions — were striking to demand Glasgow City Council, their boss, pay them for years of being paid less than workers in predominantly male jobs. There are workers like them all across the country.

The day started with lively and well-attended picket lines throughout the city. Hundreds of primary schools and nurseries were shut down.

As the marchers made their way to George Square, bus and other drivers blew horns in support. Other workers left their jobs and lined the streets applauding. Bridget Farren, a social care worker and Unison member not on strike, joined the rally on her lunch break. “If we’re divided it’s harder to fight,” she told the *Militant*. “We all need to stand together.”

“This is a fight for all,” said Kevin Connolly, a Unison member at a school support center. “We have a common enemy in the council executive.”

The cleansing department — 600 street sweepers, refuse collectors and road workers, mainly male members of the GMB — refused to cross picket lines, bringing work to a halt for two days. The council threatened legal action against the union.

## Long-running battle

The dispute over equal pay is a long-running fight. Last year the Court of Session, Scotland’s highest civil court, ruled in favor of women workers who had argued that both the council’s 2006 Workforce Pay and Benefits Review and the previous pay structure discriminated against women. The 2006 review supposedly eliminated unequal pay, and was signed off by union officials.

But it didn’t stop pay discrimination. Workers contracted for more than 37 hours a week qualified for higher pay. While women make up 70 percent of the council workforce, the vast majority works less than 35 hours. The pay differential is around £3 per hour (\$3.85).

Because of union endorsement of the pay review, thousands of women were forced to turn to the courts, demanding they get the higher rates and back pay as well. “I first made a claim for equal pay in 2006,” Ann Walker, a member of the GMB, told the *Militant*. “I have two jobs to make a living, both with the council — as a classroom assistant at St Joseph’s Primary School and at a special needs school. If I had equal pay, I’d only need one.” Many other women described having to work two or even three jobs.

The previous Labour Party-controlled city administration fought workers in the courts. Last year the Scottish National Party won control of the council, in part because they pledged to settle the dispute. But 10 months of talks and 21 meetings have failed to produce a settlement.

The fight in Glasgow is part of a broader picture of challenges to second-class pay rates for women throughout the U.K. Many other local councils have been forced to settle. In Birmingham,

women workers won a payout totaling £1 billion. Another legal challenge could affect 200,000, mainly female, Tesco supermarket workers. Similar actions are underway against Sainsbury’s and Asda supermarkets.

The Equal Pay Act became law in the U.K. in 1970, a direct result of a 1968 strike by women workers at Ford Motor Company. But the pay gap remains today, although it has narrowed.

The Glasgow strike is being closely watched by workers and bosses alike.

At the rally, striker after striker got up to tell their stories.

Janice Robertson, a Support For Learning worker, said, “They dangled a carrot in front of us 12 years ago, then they withdrew it and said they would negotiate. Now they want to dangle the carrot again. We’re here to say that carrots are for donkeys.”

## Solidarity boosts Ky. concrete workers strike

BY STEVE PACKARD  
AND JACQUIE HENDERSON

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The strike by concrete workers at Allied Ready Mix here remains solid as the workers begin their fourth week of picketing. The 48 striking drivers, mechanics, loader operators and batchmakers, members of Teamsters Local 89, report that the bosses haven’t tried to run production or haul out any concrete.

The workers went on strike Oct. 8, after rejecting the bosses’ “final offer” that would cut health care, vacations, overtime and pensions, with steeper reductions for new hires.

“The company’s done some cleanup but nothing has moved since we’ve been out,” Kevin Bradshaw told us while picketing Oct. 26. “We’re here every day, so we know.”

Support for the workers has grown each week, even though no local media have mentioned the strike since the first day. In addition to support from workers in the Butchertown area near the plant, unionists from factories in Kentucky



Militant/Anne Howie

During two-day strike for equal pay, local council workers in Glasgow, Scotland, mostly women, win support of fellow trade unionists Oct. 23. Male co-workers wouldn’t cross picket lines.

Supporters of the *Militant* went door to door in the working-class Polmadie area after the rally. Every worker we spoke to backed the strike. “I’m with the strikers all the way,” Joe

McTeer, a private-hire cabbie, said. Pointing to coverage in the *Militant* of Uber drivers’ protests in London, he added, “Taxi drivers need to stand together too.”

and Indiana, along with workers in retail who don’t yet have unions, have brought supplies to the strikers, messages of support and joined in picketing. This week UPS workers, fellow members of Local 89, joined the picket line.

“We already pay high premiums for our family insurance. If they get away with doubling them it will be hard for any of us to cover the cost,” said Eddie Pirrmann, a shop steward.

“And their proposed contract doesn’t even offer new hires the option of family coverage,” he said. “That’s bad for the new workers, but terrible for all of us.

“Six years ago, when they were facing bankruptcy,” Pirrmann said, “they made us take concessions, saying we had to ‘keep the company alive.’ We’re still suffering from those cuts and they’re making big profits.”

Striker Travis Cress, a maintenance worker, agreed. “Health care for my young children is the main reason I’m out here,” he said. He also noted that another big issue is safety.

“In my six years here I’ve seen them

cut so many corners, it’s crazy!” said Curtis Banks. “It’s like a death trap walking around the plant. There’s the lack of guard rails, having to walk across wooden planks, and trucks that leak hydraulic fluid and run on bad tires.”

“They are trying to put the squeeze on,” Bradshaw said. “I called them about the 120 hours of vacation pay they owe me. They told me that once they get their electric bill paid they’ll see what’s left.”

“There are rumors going around that Allied is trying to sell the plant,” Jonathan James said. “But that doesn’t mean anything different for us. We have no contract. They want us to give them big concessions and come back to work. We’re on this picket line until we get the contract we need.”

“This is what you look for in life, brotherhood, right out here on the line,” striker Randall Carnell said.

Messages of support and contributions can be sent to: Teamsters Local 89, 3813 Taylor Blvd., Louisville, KY 40215. Attn: Allied Ready Mix Strike. Email: teamsters89@aol.com

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 15, 1993

In response to the 24 killings in the past two weeks all working people should demand that the British troops get out of Ireland now. The occupation forces are engaged in a dirty war to defend the interests of the capitalists of London, Dublin and Belfast. As part of that war they arm and give intelligence to the rightist street gangs of the Ulster Defence Association. The Royal Ulster Constabulary cops are the greatest source of violence.

The big-business press in Britain describes the carnage in the streets of working-class neighborhoods of Northern Ireland as “tribal warfare.” The implication is that the British government is needed to “civilize” the unruly natives. But the escalating murders of the last months are neither “tribal” nor an ancient religious conflict. What’s involved are modern social classes struggling to defend their interests.



November 15, 1968

[President] Johnson’s decision to halt the bombing of North Vietnam and to include the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front in the Paris negotiations was an election-eve gimmick to swing votes behind Hustling Hubert [Humphrey], an attempt to placate mounting antiwar sentiment.

Now is no time for people in the antiwar movement to think that their job is over. It is clear that Washington will continue to attempt to impose its will on the people of Vietnam both on the battlefield and at the conference table. Washington has no business being in Vietnam and the only way to real peace is to withdraw U.S. forces immediately.

Antiwar activists must intensify their efforts to reach GIs and to build an ever more massive and powerful movement that can finally force the warmakers in Washington to bring the GIs home, alive and immediately.



November 13, 1943

The miners have won! The miners have breached the Little Steel formula. They have repulsed the autocratic and arbitrary pretensions of the War Labor Board that no settlement would be approved while a strike is in progress. The miners have proven again that a determined militant fight is worth more than all the resolutions. The agreement that the United Mine Workers signed is virtually the same as the last Illinois contract, previously rejected by the WLB.

Early in struggle, Roosevelt personally assumed the generalship in the fight to housebreak the miners’ union. He used against them the vast resources of the capitalist state, and of his own virtually unlimited war-time powers. He threatened the miners with troops, with the draft, with jail. But the miners remained undismayed and they continued to hold their ground.



# ‘Women’s liberation is a vital part of the working-class struggle for emancipation’

## Manila book meetings discuss women’s oppression, working-class course forward

BY RON POULSEN  
AND JANET ROTH

MANILA, Philippines — “It’s not a struggle of women against men or men against women. The fight to end all forms of discrimination and degradation of women is a *class* question. Few issues are more important to the working class as we fight along the road to the emancipation of all humanity,” Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States and president of Pathfinder Press, said Sept. 15. She was the keynote speaker at two meetings here presenting the book *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, authored by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed and Waters herself.

The first meeting was a panel at the Manila International Book Fair, where Pathfinder had a booth for the first time in several decades. (See article in Oct. 29 *Militant* issue.) Another of Pathfinder’s most popular titles, *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* by Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sio Wong, was also presented at this event. The other meeting was five days later at the University of the Philippines.

In chairing the book fair presentations, Ron Poulsen of Pathfinder Books and the Communist League in Australia explained why “these two books so seemingly unconnected” were being discussed together. “They bring to life the social forces involved, and the course needed, to politically strengthen and unify the working class to make a socialist revolution, as shown by the Cuban Revolution. Both explain how advancing the involvement and status of millions of women is an acid test for any revolutionary leadership.”

“*Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* contains thought-provoking content on how the economic and social insecurities of women are exploited by the ruling class for profit,”

said panelist Shaira Mae Embate. A recent graduate from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, she is actively involved in political issues from women’s rights to defense of the Cuban Revolution.

In addition to Embate and Waters, the panel featured two other speakers — Teresita Ang See, founder of the Kaisa [Chinese] Heritage Center in Manila and a founding leader of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas; and Ana Maria “Princess” Nemenzo, coordinator of Woman-Health Philippines, convener of the Dignidad electoral coalition, and a leading member of the Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association.

Ang See contrasted the different historical circumstances in which significant numbers of Chinese came to Cuba and the Philippines. In the mid-19th century, Chinese were brought as “coolies” — indentured laborers — to

**“It’s not a struggle of women against men or men against women. The fight to end the discrimination and degradation of women is a class question . . .” — Mary-Alice Waters**

toil in Cuba’s sugar plantations, she said. In the Philippines, however, “Chinese didn’t come primarily as part of the laboring class but as traders and merchants.” Pointing to the advances made in uprooting discrimination against Chinese in Cuba, as shown in *Our History Is Still Being Written*, she noted, “The overall success of the socialist revolution [in Cuba] meant everyone was accepted as part of the national society.”

Adding to Ang See’s remarks, Waters said, “Cuba is the only country in the world where there is no discrimination against descendants of overseas Chinese. The *only* one! Before the Cu-



ban Revolution, Chinese there were discriminated against as they are in all other countries where large numbers of Chinese settled.

“As Sio Wong says in the book, the reason why Cuba is different from all other countries today is that working people made a genuine socialist revolution in Cuba,” she said. “They eliminated capitalist exploitation, which is the source of that discrimination.”

### Capitalist ‘beauty’ standards

Embate, with some humor, related some of her own experiences. “At a very young age, most Filipinas start to believe that being beautiful means having whiter skin and a pointed nose. It’s a huge contradiction to what the organic Filipina looks like — with our *kayumanggi* or *morena* [tan or darker] skin color and our not-so-pointed noses.” These social pressures had led her to use skin-whitening products when she was younger, Embate said.

“The unachievable ‘beauty’ standards and the constant pressure on women from advertisements and mass marketing to look a certain way are just one of the many prejudices, fetishes and, as Evelyn Reed puts it in her book, ‘indigestible baits’ of capitalist society to keep us women from taking our rightful place in the revolutionary fight for freedom against the oppressive system that is capitalism.”

Princess Nemenzo, as she is known to everyone, said that she had read some of Reed’s writings decades earlier. “There is no denying that women’s oppression started with the emergence of private property relations when women also became property,” she said. But there is a “continuing debate in the women’s movement over what keeps women oppressed,” with some feminists arguing it comes from a “patriarchal system making women subservient to men.”

“In the labor force we don’t get the same pay and conditions,” she added.

“If biology was women’s destiny we would be confined to the four corners of the house. We’re not baby machines. It is important for us to have control of

our reproductive lives,” said Nemenzo.

Concluding the panel talks, Waters said, “Pathfinder has published both these books for the same reason — because they are needed by working people the world over. They help arm us with knowledge of revolutionary struggles of the working class and the political foundations necessary to prepare us to meet the great historical challenge of our epoch — putting an end to the dictatorship of capital.”

She pointed to the Cuban Revolution as “the clearest political example of what the revolutionary mobilization of the working class and its allies can accomplish.”

### Why do we feel inferior?

A lively discussion followed the talks at the book fair event. The first speaker stated, “Filipinos hate ourselves — we want to change the color of our skin, our noses, our accent, and rush to leave the country whenever possible. We’re from different ethnic groups. How can we live together and have respect for each other?” This “national inferiority” theme was later echoed in various ways by other participants.

“We’re not born hating ourselves,” Embate answered. “I never thought my skin color was a problem but everything around me told me it was. It’s the capitalist system that makes us feel inferior and prospers if we hate who we are.

“Our struggle is not in any way different from the struggles of working-class people in other countries,” she added. “We may be born in different countries but our experiences are similar.”

Fredda Ruth Rosete, a young Filipina, asked: “I want to be fashionable and to look attractive to the opposite sex. I’ve been told I’m contributing to my own oppression. Is that true?”

“The answer is no!” Waters replied. “But we have to be conscious of the pressures on us generated by the capitalist system and not let that determine our lives. To get a job we not only have to sell our labor power, we have to sell ourselves, to dress the way the bosses demand. But we don’t have to adapt to their values. We have to understand and fight to change class society that so hor-



Sept. 15 meeting at Manila International Book Fair. Above, from left, Shaira Mae Embate, active in defense of women’s rights and Cuban Revolution; chair Ron Poulsen; Teresita Ang See, founder of Chinese Heritage Center; Ana Maria Nemenzo, Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association; and Mary-Alice Waters, leader of Socialist Workers Party and president of Pathfinder Press. Far left, Fredda Ruth Rosete during discussion period.

ribly distorts all human relations.”

“In class society it is the ruling class that defines what is beautiful,” Waters added. “They try to impose their morals on all of us. It goes without saying that they see workers as stupid, ugly and immoral.” *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* helps us understand “that if women’s oppression began with the rise of class society it has not existed for all time,” she said. “If it had a beginning, it will also have an end. And that is what we’re fighting for.”

### U.S. class struggle

Another participant commented that he’s heard many Filipinos working in the U.S. are backward politically and are supporters of President Donald Trump. “Filipinos in the U.S. are overwhelmingly working class,” Waters responded. “The liberal bourgeoisie and well-off petty-bourgeois layers consider that anyone who voted for Trump is backward, and a racist to boot.”

“Look at what has happened to the working class in the United States in the last decade and more — from the loss of jobs, homes, pensions, to the toll on working people taken by the wars, the opioid drug crisis, the highest incarceration rate in the world, the deepening class divisions. These things are often not seen from outside the U.S.,” the SWP leader said.

“Millions of working people — of all races and nationalities — refused

to vote for Hillary Clinton because they identified her correctly with the policies of all the previous administrations — Democrat and Republican alike — that they held responsible for the devastation of their lives and livelihoods,” she said. “While Clinton contemptuously referred to workers who wouldn’t vote for her as ‘a basket of deplorables,’ Trump — a billionaire — presented himself as an outsider who would tear down the political establishment and reverse all that. He demagogically posed as a champion of working people. Not true! But that’s why he won the election.”

“When we go door to door in working class neighborhoods talking to people about what our class needs to do to confront the crisis we face, there is no difference in the response we get from workers who voted for Trump, or Clinton, or refused to vote for either one,” Waters said.

Embate said she saw similarities between the election of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and of Trump. “People here were tired and hurting after 30 years of failed promises by liberal politicians that followed the fall of the Marcos dictatorship. They saw the poverty that is even more rampant now,” she said.

“Duterte steered this frustration, this looking for change. We saw the same thing with Trump.”

### Fighting together

The second meeting to present *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* was held Sept. 20 at the University of the Philippines. Waters was joined on the speakers’ platform by Janet Roth from the Communist League in New Zealand.

The event was organized by the Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association and the Program on Alternative Development at UP. Eduardo Climaco Tadem, convener of the program, opened the meeting and welcomed the guests.

Roth told of her experiences in the 1980s when members of the Communist League in New Zealand were among a layer of women who fought their way into the more skilled and higher-paid jobs in the meatworks there. The bosses’ divisive policy was

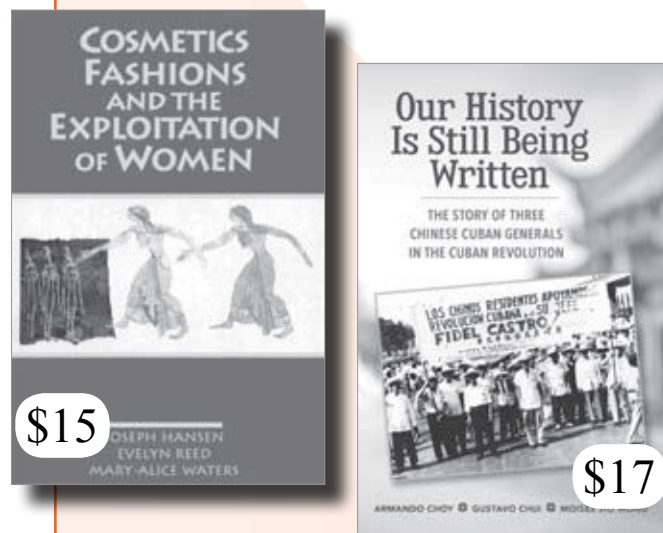
**“Many women believe they can eliminate discrimination by reforming capitalism and shaming men. But we’re fighting to end capitalism, not put Band-Aids on it . . .”**

to keep these jobs exclusively for men to stoke backward prejudices among some men and keep the workforce divided.

“But women and men fought together to combat discrimination against women and we strengthened our union in the process,” she said. “When we faced harassment from bosses or sometimes male co-workers, we turned to our fellow workers and won many of them and the union to support us. We fought back together. And together we succeeded.”



From left, Janet Roth, Communist League of New Zealand; Mary-Alice Waters; and Ana Maria Nemenzo on panel at Sept. 20 roundtable at University of Philippines on *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*. Above, participants in event. “Women and men fought together to combat discrimination against women” as women entered industrial jobs, noted Roth. “And we strengthened our union in the process.”



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# How fight to end Vietnam War transformed politics in US

*Below is an excerpt from Out Now! A Participant's Account of the Movement in the U.S. Against the Vietnam War by Fred Halstead. It is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. The book describes how this growing movement from the early 1960s to mid-1970s refuted the U.S. rulers' rationales for their imperialist war and mobilized opposition to it; reached out to GIs speaking out against racism and the war; deeply affected the working class; and helped force Washington to bring the troops home. The piece below is from the "Afterword." Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FRED HALSTEAD

The Second Indochina War was the first in the epoch of American imperialism in which the United States went down to defeat. After emerging victorious from the Spanish-American War and two world wars, then encountering a stalemate in Korea, the Pentagon's military machine was ignominiously evicted from Vietnam, thanks to the persevering struggle of the Indochinese plus the antiwar resistance of the American people. This was the most sustained and, except for Russia in 1905 and 1917, the most effective antiwar movement within any big power while the shooting was



Militant/Howard Petrick  
Vietnam War veterans march from Morristown, New Jersey, to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Sept. 4-7, 1970, to oppose Washington's Indochina War, demand all GIs be brought home now.

going on.

The official propagandists cooked up various formulas to justify their military intervention. It was depicted as a crusade for democracy and freedom against the threat of communist totalitarianism and for the defense of the independence of the South against invasion from the North. The U.S. was there, it was said, to fulfill treaty obligations to the client Saigon regime and thwart the expansionism of China and the Soviet Union. Toward the end the excuses became exceedingly thin: to assure the return of the POWs; to prevent a bloodbath in the South if the NLF should take over completely; to protect U.S. troops as they were withdrawn. All this was demagoguery.

In reality, U.S. intervention had a thoroughly imperialistic character. The colossus of world capitalism hurled its military might without provocation against a small and divided colonial nation thousands of miles away struggling for self-determination and unification. A series of American presidents sought to do what King George III's empire failed to do against the rebel patriots of 1776.

On one side was a state armed to the teeth promoting the strategic aims and material interests of the corpo-

rate rich on the global arena; on the other was a worker and peasant uprising heading toward the overthrow of capitalist power and property, despite the limited political program of its leadership. ...

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the total number of American military personnel engaged at one time or another in the Southeast Asian war—including bases in Thailand and elsewhere and on ships at sea—was over eight million. This was more than half the number of Americans engaged in World War II (8,744,000 compared with 16,112,566). Over three million Americans were sent to Vietnam itself. Sixty thousand were killed, 46,000 of these in combat; and 300,000 were wounded. (The ratio of seriously wounded and permanently disabled to killed, incidentally, was much higher among Americans in Vietnam than in previous wars, owing largely to advanced techniques of removing casualties quickly to hospitals.)

The Indochinese were killed in the hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, and their lands devastated. The Pentagon dropped more bomb tonnage on the relatively small area of Indochina than had been dropped anywhere in the world in all previous

Wars combined.

The direct dollar cost to the U.S. in South Vietnam alone was \$141 billion. This was more than \$7,000 for each of the area's 20 million inhabitants, whose per capita income was only \$157 per year. The collateral expenditures amounted to far more. Economists correctly link the rapid inflation of the late 1960s to the large federal deficits resulting from U.S. spending for the Vietnam War.

Most Americans today regard this as a colossal waste of lives and wealth in a shameful war. But the Pentagon strategists make a different assessment. To be sure, they did not cover themselves with glory or succeed in crushing the Vietnamese revolution and retaining a staging area for U.S. operations in the region. But they did hold back the advancement of the colonial revolution in Vietnam for a decade and a half. That was part of their job of policing the world for American big business, its multinational companies, and its clients in Japan and elsewhere. ...

[T]he antiwar agitation and mass mobilizations ... changed the political face of the United States and motivated a healthy distrust of the rulers in Washington that bore fruit in the Watergate revelations and their sequels.

It broke the fever of the anticommunist hysteria and weakened the efficacy of the "red scares" that have been used as a weapon against any challenge to the status quo.

It challenged and changed the stereotyped image of GIs as obedient pawns of the brass immunized against dissenting currents within the civilian population. ...

The American movement against the Vietnam War knocked a gaping hole in the theory that because of its control over the military, the police, the economy, and the tremendously effective modern media, the ruling class could get away with anything so long as there was some degree of prosperity. The antiwar movement started with nothing but leaflets. But it proved that people can think for themselves if the issue touches them deeply enough, technology notwithstanding. In human affairs there is still nothing so powerful as an idea and a movement whose time has come.

November

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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# Restore voting rights to Fla. ex-prisoners!

**Continued from front page**  
people from voting.

In February, federal Judge Mark Walker ruled Florida's lifetime ban on voting for felons — part of the Florida Constitution for 150 years — is a violation of the U.S. Constitution's protections against government interference with free association and speech, due process and equal protection under the law.

Workers behind bars are no different from fellow workers outside prison walls. We are all part of the working class and confront the same growing political and moral crisis of capitalism. Current and former prisoners have an equal stake in our class's battle to overturn capitalist rule and take political power into our own hands.

To fight effectively we need to unite working people to break down the divisions the bosses promote between employed and unemployed; immigrant and native-born; Black, Caucasian and Hispanic; and between those of us who've been thrown in jail and those who haven't.

The U.S. rulers imprison more working people than any other country in the world. Workers are run through the U.S. criminal "justice" system, with over 90 percent pressured to accept a plea-bargain road to prison. This is under threat of more draconian sentences if we exercise our constitutional right to a trial.

In recent years, more crimes have been designated as felonies and the population of workers behind bars has soared.

Prisoners face growing restrictions on what they can read, as shown by censorship of the *Militant* newspaper that the SWP helps distribute. They suffer conditions geared to assaulting their dignity, and have a long record of abuse by prison authorities. Then when they get out, the rulers' bar their right to vote.

The ruling class has historically looked for ways to restrict workers and farmers from voting. It took a revolution in 1776 to win male suffrage. The Civil War ended slavery and extended the vote to the former slaves. Struggles were needed to win the vote for women. And a massive proletarian Black-led civil rights movement was needed to destroy Jim Crow segregation and win passage of the Voting Rights Act. This struggle also led to winning the vote for 18 year olds.

In the carnage workers face today the capitalist rulers make us pay for the crisis of their decaying capitalist system. The fight against the injustices of their criminal justice system and efforts to restrict our rights are in the interests of all workers.

The fight in Florida to push back restrictions on the franchise are an important part of advancing the unity and fighting capacity of the working class. Vote "yes" on Amendment 4!

## ‘Militant’ fights Florida prison censorship

**BY SETH GALINSKY**

The Florida prison system's Literature Review Committee informed the *Militant* Oct. 24 that they had upheld the ban on the Sept. 17 issue of *Militant*. As usual, they didn't give any reason for the decision, much less point to a single sentence in the paper to justify this violation of the constitutional rights of both the paper and of subscribers behind bars.

In response, the *Militant* is asking defenders of democratic and political rights to send letters to Florida prison officials asking them to reverse this decision and to halt the baseless ongoing impoundments.

Letters from union officials and members, church groups, community organizations, student groups and anyone who believes that workers behind bars have a right to read the material of their choosing and think for themselves are welcome.

"This is the sixth ban the Literature Review Committee has upheld in the last two years," noted *Militant* editor John Studer. "While we appreciate the fact that the committee has overturned most of the impoundments, the number that are being upheld is on the rise. Not one of the bans is justified."

Under Florida rules, if one prison impounds an issue, every other Florida prison follows suit.

Prison officials use a multiple choice form to check off their rationalizations for impounding a publication. Authorities at Florida State Prison in Raiford had checked off two boxes, claiming with no basis whatso-

ever that two articles in the Sept. 17 issue are a "threat to the security, good order, or discipline" of the prison and encourage "insurrection."

One article reported on a public protest against solitary confinement in California, an issue that the *Militant* and many other papers have reported on frequently. The other article was on the hunger strike by Crimean movie director Oleg Sentsov, who was framed up, tortured and jailed in Siberia by the Vladimir Putin regime in Russia.

The *Militant*'s lawyer, David Goldstein, of the Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman civil rights law firm, noted in his appeal of the impoundment that Florida has impounded at least 19 issues in the last year and a half "four times as many as in the *entire rest of the nation*, state and federal prisons combined, *in the past decade*."

The *Militant* is not the only publication fighting censorship in Florida prisons. The *Prison Legal News* has been completely banned since 2009, allegedly because prison officials say they object to many of the paid ads.

Editor Paul Wright, himself a former prisoner, says the ban is in fact aimed at keeping content critical of the prison system out of the hands of inmates.

With the backing of dozens of media, free speech and prison rights organizations, *Prison Legal News* filed an appeal Sept. 14 asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a lower court decision upholding the blanket ban.

Join the fight to end censorship of the *Militant*! Send letters to Dean Peterson, Library Services Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Attn: Literature Review Committee, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, and via email to [Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com](mailto:Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com). Send a copy of your letter via email to [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com).

### ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

would top out at \$4 to \$5 less an hour than current drivers; and that UPS can now schedule drivers for a 70-hour workweek. One driver told me, "People died for the 40-hour workweek and now we have 70."

*Mark Severs, Teamster Local 638 Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

## LETTERS

### 70-hour workweek at UPS

The National Master Agreement between the Teamsters union and UPS was voted down in October by 54 percent to 46 percent. This contract covers over 200,000 workers. Nonetheless Teamster officials declared that the contract had, in fact, been ratified because the union's constitution states that if less than 50 percent of the membership votes, unless at least two-thirds vote "no," the contract is approved.

Two concessions angered drivers the most: the establishment of a two-tier wage system for all new hires in delivery positions who

## Protest anti-Semitism

**Continued from page 4**

it appears." Trump, first lady Melania Trump, his daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner visited Pittsburgh Oct. 30.

In his Jew-hating internet posts before the assault, Bowers had made it clear that he wasn't a supporter of Trump. "Trump is a globalist, not a nationalist," he wrote two days before the assassinations. "There is no #MAGA [Make America Great Again] as long as there is a k--e infestation." He posted an image that showed Trump taking orders from a Jewish man.

Trump called for stepped-up use of the death penalty. Bowers, who was wounded in a shootout with the police before his capture, faces the possibility of a death sentence.

Hart responded in his statement, speaking out against the death penalty, a tool the capitalist rulers use as part of their criminal "justice" system to intimidate and attack the working class.

Pittsburgh Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers met Trump and the first lady, taking them to the synagogue and to the nearby markers commemorating each of the 11 victims of the killings.

Myers responded to Democrats and some Republicans who declined Trump's invitation to join his trip to Pittsburgh. "The president of the United States is always welcome," the Rabbi told CNN.

### Where does Jew-hatred come from?

Some of the worst obfuscations in the much-needed debate about the roots of this murderous expression of Jew-hatred have come from anti-Trump liberals and middle-class "left" organizations.

"We have before us a fascist movement, an armed backlash aimed at black and brown people, Jews, Muslims, women, the LGBTQ community, the media, and also aimed at the left," Dave Zirin wrote in an Oct. 29 article in the *Nation*. It was reproduced on the website and newspaper of the International Socialist Organization.

In fact, there is less racism, less sexism, and less anti-immigrant sentiment among working people in the U.S. today than ever before. This is a result of the mass working-class movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation in the 1960s and '70s, and workers' class-struggle experiences with the capitalist rulers' efforts to divide and attack them since.

The targeting of Jews is not the same as racist violence, or anti-gay, anti-Muslim or anti-women prejudice, the fight against which is also important for workers and the union movement. As Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro explained in 2010, no one "has been slandered more than the Jews," adding that Jews are blamed for every ill of class society. The capitalist rulers use Jew-hatred to take the eyes of workers off the real cause of their problems — the capitalist class and system.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

**What do the 2018 midterm elections mean for the struggles of working people?**

**Hear SWP candidates talk about the gains the party made in discussing workers' need for unions, solidarity, our own political party.**

**Friday Nov. 9 or  
Saturday, Nov. 10**

For speakers, date, location, further information, contact the Socialist Workers Party branch nearest you listed on page 8.