

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Campaign against Harvard dean is blow to political rights
— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 22 JUNE 3, 2019

Marchers snap up 'Militant,' books as drive hits final week

BY TERRY EVANS

The Socialist Workers Party candidates in Kentucky — Amy Husk for governor and Samir Hazboun for lieutenant governor — and campaign supporters joined 150 demonstrators at the federal courthouse in Louisville May 21 to protest against growing attacks on women's right to choose to have an abortion. The action was one of hundreds across the country.

Many young participants, energized by the protest, stayed after the rally, waving signs and eliciting support from people driving by. Six subscriptions to the *Militant* and four books on revolutionary politics were sold there.

A quick, and incomplete, tally shows 48 subscriptions to the paper and 33 books by party leaders and other revolutionaries were sold at actions across the country.

"We join those around the world who have been standing up for a woman's right to choose abortion," SWP member Deborah Liatos told 200 people at an abortion rights protest in

Continued on page 3

Say no to US rulers' threats against Iran, US hands off!

BY TERRY EVANS

The U.S. imperialist rulers' threats and sanctions against Iran are a danger to working people here and across the Middle East. Washington sees the increased military and political sway the Iranian rulers have carved out in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen as the biggest obstacle to its imperialist interests in the region, and is determined to find ways to push Tehran back.

"If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran," President Donald Trump said May 19, while saying he didn't want a war. This follows threats by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that Washington would hold Tehran responsible for any actions taken by militias the Iranian rulers organize in countries across the region.

U.S. authorities ordered a partial evacuation of staff at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad May 15, citing threats against them from Tehran-backed forces in Iraq, which the Iranian government denied. A May 19 rocket strike near the embassy, that no group took credit for, was denounced by Iraqi militias orga-

Continued on page 9

Tens of thousands demand women's right to abortion

Protests erupt against new state restrictions



Militant/Kevin Dwire

Protest in St. Paul, Minnesota, one of hundreds May 21 defending women's right to choose.

BY JANET POST

Tens of thousands protested in hundreds of demonstrations across the country May 21 in support of women's right to choose abortion. It was the largest outpouring of people taking to the streets to defend abortion rights in more than a decade.

Carrying signs like, "My body, my choice" and "Defend women's right to choose," women and men of all ages enthusiastically marched and rallied in small towns, big cities and rural areas from coast to coast.

Protests began shortly after the Alabama legislature passed a law criminalizing nearly all abortions May 14. "I'm mad, I'm angry and I am here

FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ABORTION!

— SWP statement page 9

for the long run," 20-year-old student Brynleigh Davis said at a rally of hundreds May 19 at the state Capitol

Continued on page 7

UE workers at Wabtec stand up against bosses' takeback demands



United Electrical Workers union

Workers from Wabtec locomotive plant in Erie, Pennsylvania, and supporters march outside company shareholders meeting in Pittsburgh May 17, against bosses' push for two-tier wages.

BY MALCOLM JARRETT

PITTSBURGH — Chanting "One Union, One Tier," dozens of members of the United Electrical Workers union, other area unionists and community supporters marched outside a Wabtec bosses' shareholders meeting here May 17. The company is demanding the 1,700 members of UE Locals 506 and 618 agree to deep and permanent two-tier wages for all new hires, as well as for current

workers who are laid off beyond their recall rights.

"We are not just fighting for our families, we are fighting for all working people," Matt McCracken, a member of the Local 506 executive board, said at the rally. "Don't derail our future," read the lead banner in the march. The new-hire wage would be from \$16.75 to \$25 an hour, down from the average of \$35 an hour under

Continued on page 5

Amnesty International joins fight against Florida prison censorship

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Florida prison system's Literature Review Committee has overturned the ban on two of three recently impounded issues of the *Militant*, but

US gov't steps up attacks against sovereignty of Venezuela, Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the wake of the failed U.S.-backed coup attempt in Venezuela April 30, the U.S. government continues to tighten its economic noose around the country, hoping to bring down the government of President Nicolás Maduro. Washington is also stepping up its economic war against socialist Cuba.

It's working people who are paying the price for the U.S. rulers' squeeze

Continued on page 9

in a blatant violation of constitutional rights, upheld the ban on the April 15 issue. That issue features an article on New York meetings for Albert Woodfox, who is on an international speaking tour promoting his new book, *Solidarity: My Story of Transformation and Hope*. He spent nearly 44 years in solitary confinement in Louisiana.

Florida prison officials had taken

Continued on page 2

Inside

Cop commander after killing of Eric Garner: 'Not a big deal' 4

SWP Active Workers Conference set for June 13-15 4

Montreal rally protests bill to ban religious symbols at work 5

Working people in North Korea hit hard by US gov't sanctions 6

Fight Fla. prison censorship

Continued from front page
issue 15 from subscribers behind bars there, alleging the article “depicts, describes or encourages activities which might lead to the use of physical violence” and presents a “threat to the security, good order, or discipline” of the prisons.

“There is nothing contained in the specific articles or pages from the banned issues of this publication that would amount to such a call,” Justin Mazzola, deputy director of research of Amnesty International USA, wrote to the Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee May 17. The human rights group called for an end to the repeated “arbitrary impoundment” of the *Militant* in Florida.

Censorship of the socialist news-weekly “violates the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, otherwise known as the Mandela Rules,” named for Nelson Mandela, who spent decades in prison in South Africa because of his opposition to apartheid, Mazzola said.

Woodfox’s book and his tour are shining light on demeaning and abusive conditions that are rampant in jails and prisons across the country. At the meeting at the Brooklyn Pub-

lic Library reported on in the banned *Militant*, Woodfox explained the prison system is designed to “break a man’s spirit.”

Far from promoting violence, Woodfox and others helped fellow prisoners recognize their own humanity. In his book and at his public meetings Woodfox describes how he and fellow inmate and Black Panther Herman Wallace formed an “anti-rape squad” at Louisiana State Prison, where rape and violence — often with the acquiescence if not open endorsement of prison officials — were routine.

They took new inmates under their wing, protected them and oriented them on how to avoid confrontations and violence in prison. And what they did made life inside the prison — notorious for its brutality — a little more humane.

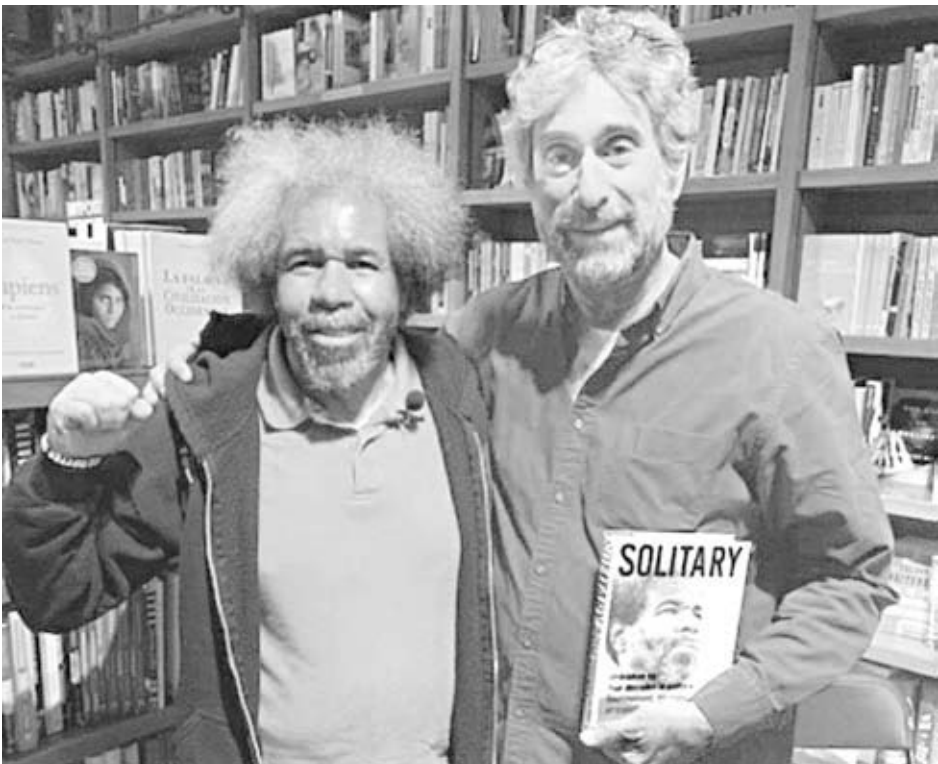
Many of the *Militant*’s subscribers behind bars have written in to make sure the paper knew about the censorship. “It’s crazy, they think it’s OK to beat and mistreat us,” wrote one. “But it’s not OK for us to read about it.”

“The *Militant* get’s rejected for exposing the truth,” he added.

Another Florida prisoner, who is filing his own appeal of the ban, wrote, “The prison system fears what the *Militant* is exposing about the government as well as the prison system.”

“Thanks for your unconditional support of our right to receive your newspaper,” wrote another prisoner.

Woodfox’s tour and book have been written about extensively in the “mainstream” media, the *Militant*’s lawyer, David Goldstein, from the civil liberties firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, noted in his appeal of the impoundment.



Albert Woodfox, left, with Books and Books owner Mitchell Kaplan May 16. Almost 100 people jammed into Miami bookstore to hear Woodfox speak on his book *Solitary: My Story of Transformation and Hope*. Florida prison censors have tried to block the *Militant* from reaching inmates with his story, claiming it will “lead to the use of physical violence.”

The continuing moves by Florida officials to censor the *Militant*, Goldstein said, can only be because they disagree with the paper’s “political and ideological viewpoint.” And to force the paper “to expend substantial resources battling these ongoing unconstitutional and improper” bans.

Growing protests against censorship

Benjamin Stevenson, writing for the American Civil Liberties Union Florida, called on the Literature Review Committee to “comply with the Constitution and specify the reason for the rejections.” He called on the committee to overturn the bans. The National Lawyers Guild is also backing the fight against censorship.

“The *Militant* will never stop defending our constitutional right to reach our subscribers behind bars and their right to read the views of their choice,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “And we find increasing interest in the *Militant*’s working-class political outlook and our readership is growing.”

The *Militant* has some 140 subscribers in prisons across

the country, and offers reduced rate subscriptions to prisoners. Those who can’t afford it can request a free subscription.

“The fight against impounding the *Militant* strengthens the fight against censorship of other periodicals and books,” Studer said. “Prisoners have the right to consider a wide variety of viewpoints, to make up their own mind, to be part of the world.”

The *Militant* is urging readers to join the fight. Get co-workers, your union, church groups and others to write a letter to Florida prison officials calling on them to overturn the ban.

Discount on books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus a flat rate of \$2.75 for shipping. Prisoners can mail prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press PO Box 162767 Atlanta GA 30321-2767
Friends can order for them at: www.pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Uber, Lyft, taxi drivers need one single union!

As their cutthroat competition increases, the bosses of Uber, Lyft, Yellow Cab and other taxi companies try to pit drivers against each other. The ‘Militant’ champions a single union for all drivers, in New York and across the U.S., and working-class solidarity around the world.



Militant/Deborah Liatos
Uber and Lyft drivers picket Los Angeles airport May 8 demanding rights, decent wages.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 83/No. 22

Closing news date: May 22, 2019

Editor: John Studer

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Terry Evans, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in September.

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send

\$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville NSW 2142, Australia.

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

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

Drive enters final week

Continued from front page

Van Nuys, California. After she spoke two young people approached Liatos to get a subscription and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

The books sold at these actions are some of the hundreds of titles offered at a discount during the current drive by the SWP and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. to expand the readership of revolutionary literature and win new subscribers to the *Militant*. As they campaign, party members explain that working people are capable of building a movement to make a socialist revolution and recruit others to building a party today that can make that possible.

May 28 is the deadline for party members and other *Militant* readers to bring the spring drive to a successful conclusion.

Amnesty for all immigrants in US!

“The Socialist Workers Party demands amnesty for all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. — to help unify the working class and create better conditions to organize the unorganized and strengthen the trade unions,” Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for mayor of Dallas, told construction worker Everardo Guerrero when she knocked on his door in Venus, Texas, May 8.

She showed Guerrero a picture of a federal detention center in the book *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. The image shows the wretched conditions that immigrants without papers are thrown into.

Maintaining “second-class status for immigrants is one of the ways the employers promote competition and conflict among workers in order to press down wages and conditions of the entire working class and further divide and weaken the unions,” Barnes says.

Guerrero described the low wages bosses paid him when he worked on

a ranch just after arriving in the U.S. from Mexico years ago. He decided to get the Spanish edition of the book and a subscription to the *Militant*. He also kicked in \$9 to the Militant Fighting Fund.

Militant Fighting Fund

The contribution was one of hundreds received by distributors of the paper around the country as they campaign door to door. Such contributions — from those who appreciate the paper’s unique coverage of working-class struggles and the road forward it presents — are the bedrock of the paper’s finances.

The annual Militant Fighting Fund is organized to win contributions from the *Militant*’s readership and other working people so the paper can meet its rising costs. Last week some \$16,000 in fund contributions came in, bringing the total to \$87,409. This puts the paper in a good position to collect the \$27,591 needed over the next week to make the \$115,000 goal. You can contribute online at www.themilitant.com.

Back fight against cop brutality!

“That stuff effects everyone!” factory worker Joshua Sorel told Harry D’Agostino and Alex Huinil after the socialist campaigners described a recent meeting against cop brutality in Albany, New York. Sorel said that he had had his own experiences with cop harassment. He got a *Militant* subscription when the two SWP members knocked on his door May 5 in North Adams, Massachusetts. Sorel urged them to stay in touch.

The paper has a long record championing fights against cop killings and explains how police brutality, the plea bargain road to prison, onerous bail terms and the entire capitalist “justice” system operates against the working class.

“During the eight years of the



Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Dallas, and campaign supporter Gerardo Sánchez, left, talk to construction worker Everardo Guerrero in Venus, Texas, May 8. He and his daughter got a subscription to the *Militant*, two books on special and made donation to Militant Fighting Fund.

[Bill] Clinton presidency, between 1993 and 2001, the number of people locked behind bars in US prisons jumped by nearly 60 percent,” Barnes explains in *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*. “While the United States has 5 percent of the world’s population, today it has 25 percent of the world’s prisoners.

“As throughout history, the overwhelming majority of those incarcerated are workers, with ‘the law’ coming down disproportionately on those who are Black, Latino, or Native American,” Barnes adds. “Today fully one of every three young males who are Black is either in prison, on parole, or on probation. Lockdowns and solitary confinement, with their dehumanizing effects — designed to make you feel helpless and worthless — are increasingly the norm.”

If you want to help successfully complete the *Militant*, book and fund drive, contact the party branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund April 6 - May 28 (week six)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	65	47	65	61	\$5,600	\$4,405
Atlanta	70	61	70	68	\$9,750	\$7,553
Chicago	85	86	110	110	\$11,400	\$8,937
Dallas	40	33	40	37	\$2,500	\$1,365
Lincoln	14	12	16	16	\$250	\$197
Los Angeles	85	77	185	190	\$10,800	\$6,322
Louisville	50	37	50	45	\$2,800	\$2,656
Miami	25	17	25	21	\$3,500	\$2,654
N. New Jersey	40	35	70	63	\$3,500	\$3,975
New York	80	61	80	121	\$14,000	\$8,790
Oakland	70	68	70	120	\$13,000	\$11,227
Philadelphia	25	18	25	29	\$3,000	\$2,150
Pittsburgh	15	5	15	7	\$1,200	\$300
Seattle	70	53	95	98	\$10,000	\$6,038
Twin Cities	35	24	35	39	\$4,750	\$3,636
Washington	40	34	40	54	\$5,000	\$4,573
Other						\$2,200
Total U.S.	809	668	991	1079	\$101,050	\$76,978
Prisoners	25	29	0	0	\$0	\$0
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	50	39	90	88	\$2,500	\$950
Manchester	35	29	45	49	\$1,300	\$161
Total U.K.	85	68	135	137	\$3,800	\$1,111
CANADA	70	49	80	73	\$8,200	\$6,532
NEW ZEALAND	20	14	20	15	\$3,400	\$2,288
AUSTRALIA	25	25	35	39	\$500	\$500
Total	1,034	853	1,261	1,343	\$116,950	\$87,409
SHOULD BE	1,050	903	1,050	903	\$115,000	\$98,900

Books on special offer...

Four books above: \$7 each, \$5 with subscription.

Book at left: \$15, \$10 with subscription.

See distributors on page 8
For full catalog visit: pathfinderpress.com



Seth Galinsky, SWP candidate for New York City public advocate, and campaign supporter Nancy Boyasko talk to two young women at protest near Wall Street May 21 about the party’s support for the fight for a woman’s right to abortion, part of advancing working-class struggles.

Cop commander after killing of Eric Garner: ‘Not a big deal’

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — “Not a big deal,” police commander Lt. Christopher Bannon commented when told by cops on the scene they had likely killed Eric Garner when they put him in a chokehold as they moved to arrest him on charges of selling loose cigarettes in 2014. The comment drew gasps when it became public May 16 during a long delayed police disciplinary hearing for New York police officer Daniel Pantaleo, the cop who choked Garner to death.

As he lay dying, bleeding in his neck and eyes, Garner cried out, “I can’t breathe” 11 times. It became a rallying cry for protests in New York and across the country.

Even though a video by a bystander clearly shows Garner being strangled, neither a Staten Island grand jury nor the federal government ever filed charges against Pantaleo. The statute of limitations for any charges expires July 17, the fifth anniversary of Garner’s death.

“No big deal?” Gwen Carr, Garner’s mother, angrily told reporters outside Police Department headquarters where the hearing was being held. “If one of his loved ones was on the ground dead and someone came up to him and said, ‘It’s no big deal,’ how would you feel about it?” Carr has been attending the hearings since they began May 13.

On May 15 New York medical examiner Floriana Persechino, who performed the autopsy on Garner, testified that Pantaleo’s chokehold had enough force to trigger a “lethal cascade” that killed Garner. It was “homicide,” Persechino said.

As always, the cop’s defense is to try to turn the victim into the criminal. In his opening statement to the hearing, Pantaleo’s attorney, Stuart London, said Garner triggered his own death. “The only reason [Pantaleo’s] hand went towards the neck was due to Mr. Garner’s morbid obesity and the fact that he resisted arrest,” London said to the press. “If he didn’t resist arrest we would not be here today.”

“It’s been five years,” Carr responded. “Five years we’ve been on the frontline, trying to get justice — and they’re still trying to sweep it under the rug.”

Other family members have joined Carr at the hearings. So has Iris Baez, whose son was also killed at the hands of the New York cops, and other oppo-

nents of police brutality.

When cop Justin D’Amico, Pantaleo’s partner, took the stand in his defense, he explained how he filed felony charges against Garner after he was dead to justify their moves to arrest him.

He said the two undercover cops saw Garner selling cigarettes from 100 to 200 feet away.

“Would it surprise you to learn that the actual distance is 328 feet?” Suzanne O’Hare, a lawyer for the N.Y. Civilian Complaint Review Board that is prosecuting Pantaleo, asked D’Amico. “More than a football field?” The cop said that might be correct.

O’Hare asked him why the two cops tried to make Garner stand up after he was unresponsive. “You did that because you believed he was playing possum?” she said. “Yes,” D’Amico responded.

As to the felony charges, O’Hare asked D’Amico, “You’re familiar that in order to be charged with that, it requires that you have 10,000 cigarettes, or 22,000 cigars, or 4,400 pounds of tobacco?” The cop, who had testified he found four packs of Newports in Garner’s pocket, conceded that was the law.

While it has taken five years for even these administrative charges to be heard — which can result in Pantaleo losing his job — the cops and judge don’t seem



Gothamist/Nick Pinto

Gwen Carr, center, outside One Police Plaza, New York, May 21, during long-delayed disciplinary hearing for cop who choked her son Eric Garner to death in 2014. Carr was joined by family members and Iris Baez, left, mother of Anthony Baez killed by cops in 1994. “I will be here every day,” said Carr, urging supporters to attend the hearings and keep pressure on cops.

to be in any hurry to see a verdict.

After just a week of hearings, the court was recessed for four days because Pantaleo said he had scheduled vacation time. When the hearing resumed May 21, it only lasted three hours before another break, this time for two weeks or longer, because the cop’s defense team says a key witness won’t be available until then.

Carr and her supporters expressed outrage at the delays. “It’s a great burden, it’s a great amount of anxiety and

emotional stress for them,” O’Hare told hearing Judge Rosemarie Maldonado. She claimed to agree, then cancelled hearings until June 5.

Carr told people outside the hearings that coming has been “very, very hard for me,” but that she’ll keep coming because “there is no other option” if she wants to see Pantaleo fired.

“I will be here every day,” she said, urging supporters to join her at the hearings. They’re held at police headquarters at 1 Police Plaza east of City Hall.

SWP Active Workers Conference set for June 13-15

BY JANET POST

“I want to go to the conference to meet workers who are excited and prepared for the struggles ahead. I’m excited for all the learning, of course — learning in community, across generations — there’s something so powerful about that,” Kaitlin Estill, a teacher in San Francisco, told the *Militant*.

Estill is one of over 300 working people and youth from the U.S. and around the world who will attend the June 13-15 Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party. The conference will include major talks by party leaders, classes and panel presentations.

Estill heard about the conference from party members she met on the May Day International Volunteer Work Brigade in Cuba this spring.

This year’s conference will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party in the U.S., com-

ing out of the victory of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. The SWP’s revolutionary continuity runs from that founding — and the programmatic documents adopted at the first four congresses of the Communist International — through its participation in working-class struggles today.

SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes will give the main political report, “Party and Program Are One,” which will open the conference. Barnes has been a member of the party’s National Committee since 1963 and a national officer since 1969.

The next day Steve Clark, a member of the party’s National Committee, will speak on “The Middle East and the Jewish Question: Acting on the Communist Program.” Clark was the author of the SWP’s 2017 statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

Clark joined other members of the SWP and Communist Leagues to participate in the International Book Fair in Baghdad in February and the 14th Erbil International Book Fair in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in April. On that second trip they were invited to present the party’s program and activities at a meeting of more than 100 unionists and others in Ainkawa in the Kurdistan region, sponsored by the Kurdistan Communist Party.

There will be two panel discussions focused on the work of the party today: “Tribunes of the People and the Turn to Industry,” which will be chaired by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters; and “Our Election Campaigns Drive the Wisconsin Turn,” chaired by SWP national campaign director John Studer. These will focus on how party members speak in the interests of all the exploited and oppressed and take the party’s program to the working class — from going door to door in working-class neighborhoods in cities, towns and countryside to its

participation in the labor movement.

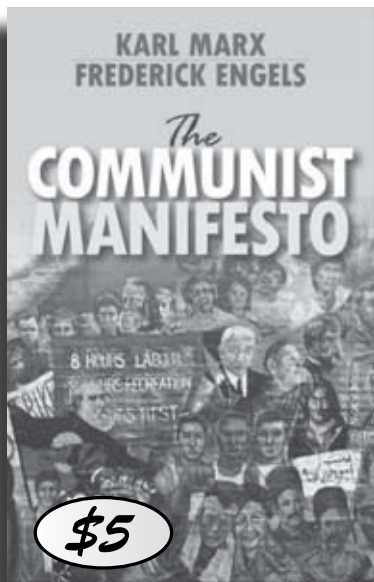
They will take up some of the central questions facing working people — from Washington’s wars abroad and threats against working people in Venezuela, Cuba and Iran, to the fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S., to the working-class road forward in the fight for women’s emancipation.

“I have attended conferences in previous years and really appreciated what I learned,” said Pat Scott, a Walmart worker for 20 years in the Seattle area. “Those who come want what’s best for workers, and discuss the unity and solidarity that is needed. The conference helps me envision what it could be like after a revolution.”

Other conference sessions will feature Q and A sessions on the main presentations, informal discussion at buffet-style meals and evening socials. The final session Saturday night will feature reports summarizing the political themes and discussions at the conference.

The next day organized supporters of the party will meet to discuss their work designing, getting printed and promoting Pathfinder literature; making book placements at colleges, bookstores and libraries; and raising funds for the work of the party.

For more information, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.



“Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers.”

—Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, “springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

www.pathfinderpress.com

—**MILITANT
LABOR
FORUMS**—

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Speak Out! Defend a Woman’s Right to Choose Abortion. Speaker: Arlene Rubinstein, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 1, 7 p.m. 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Tel.: (202) 536-5080.

UE workers fight takebacks

Continued from front page
the expired contract.

The UE has represented generations of workers at the Erie plant for 82 years. Until earlier this year, the plant — which makes railroad freight locomotives and parts — was owned by General Electric. When Wabtec took over in February, they demanded union members accept a steep concessionary contract, including a two-tier wage scale. The unionists responded with a strike that won widespread support in the community.

After nine days on the picket line, the union and company bosses agreed to a 90-day extension of much of the old contract and workers returned to work. Negotiations have continued with participation of a federal mediator. The extension runs out June 3.

Since UE workers returned to the job, the company and local media bosses have run an ongoing scare campaign against the union. The bosses have said over and over that workers have just one choice to make — accept two-tier wages or watch their jobs be moved to other Wabtec plants.

UE General President Peter Knowlton told the rally that there is only one thing driving the company, “Greed, Greed, Greed.” At the same time as Wabtec took over the Erie plant and demanded the workers take the two-tier and other concessions, the board voted to give Wabtec’s officers nearly \$120 million in bonuses.

Union officials reported bosses have backed off a few of their demands, including for forced overtime whenever the company says they need it, but continue to insist on the two-tier.

The company also wants the right to subcontract work at will and to assign up to 10% of the jobs in the plant to temporary workers. And they are demanding new contract provisions that will weaken the union’s strength on the shop floor.

The bosses also demand “the unqualified right to establish and enforce minimum standards of production and quality for all operations and job functions” with no negotiations, and the right to transfer or fire anyone they claim doesn’t cut it.

Union officials also said they have made an offer that includes wage



United Electrical Workers union

United Electrical Workers members and supporters rallied May 17, part of campaign to defeat Wabtec bosses’ demands for two-tier wages and other concessions. Contract runs out June 3.

concessions that could save Wabtec millions of dollars over a four-year contract. It would allow bosses to start new workers at two-tier pay, but require “a path” to the current wage rates. The company said no.

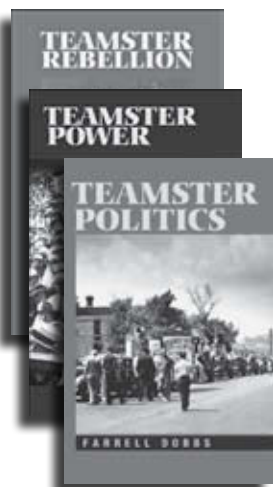
Others at the rally included members of area UE Locals 610, 625, 667 and 690, the Northwest Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation, Erie County

United, Pittsburgh United, the United Steelworkers, Painters union, SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, as well as the Socialist Workers Party, Democratic Socialists of America and the Green Party.

Messages of solidarity can be sent to UE Local 506, 3923 Main St., Lawrence Park, PA 16511 or by fax at (814) 899-0666.

SPECIAL OFFER: The Teamsters Series

Lessons from U.S. labor battles of the 1930s
by Farrell Dobbs



“The principal lesson of the Teamster experience is not that under an adverse relationship of forces, the workers can be overcome, but that with proper leadership, they can overcome.”

\$15 each (normally \$19)
all four for \$40
(normally \$76)



For special offer see list of distributors on page 8

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 6, 1994

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — In a victory for the United Auto Workers union, Caterpillar Inc. announced May 19 that it would reinstate 34 of 37 workers indefinitely suspended for union activities. Three workers remain suspended because the company alleges prior disciplinary problems.

“We kicked the company’s butt,” union committeeman Jim Sharpe declared as he and other workers returned to their jobs May 20 after a four-day strike. “We got what we needed to go back. In the shop or on the street we will continue to take the battle to them.”

“The bottom line is, solidarity works,” UAW Local 974 president Jerry Brown said in a statement to the press. “Our members were extremely disciplined on the picket lines. That’s what convinced Caterpillar that their threats and intimidation wouldn’t work.”



June 6, 1969

Explosive confrontations between Argentinian students and workers and the police and army escalated to a new level May 23 when both of the country’s major trade-union federations called a nationwide general strike in support of protests sweeping the country.

A general strike had already totally paralyzed Rosario, Argentina’s second largest city, May 22. The local labor movement called the strike in defiance of the martial law established in the city early that morning when the army moved in to quell mass protests against police brutality.

The outbreak occurred when police shot and killed a 15-year-old youth on the night of May 21 in the course of demonstrations protesting police shootings of two students the preceding week.

The unrest appeared to have spread far beyond the limits of previous opposition to the regime.



June 3, 1944

SEATTLE — An estimated 50,000 members of the AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers are on strike throughout this Northwest Pacific area in a fast-spreading walkout against a War Labor Board decision denying the lumber workers the much-needed and much-promised wage increases they have been demanding since Pearl Harbor.

The Washington State Director of Selective Service stated that strikers are to be considered as “not working” and “naturally will be reclassified 1-A.” These threats have been followed by the further spread of the strike.

The lumber mills and camps are seething with resentment against the lumber kings and their WLB agents. Wages in this dangerous industry have remained virtually stationary despite price rises since the beginning of the war. Profits, however, have increased tremendously.

Montreal rally protests bill to ban wearing religious symbols on job

BY KAREN LEROUX

MONTREAL — Several hundred people took part in a May 5 rally and human chain near City Hall here to protest the Quebec government’s proposed Bill 21. The bill would ban the wearing of religious symbols — the Muslim hijab, Catholic crucifixes, Jewish kippah or Sikh turban — by many government employees, including teachers, court clerks and police. The government claims the law is a defense of the separation of church and state.

Bouchera Chelbi, a teacher who wears a headscarf for religious rea-

sons, addressed the crowd. “If this law passes, I will not have the same rights as my colleagues,” she said.

“To ask not to be exposed to the religion of others is to be intolerant of religious beliefs,” Quebec Inclusion Coalition spokesperson and former professor Michel Seymore said.

“I am a feminist and my rights are being violated,” teacher Jennifer Alves Nadeau, told the crowd. “I do not wear religious symbols and I have the right to choose what I believe and what I wear.”

The Montreal City Council unanimously adopted a bipartisan declaration to denounce the bill. “No one should live in fear or uncertainty about their job or place in Montreal society because they choose to practice their religion,” the declaration says. Some Montreal suburb governments, including Cote-St-Luc, Hampstead and Montreal West, have voted to defy the bill if it becomes law.

New York City

**US Hands Off
Cuba! US Hands
Off Venezuela!**

**Saturday, June 1
Noon to 2 p.m.**

**Union Square Park
South (14th St.)**

Sponsored by New York-New
Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition
Tel.: (917) 887-8710

Campaign against Harvard dean is blow to political rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the name of defending women, student protesters and administration officials at Harvard University struck a serious blow against political rights by stripping responsibilities from a long-standing faculty dean in the law school who took on the controversial job of joining the legal defense team for movie producer Harvey Weinstein. Weinstein faces multiple accusations of sexual harassment and rape.

At stake are rights vital to the working class — that one is innocent until proven guilty, no matter how heinous the charges may be; the right to speak and associate freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and the Sixth Amendment right to a lawyer who can provide vigorous counsel to those facing charges by the state.

On May 11 Harvard University announced that it was ending the appointments of law professor Ronald Sullivan Jr. and his wife, lecturer Stephanie Robinson, as faculty deans of Winthrop House, a residence for some 400 students. They had held these positions for a decade, and were the first Black professors in Harvard's history to be appointed to these positions. Both still remain professors at the law school.

Sullivan is director of the Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law. In addition to teaching law, he is a longtime criminal defense attorney, who has been involved in a variety of high profile cases. He represented the family of Michael Brown, who was fatally shot by police in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. He took on the case of former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez, who won acquittal after being charged with double murder. He organized a legal campaign that helped free thousands of people incarcerated without due process in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

Campaign against Sullivan

But when Sullivan announced in January that he was joining Weinstein's defense team, a hue and cry went up by some so-called politically correct students demanding that he be ousted. In February two Harvard undergraduates wrote an op-ed piece in the campus newspaper titled, "Harvard, Remove Dean Sullivan," claiming his presence "could be deeply traumatic" and that he does not value "the safety of students."

Graffiti was spray painted on Harvard buildings and on Sullivan's office door that included slogans saying, "Our rage is self-defense" and "Whose side are you on?" Dean of Harvard College Rakesh Khurana then initiated a review of "the climate" at Winthrop House, including questioning students about whether they found the dormitory "sexist" or "non-sexist."

Sullivan responded to the campaign against him with an email sent to all those involved with Winthrop and offered to meet with anyone who wanted to discuss the questions involved.

"It is particularly important for this category of unpopular defendant to receive the same process as everyone else — perhaps more important," he wrote. "To the degree we deny unpopular defendants basic due process

rights we cease to be the country we imagine ourselves to be."

Others on the campus came to Sullivan's defense. There is "such a stigma attached to people accused of sexual misconduct that anyone who defends legal principles on their behalf risks being mistaken, in the public mind, for a defender of sexual violence," Harvard Law School professor Jeannie Suk Gersen wrote in the *New Yorker*.

On May 6 some 175 students protested in the Winthrop dining hall holding #MeToo and "Reclaim Winthrop" signs. Five days later Khurana announced that Sullivan and Robinson would no longer be faculty deans when their terms end June 30.

What's at stake for working class

"I am not personally accused of engaging in any misconduct," Sullivan said in a March 7 interview with the *New Yorker*. "Lawyers do not represent the ideology of their clients. Rather, lawyers are engaged in a long-standing tradition of service to people accused by the state."

"I have gotten scores of notes from students who very quietly give strong support to me, and I appreciate those notes," he added. "But one constant is



Photos by Harvard Crimson/Shera S. Avi-Yonah

Students protest Feb. 11 for removal of African American Harvard law professor Ronald Sullivan as dean of Winthrop House. He was targeted for providing legal counsel to movie producer Harvey Weinstein. Inset, graffiti on college door.

that they say that they feel as though they cannot say anything publicly because they will be tarred and feathered as 'rape sympathizers' and that they're disinclined to step out publicly."

"People have to be able to exchange ideas, even ideas with which they disagree, freely and openly," he said.

"Regardless of where moves to attack political rights or to victimize people for acting on their beliefs begin," Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City public advocate, said May 17, "the capitalist rulers

look to turn this against the working class and the communist movement. For years the Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, groups fighting against Jim Crow segregation in the South and others faced serious challenges finding lawyers to defend them when the government tried to frame them up and shut them down."

"The right to have legal counsel to vigorously fight charges by the state will become even more important for working-class political organizations as the class struggle heats up," he said.

Working people in NKorea hit hard by US gov't sanctions

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold a summit in South Korea in June to discuss "denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, the White House and Blue House announced May 16. South Korean newspaper *Hankyoreh* said in an editorial it hopes the meeting will become "a trilateral summit" and include North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government continues what the White House calls "maximum pressure" on North Korea, using harsh economic sanctions to press for a deal. Washington wants Pyongyang to shut down its nuclear weapons and long-range missile capabilities.

The U.S. sanctions regime is bipartisan. Democratic Party presidential candidate Bernie Sanders told ABC May 4 he agrees with President Trump's approach, including keeping economic pressure on the North.

But it's working people in North Korea who are paying the biggest price under the imperialist economic squeeze. The U.N. says that 40 percent of North Korea's 25 million people need food assistance.

Since the last summit meeting be-

tween Kim and Trump, in February, ended without an agreement, the U.S. and North Korean governments have sometimes exchanged sharp words. On two occasions the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fired salvos of short-range missiles into the sea. The Trump administration responded with protests, but said the launch was not significant enough to scuttle negotiations. One day after the North's most recent missile launch, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. is eager to "get back to the table." And President Trump tweeted, "Deal will happen!"

The U.S. government has maintained the suspension of its provocative annual war games near the border.

U.S. prosecutors filed claims in federal court in New York May 7 to take permanent possession of the Wise Honest, North Korea's second largest cargo ship. The vessel had been carrying a load of coal valued at \$2.9 million when it was seized by Indonesian authorities in April 2018. In mid-May this year it was towed to American Samoa.

Washington said the ship had also been used to import heavy machinery to the North, also a sanctions violation.

On May 14, the North Korean ambassador to the U.N. sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanding the ship's return, saying the seizure is a violation of North Korean sovereignty.

In both 2016 and 2017, the Security Council approved U.S.-backed sanctions banning North Korea from exporting coal, as well as iron ore, textiles and fish.

At the end of the sec-

ond imperialist war in 1945, U.S. troops — with the acquiescence of the Stalinist regime in Moscow — divided the peninsula in two against the will of the Korean people. Washington installed Syngman Rhee as ruler in the South. In the North working people rose up and brought a workers and farmers government to power, which nationalized capitalist factories and landholdings.

Decades of U.S. assaults

In 1950 after repeated massacres against workers and peasants by the Rhee regime, war broke out. U.S. and allied troops pushed deep into the North, seeking to conquer the entire country and place troops on the Chinese border. Massive U.S. bombing and napalm leveled almost every building in the North and a considerable part of the South.

With the help of Chinese volunteers, North Korean forces pushed the U.S.-led forces back to the 38th parallel, and fighting came to a halt in 1953. The was the first military defeat for U.S. imperialism.

To this day the U.S. government refuses to sign a permanent peace treaty.

"The Socialist Workers Party calls for the immediate lifting of all sanctions against North Korea," said Joel Britton, SWP candidate for mayor of San Francisco, May 17. "And we fight for an end to all U.S. imperialist interference in the sovereign affairs of the Korean people. We are for getting rid of all nuclear weapons of any origin on the Korean Peninsula and surrounding air and waters, including Washington's so-called nuclear umbrella over South Korea and Japan.

"This would also put working people in North and South in the best position to advance toward reunifying their country," Britton said. "Korea is one!"

Get three-part series on Korea



**Download ready to print at
www.themilitant.com**

Protests demand women's right to choose abortion

Continued from front page in Montgomery. Thousands marched across the state the same day.

The bill would prohibit all abortions, except in the case of imminent danger to the woman, and make it a Class A felony for doctors to perform one, punishable by up to 99 years behind bars.

"I am here because doing my job should not be criminalized," OB-GYN Sarah Dillie told the press at the march of 2,000 in Birmingham. "I don't think I should be called a felon for doing something that is part of comprehensive women's health care."

"I believe everyone should have health care," 25-year-old Stephanie Barnett said at the Montgomery protest. "And women's rights, reproductive rights, are health care."

On the heels of passage of Alabama's law, and of a series of other laws restricting abortion this year, the National Organization for Women and other women's rights groups called for the May 21 nationwide protests. Co-sponsored by Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America, the American Civil Liberties Union, National Council of Jewish Women and others, actions were organized "at statehouses, town squares and courthouses."

High school students in Auburn, Alabama, have called a "Stand Up, Let Your Voices Be Heard" rally at the Capitol May 25 at 10:30 a.m.

While signing the anti-woman bill into law, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said it was unlikely to ever go into effect because it clashes with the Supreme Court 1973 decision that legalized abortion. The goal of the bill, she said, was to be the cutting edge in efforts to overturn that decision.

'Keep on marching!'

"I urge all those who support women's rights to join the May 21 protests and to organize ongoing actions," Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Dallas mayor, told the *Militant* May 19. "We need to keep organizing and mobilizing the majority support among working people for women's right to choose."

The latest Pew poll shows 58% favor a woman's right to abortion, among both women and men, across all age groups, and that this support has been growing.

These public demonstrations are what has been missing over the last several years in the fight to defend women's right to choose, while anti-abortion restrictions have been making access to family planning care, including safe and accessible abortions, more and more difficult, and have shut down clinic after clinic.

Alabama has only three abortion clinics in the state. Six states — Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and West Virginia — have only one!

Alabama is the eighth state this year to pass abortion restrictions that are intended to lead to a challenge to the 1973 *Roe v Wade* ruling. The Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Ohio legislatures

passed so-called heartbeat bills that would outlaw abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detected, usually around six weeks, often before a woman is even aware she is pregnant. State representatives in Missouri passed a similar bill May 17 banning abortions after eight weeks of pregnancy and criminalizing doctors performing abortions, making them liable to up to 15 years in prison.

Independent political course

After the Alabama ruling, Staci Fox, president of Planned Parenthood Southeast Advocates, said, "In the coming days, we will be mounting the fight of our lives — we will take this to court and ensure abortion remains safe and legal."

Fox is right that this is the "fight of our lives," but ensuring that abortion remains safe and legal cannot be won by relying on the courts, or, for that matter, by electing Democrats to office "we can rely on."

It's the capitalist courts that have given their stamp of approval to hundreds of laws since 1973 that have attempted to thwart women's right and access to an abortion at every turn.

Capitalist politicians, with cooperation from the courts, have imposed waiting periods, mandatory counseling, ultrasound tests, consent regulations for minors, unnecessary rules regarding physicians' access to hospitals, and clinic layout that have shut many facilities down.

The "character and content" of the 1973 Supreme Court ruling itself has made these attacks easier, Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, explained in *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*. "Roe v Wade was based not on a woman's right 'to equal protection of the laws' guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, but on medical criteria instead. ... At the same time, the court allowed state governments to ban most abortions after 'viability,' ... something that medical advances inevitably make earlier and earlier in the pregnancy."

The 14th Amendment says, "No state shall make or enforce any law ... which shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." It was won out of the second American Revolution to abolish slavery. What should be illegal is any government interference with the personal decisions of women.

The right to abortion is essential to the fundamental ability of women to control our own bodies — and our lives. It is crucial for women to have the right to choose whether or not to have children,

and access to birth control and family planning, in order to win equality in access to jobs, schooling and society more broadly. This is key for all working people, a precondition for the unity in action of the working class.

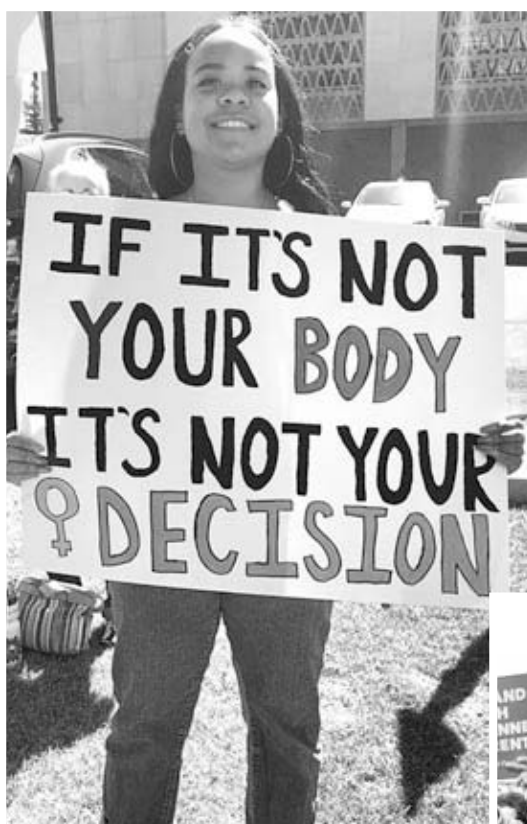
It is only through the mass mobilization of working people in the streets, and in defense of family planning clinics, that the majority support for a woman's right to choose can be reinforced and a victory won. The debate over women's rights has to be won by *political* and public mobilization — independent of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The middle-class liberal leadership of NOW and other groups have insisted on a different course — elect Democratic Party candidates; become part of the "anti-Trump resistance"; pass state-by-state enshrinements of fatally flawed *Roe v Wade*. They have no confidence in the working class, the people Hillary Clinton called the "deplorables," so they say we should keep quiet to not get those in power upset. This course has led to disaster.

We can learn from the examples of the tens of thousands of women and men, building on gains of the fight to overthrow Jim Crow segregation and against Washington's war in Vietnam, who organized meetings, teach-ins and public protests in the 1960s and '70s that won legalization of women's right to abortion. Thousands more mobilized in Wichita, Kansas; Buffalo, New York; and elsewhere in the 1990s to keep family planning clinics open, defeating rightist anti-abortion thugs led by Operation Rescue.

Defending women's right to choose abortion is an international fight. We can gain inspiration from the successful mobilizations that won majority support and led to the recent overturn of bans on abortion in Ireland and South Korea.

Let's take momentum from the May 21 actions and make this a fight, a fight we can win.



ACLU of Arizona



Militant/Deborah Liatos



Above, Daniel Roth/AL.com via AP

Above, 2,000 marched in Birmingham May 19 after Alabama legislature passed strictest anti-abortion bill in the country, and thousands more protested across the state. Nationwide actions were held May 21: top left, Phoenix; Bottom, Pasadena, California.

Further reading...

Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women's Liberation

Documents of the Socialist Workers Party, 1971-86

This three-part series helps politically equip women and men joining battles in defense of women's rights today.

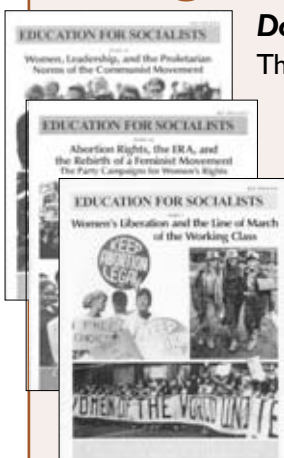
\$12 each; all three for \$30

Abortion Is a Woman's Right!

by Pat Grogan, Evelyn Reed

Why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement. — \$6

pathfinderpress.com



‘Capitalism is the greatest creator of wolves in human history’

How Far We Slaves Have Come by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. The excerpts below are from speeches the two revolutionaries gave on July 26, 1991, to tens of thousands in Matanzas, Cuba. Mandela, president of the African National Congress, was the central leader of the revolutionary democratic movement that overthrew apartheid in South Africa. Castro and the Cuban Revolution sent hundreds of thousands of volunteer fighters to help defeat South Africa's invasions of Angola. Copyright © 1991 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NELSON MANDELA

[W]e are moved by your affirmation of the historical connection to the continent and people of Africa.

Your consistent commitment to the systematic eradication of racism is unparalleled.

But the most important lesson that you have for us is that no matter what the odds, no matter under what difficulties you have had to struggle, there can be no surrender! It is a case of freedom or death!

I know that your country is experiencing many difficulties now, but we have confidence that the resilient



Nelson Mandela, left, and Fidel Castro speak in Matanzas, Cuba, July 26, 1991. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans fought in Angola to defeat South Africa's invasions, spurring victory of ANC's democratic revolution against apartheid. Fight greatly strengthened Cuban Revolution.

people of Cuba will overcome these as they have helped other countries overcome theirs.

We know that the revolutionary spirit of today was started long ago and that its spirit was kindled by many early fighters for Cuban freedom, and indeed for freedom of all suffering under imperialist domination.

We too are also inspired by the life and example of José Martí, who is not only a Cuban and Latin American hero but justly honored by all who struggle to be free.

We also honor the great Che Guevara, whose revolutionary exploits, including on our own continent, were too powerful for any prison censors to hide from us. The life of Che is an inspiration to all human beings who cherish freedom. We will always honor his memory. ...

It was in prison when I first heard of the massive assistance that the Cuban internationalist forces provided to the people of Angola, on such a scale that one hesitated to believe, when the Angolans came under combined attack of South African, CIA-financed FNLA, mercenary, UNITA, and Zairean troops in 1975.

We in Africa are used to being victims of countries wanting to carve up our territory or subvert our sovereignty. It is unparalleled in African history to have another people rise to the defense of one of us.

We know also that this was a popular action in Cuba. We are aware that

those who fought and died in Angola were only a small proportion of those who volunteered. For the Cuban people internationalism is not merely a word but something that we have seen practiced to the benefit of large sections of humankind. ...

The crushing defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale was a victory for the whole of Africa!

The overwhelming defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale provided the possibility for Angola to enjoy peace and consolidate its own sovereignty!

The defeat of the racist army allowed the struggling people of Namibia to finally win their independence!

The decisive defeat of the apartheid aggressors broke the myth of the invincibility of the white oppressors!

The defeat of the apartheid army was an inspiration to the struggling people inside South Africa!

Without the defeat of Cuito Cuanavale our organizations would not have been unbanned!

The defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale has made it possible for me to be here today!



BY FIDEL CASTRO

There is no doubt that all the political leaders are talking about social justice and the redistribution of wealth; that is not lacking. But I asked myself: Where did injustice come from? Where did inequality come from? Where did

poverty come from? Where did underdevelopment come from? Where did all these calamities come from, if not from capitalism? Where did colonialism come from, if not from capitalism? Where did neocolonialism and imperialism come from, if not from capitalism? It would seem that the creators of heaven and earth are to be blamed for the existence of poor people and that the social system has nothing to do with it, that capitalism has nothing to do with it. It's incredible! This is the language, this is the mentality, this is the doctrine.

To want to resolve these problems through capitalism, in a world that has been divided between extremely rich capitalist countries and the majority of extremely poor countries — precisely as a consequence of capitalism, colonialism, neocolonialism, and imperialism — is an incredible illusion. ... It's like trying to put out a fire with gasoline. ...

We are internationalists, we are not narrow nationalists or chauvinists. We have shed our blood in other parts of the world, such as in Latin America and Africa. As Mandela recalled, for each person who went on internationalist missions, there were ten who volunteered to go. ... The blood of the Angolans was our blood, the blood of the Namibians is our blood, and the blood of the South Africans is our blood! Humanity's blood is our blood! [Applause]

Our ideas go beyond chauvinism or narrow nationalism. Our ideas extend beyond all borders. We live in the world that was given to us and we are fighting for a better world. Our minds, our intelligence, and our hearts are prepared for a much better world, for a superior world, for a world such as that desired by Marx and Engels, where men act as brothers to each other rather than preying on each other like wolves.

Capitalism is the greatest creator of wolves in human history, and imperialism has not only been the greatest creator of wolves but also the greatest wolf that has ever existed.

We who come from way back, who were conquered, who were exploited, and who were enslaved throughout history, what marvelous ideas we can defend today; what just ideas we can uphold! And we can think in Latin American and even world terms.

How far we slaves have come! [Applause]

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New Internationalist*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: **Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: **Miami:** P.O. Box 380641 Zip: 33238. Tel: (305) 420-5928. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: **Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: **Chicago:** 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

KENTUCKY: **Louisville:** P.O. Box 21434. Zip: 40221. Tel: (502) 208-9171. Email: louisvilleswp@gmail.com

MINNESOTA: **St. Paul:** 1821 University Ave. W Suite S-106A. Zip: 55104. Tel: (651) 340-5586. Email: twincities.swp@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincn@windstream.net

NEW JERSEY: P.O. Box 308. Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 257-5753. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** P.O. Box 8304. Zip: 12208. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: **Dallas:** P.O. Box 210524 Zip: 75211. Tel: (469) 513-1051. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: **Seattle:** 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: **London:** 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place. Post code: M12 6HS. Tel: (0161) 258-2569. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

May

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

How Far We Slaves Have Come!
by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro
The two revolutionary leaders speak to rally of tens of thousands in Cuba, July 26, 1991.
\$10. **Special price: \$7.50**

An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory
by Ernest Mandel
\$11. **Special price: \$8.25**

Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism
by Carlos Tablada
\$21. **Special price: \$15.75**

The Long View of History
by George Novack
Provides the scientific and historical materialist foundations of why revolutionary change is fundamental to social and cultural progress.
\$7. **Special price: \$5.25**

My Life
An Attempt at an Autobiography
by Leon Trotsky
\$35. **Special price: \$26.25**

El Manifiesto Comunista
(The Communist Manifesto)
by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels
\$5. **Special price: \$3.75**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL MAY 31

Fight for women’s right to choose abortion

The following statement was released May 20 by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Dallas.

The Socialist Workers Party and its 2019 slate of candidates across the country call on working people and all supporters of women’s rights to join the growing protests against the accelerating assaults on a woman’s right to choose abortion.

Thousands mobilized in cities throughout Alabama May 19 to demonstrate against a bill adopted there a few days earlier outlawing virtually all abortions. The law criminalizes any doctor who performs an abortion, making the medical procedure a Class A felony punishable by up to 99 years in prison.

Join demonstrations being organized on May 21 and 25 in cities across the country to protest attempts to outlaw abortion!

This is about more than the Alabama ban. Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision legalizing abortion in 1973, opponents of women’s rights have chipped away at our access to abortion. Waiting periods, parental consent laws, unnecessary requirements imposed on clinics, restrictive time limits and other arbitrary regulations have been put in place in state after state.

Missouri legislators passed a law May 17 that would ban abortions if a fetal heartbeat is detected. Similar laws have been passed in Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Ohio. In Texas, the House of Representatives just approved a bill barring local governments from contracting with abortion providers or

their affiliates — even for services like sexual health education and contraception.

Defending the right to choose abortion is fundamental to a woman’s control of her own life and to winning full social, economic and political equality. This is essential to strengthening the unity of the working class to fight against the unrelenting assaults of the employers and their government.

There is majority support for this right in the U.S. We must continue to mobilize in independent public street actions. Advice that we should rely on Democratic or Republican party capitalist politicians is a dead end. The assault on abortion rights is bipartisan.

The fight for the right of women to family planning, including safe and secure birth control and abortion, is essential to winning women’s emancipation.

And it is a key question for the working class worldwide. Large outpourings of women in South Korea, Ireland, Argentina and elsewhere show support for the right of women to choose whether and when to have an abortion is growing and it can be won. Central to the fight is the organization and mobilization of women and all working people independent of the bosses and their parties.

The May 21 actions should be the beginning of continued protests that will win growing numbers to press for women’s right to equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. This means that no government should be permitted to interfere with anyone’s right to determine their own health care and family planning.

US gov’t attacks sovereignty of Venezuela, Cuba

Continued from front page

and the White House’s threats of imperialist military intervention in violation of Venezuelan sovereignty.

U.S. officials state that a direct U.S. military intervention remains one option “on the table” and have threatened to impose a complete blockade on revolutionary Cuba — which would be equivalent to an act of war — for its principled solidarity with Venezuela. In response, the Socialist Workers Party and its candidates have joined in and initiated protest actions in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago and other places demanding U.S. hands off Venezuela! U.S. hands off Cuba!

On May 10 Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin imposed sanctions on two maritime companies that had transported oil from Venezuela to Cuba as part of longtime agreements. All property and bank accounts of the two companies in the U.S. were frozen.

On May 15 the Department of Homeland Security ordered the suspension of all commercial passenger and cargo flights between the U.S. and Venezuela on the pretext that conditions there “threaten the safety” of “passengers, aircraft and crew.” Most U.S. and international carriers had already suspended such flights. Venezuelans living in the U.S. will now only be able to ship food and medicine to relatives through third countries, increasing the cost and delays.

Working people in Venezuela are battered by hyperinflation, with price increases expected to reach 10 million percent this year. A tenth of the population has fled the country over the last two years.

U.S. rulers’ sanctions deepen capitalist crisis

The U.S. sanctions come on top of the capitalist economic crisis unfolding in Venezuela. A combination of the steep drop in oil prices on the world market from 2010 to 2018, and declining production due to corruption and bureaucratic mismanagement — even before Washington imposed sanctions — have devastated the state-owned PDVSA oil industry. Venezuela has the largest known oil reserves in the world.

The crisis and U.S. sanctions have deeply affected many countries that trade with Venezuela. In 2015 the Maduro government began reducing oil shipments it sold at subsidized prices to Cuba and a dozen other Caribbean nations through its Petrocaribe aid program. In Haiti, which once received some 60,000 bar-

rels of subsidized oil a day, much of the country now has electricity only three hours a day.

Cuba’s revolutionary government has been taking measures to weather the most recent drop in oil imports, from cutting down the frequency and number of pages of its main newspapers to adding some basic food items to the country’s rationing system.

Cuba’s solidarity

More than 20,000 Cuban internationalist volunteers continue to provide health care, education, sports training and other programs in Venezuela, a demonstration of its solidarity with the Venezuelan people.

In January Washington froze the accounts and assets of PDVSA’s U.S. subsidiary Citgo, then handed control to self-proclaimed Venezuelan “interim president” Juan Guaidó. PDVSA stopped shipping oil to the U.S. and sought to bypass U.S. sanctions by expanding its sales to India and other countries. But those attempts have mostly failed as Washington tightens its squeeze. As a result PDVSA is running out of storage space for its sputtering oil production.

Mile-long lines of vehicles waiting for fuel were reported in Maracaibo, Venezuela’s second largest city, in mid-May, with similar shortages across the country. Some drivers had to wait 24 hours or more to fuel up. In some areas soldiers supervised the distribution of gas, imposing limits on how much each person could buy. But gas still ran out.

Meanwhile, both the Venezuelan government and the Guaidó-led pro-imperialist opposition coalition confirmed May 16 that they have been holding talks in Norway. The U.S.-backed opposition has said it won’t accept anything short of the resignation of Maduro, a “transition” government and new elections.

At the same time, Guaidó and his allies met with Pentagon and State Department officials May 20. Opposition envoy Carlos Vecchio has said they would “welcome strategic and operational planning” from the U.S. military.

“Only the people of Venezuela have the right to decide their own future. Only they have the capacity to forge a working-class movement and leadership that can chart a course out of the devastating capitalist crisis facing them. My party supports the sovereignty of Venezuela against the U.S. rulers’ economic warfare,” said Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey General Assembly, May 20. “U.S. hands off Venezuela! U.S. hands off Cuba!”

US hands off Iran!

Continued from front page

nized by Tehran.

The U.S. rulers have intensified their pressure to force Tehran to end its nuclear weapons program and to remove the militias the Iranian rulers use in their bloody intervention in conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Washington has further tightened sanctions that have cut Iran’s oil exports more than in half, with disastrous consequences for workers and farmers there. There are growing shortages of medicine, meat and fuel in parts of the country. Bosses at hundreds of Iranian companies have suspended production and laid off thousands of workers, Reuters reported.

Over decades the U.S. rulers have failed to establish stable and subservient regimes through the series of wars they have inflicted on the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan. They are not planning this kind of war against Iran at the moment. But their threats, vast military presence in the region, and tightening of sanctions raise tensions and can lead to sharper conflicts.

‘Hands off Iran! Lift sanctions!’

“Washington should get its hands off Iran!” Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City public advocate, told those he met as he marched in defense of women’s right to abortion near Wall Street May 21. “The U.S. rulers’ threats to Iran are an extension of their assaults on workers and farmers at home. Working people should demand an immediate end to U.S. sanctions.”

The only road for workers and farmers in Iran to fight for their own class interests is to get Washington off their backs, Galinsky explained.

Tehran has no intention of scaling back its military incursions in the region. The roots of this expansion lie in the rule of the Iranian capitalists at home. In the early 1980s they carried through a counterrevolution aimed at crushing massive struggles by workers, farmers, oppressed nationalities and women that exploded during and after the 1979 Iranian Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah. Since then Tehran intervened in conflicts in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, establishing bases for militias and missiles and advancing its political reach. Tehran’s military intervention in Syria has propped up the tottering Bashar al-Assad dictatorship with tens of thousands of Hezbollah fighters. It has brought its military forces closer to Israel’s border and opened more routes for missiles to arm its ally in Lebanon.

Vice Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Ali Motahari responded to Washington’s latest threats by saying that if Iran was attacked, Tehran would attack Israel. The Iranian rulers spew Jew-hatred, falsely claiming that the deadly conflicts bearing down on peoples across the region are caused by the existence of Israel and calling for its destruction.

Washington and Tehran back opposing sides in Yemen’s civil war. Tehran-backed Houthi forces there took credit for a drone attack against the Saudi monarch’s main oil pipeline May 14.

As the U.S. rulers press to drive Tehran’s forces back in the region, they have fewer allies to build a military coalition with among other imperialist powers than they did during wars they waged against the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq in 1991 and 2003. The capitalist rulers in Germany and many other countries in Europe have let their military forces decline, hoping to compete with their rivals without any serious military force to back them up.

The governments of France, Germany and the U.K. opposed Washington’s decision to tighten sanctions on Iran, seeking instead to deal with Tehran’s expanding reach through talks. Capitalists in those countries, however, largely comply with the punitive measures.

The Spanish government pulled out its frigate from the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier Strike Group when Washington sent the naval force to the Arab-Persian Gulf.

New International

A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934-present

Intercontinental Press

International news magazine 1963-86

**View online at *themilitant.com*
*pathfinderpress.com***