**New stage in bakery’s fight against Oberlin ‘racism’ smear**

**BY ROY LANDERSEN**

The successful fight waged by Gibson’s, a family-owned-and-operated bakery in Oberlin, Ohio, against a mean-spirited smear campaign by Oberlin College officials that libeled them as “racist” has entered a new stage. The college is seeking to prevent the award of legal fees ordered by the jury to the family and threatens to challenge parts of the jury’s rulings.

The decision was a victory for working people everywhere and a blow to all those who try to shut down speakers, political space and inflict damage against opponents by false accusations of “racism.” The jury also awarded the Gibsons the largest monetary award for any libel case in Ohio’s history June 13. Their decision reflected the widespread support for the Gibson family among working people in the area, as well as anger over the disdain of college officials for the lives and concerns of ordinary people.

Continued on page 7

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**Amazon warehouse workers protest against speedup and harassment**

**BY HELEN MEYERS**

SHAKOPEE, Minn. — “I’m standing up to make things better for my co-workers,” Meg Brady told a protest outside the huge Amazon fulfillment warehouse here July 15. Dozens of Amazon workers were joined by 300 supporters, many trade unionists from the Twin Cities area.

The rally was called after Amazon announced it will start one-day shipping. This will mean speedup and increased injuries on the job, workers told Socialist Workers Party members and others who joined the action.

They also were protesting the increasing use of temporary workers, unfair write-ups and little consideration for Muslim workers fasting during Ramadan. About one-third of the workforce here are Muslims from East Africa.

Brady, who is not working due to continued on page 9

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**SWP campaigns among coal miners, workers in Kentucky**

**‘We need to break with the Democrats, Republicans’**

**BY MAGGIE TROWE**

HAZARD, Ky. — “The threats and sanctions against Iran and the wars the wealthy capitalist rulers carry out abroad are an extension of their exploitation and abuse of working people here in the U.S.,” Socialist Workers Party leader Alyson Kennedy told Kentucky lieutenant governor, and Alyson Kennedy, SWP presidential candidate in 2016 and former coal miner, told with Eli Melton, retired union miner James Melton, and farmer Jessica Ison at Whitesburg farmers market July 13.

Canada, who was caring for her 8-year-old and three-month-old sons, told Kennedy that her coal miner brother, like other employees of Blackjewel Coal Co., had several thousand dollars of wages taken back out of his bank account when the mine owners filed for bankruptcy the previous week.

Continued on page 3

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**Victory over ban in Kansas prisons boosts ‘Militant’ fight in Florida**

**BY SETH GALINSKY**

Kansas state prison officials overturned their ban on the Militant July 5. This victory gives a boost to the fight against censorship in Florida, the only prison system in the country that is systematically banning the Militant, in violation of the constitutional rights of the paper and its subscribers behind bars.

The Florida prison system’s Literature Review Committee informed the Militant July 10 that it has upheld the ban on five impounded issues of the paper. They gave no reason for doing so. That same day, Union Correctional prison officials impounded yet another issue of the Militant, simply for continued on page 9

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**US, British rulers step up threats against Tehran - US hands off!**

**BY TERRY EVANS**

The capitalist rulers in Washington and their imperialist allies continue to make threats against Tehran and stoke military tensions in the Gulf. The U.S. government has sent a naval armada into the Red Sea, a B-52 bomber squadron and 1,000 additional troops, using the pretext of a series of continued on page 2

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**‘Fight for amnesty for immigrants in the US!’**

The following statement by Lee Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey General Assembly, was released July 17.

The New York Times July 13 ran an editorial — “All Presidents Are Deporters in Chief” — admitting what the Socialist Workers Party and the Militant newspaper have pointed out for decades: government attacks on undocumented immigrants are a bipartisan policy.

The SWP demands amnesty for the 11 million workers without papers in the U.S. This is the only road to unite the working class, organize and build the labor movement, and fight for the interests of all those who are exploited and oppressed.

Bill Clinton deported more immigrants than any president in U.S. history — 1.8 million during his last year in office. Barack Obama deported hundreds of thousands under the continued on page 9
US, UK hands off Iran!

Continued from front page

of attacks on ships there that Wash-
ington blames on Tehran.

The U.S. rulers have stepped up pun-
ishing sanctions aimed at forcing the
Iranian government into talks to stop it
from developing nuclear weapons and to
constrain Tehran’s political and military
reach in the Middle East.

The HMS Montrose, a British war-
ship, drove off three Iranian vessels
that London says were trying to block
the passage of the British Heritage, an
oil tanker, in the Strait of Hormuz July
10. U.S. aircraft monitored the con-
frontation. The Heritage was in waters
that the U.S. government believes in
Iran and the United Arab Emirates, ac-
cording to the Daily Telegraph.

The encounter comes days after Brit-
ish Royal Marines stormed and seized
the Grace 1, a tanker carrying oil from
an Iranian company. A commander in
Iran’s Revolutionary Guard threat-
ened to seize a British ship in retaliation.

Washington has stepped up its sanc-
tions on Iran to press the rulers there
to dismantle military bases Tehran has
established through intervention in the
wars in Iraq and Syria, halt its backing
for Hezbollah in Lebanon and pull back
from the support it provides to Houthis
forces fighting in Yemen’s civil war.

Militias organized by Tehran and ally
Hezbollah, coupled with air power from
Moscow, have provided the military
backing for the dictator Bashar al-Assad’s
regime in Syria.

A popular uprising by the toilers de-
manding political rights and an end to
government repression swept Syria in
2011. No revolutionary working-class
leadership existed there that could
have ended the sanctions on Iran and
unconditionally withdraw its military
forces from the Middle East.

Moscow’s bombing devastates Syria

Washington continues to escalation
and unconventionally withdraw its military
forces from the Middle East.”

The Militant
Vol. 83/No. 27
Closing news date: July 17, 2019

Editor: John Studer

Editorial volunteers: Roger Cafiero, Terry
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tin Koppel, Roy Landersen, 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 10008.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
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E-mail: themilitant@macc.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 10008.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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Paris Cedex 15.

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13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

Australia: Send $52 for one year to Suite 22,
10 Bridge St., Granville NSW 2142.

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lished in the newspaper in print and digital
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tent to publication in this manner.

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Ethiopian Israeli resist racist cop brutality
Since Ethiopian Jews won the right of return
in the 1970s, they have faced discrimination in housing,
jobs and education as well as police attacks and racial
profiling. The ‘Militant’ is the best source of reports
on such class struggle developments inside Israel.

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RENEWAL

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UK Ministry of Defense

Above, British warship HMS Montrose, which drove off three Iranian vessels. London says were trying to block passage of the British Heritage, an oil tanker, in the Strait of Hormuz July 10. Oil fields, after defeating Islamic State. Some 30 million Kurdish people are divided across Iraq, Iran, Syria and Tur-
key and have fought for their national rights — denied by the capitalist rul-
ers in those countries — for decades. Washington maintains bases in the SDF-held part of Syria, part of its ef-
forts to counter the influence of Teb-
ran and Moscow.

Syrian Democratic Forces depends in part on revenue from sales of oil to the Assad government, which faces increasing fuel shortages as a result of Washington’s sanctions on Iran.
Socialist Workers Party 2019 campaign program

The Socialist Workers Party’s fighting campaign to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:

UNIONS  Support workers’ struggles to organize and strengthen unions, to use union power to defend ourselves and all working people. One union for all workers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based and can service drivers! Support farm workers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS In the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite in the struggle to protract and overturn the capitalist system with its frame-ups, “plea bargain” deals to the elite, and mass deportations. All of which disproportionately affect workers who are Black. For the right to vote for elected officials and all workers behind bars.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly, and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption.

PRISONERS RIGHTS End solitary confinement. End censorship of the Militant, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

FARMERS WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation, quality affordable housing, and so much more. This puts the soil at the service of the rulers.

Israel & Palestine For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jewish-hatred and murderous occupation by the US and other imperialist powers.

Land and Labor Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all energy monopolies to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to control emissions of CO2 and other house gases and prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Höegh AX.6 in Puerto Rico.

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Justice System Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains” deals to the elite, and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for elected officials and all workers behind bars.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break with their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. A movement of millions can be built to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploiting capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!
SWP calls for workers control of production, safety at PG&E

BY ANDREA MORELL

SAN FRANCISCO — Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of San Francisco, was the first speaker at a public hearing here July 9 sponsored by Pacific Gas & Electric Company and the California Public Utilities Commission, the state regulatory agency that supposedly oversees the energy giant, to hear comments on company bosses’ demand for a rate hike.

Britton told the 80 or so people there that not only did he oppose the rate hike, but that his party “calls for the nationalization of PG&E and running it under workers control.”

PG&E supplies natural gas and electricity to 16 million people in Northern and Central California. It proposes to boost rates by nearly $2 billion, raising charges to customers by 6.4%. They say the increase is necessary so they can “make important additional safety investments to help further reduce wildfire risk” and “to enhance gas and electric safety and reliability.”

“PG&E’s sole concern is maximizing profits for its shareholders,” said SWP candidate for San Francisco mayor Joel Britton at the July 9 hearing on company’s demand for rate increase. He called “for nationalization of PG&E and running it under workers control.”

By Brian Williams

A highly publicized two-month trial over charges top bosses at France’s former government telephone monopoly relentlessly drove dozens of workers to suicide by “moral harassment” in their push to cut the workforce and boost profits was closely followed by working people. Testimony at the trial, including vivid descriptions of how the bosses treated workers as trash in an all-out effort to get them to quit, shames a spotlight on the brutal working environment. The trial proceedings concluded July 12 and a verdict isn’t expected for weeks.

France Telecom, now called Orange, was privatized in 2003. Facing stiffening competition amid a shift to digital technology, the company set out to get rid of 22,000 of its 130,000 workers.

But the bosses had to confront the fact that workers in France waged labor battles earlier that won legal protections against being arbitrarily fired or laid off. State workers consider themselves to have jobs for life.

President Emmanuel Macron — dubbed the “president of the rich” by President Emmanuel Macron — said in June 2018, “If I当我 come to be president, I will, to enforce job safety, control all technical processes to provide affordable gas and electricity, and to prevent the company from causing other disasters.”

By Skeleton编辑

“I want to talk primarily about all of the 16 people who spoke at the meeting opposed the rate hike.” The article quoted two, including Britton. It identified him as a Socialist Workers Party member and former oil refinery worker. Working people must “not be forced to pay for PG&E’s disregard for people’s lives and property,” the paper quoted Britton saying.

Britton told the hearing that the fight for workers control over production and safety “will require organizing and acting independently of the capitalist parties — the Democrats and Republicans.” This fight can be part of a movement of millions of working people that we need to build, he said, “and chart a course out of the capitalist eco

The Militant July 29, 2019

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Campaign with the Socialist Workers Party candidates!

California San Francisco: Lt. Governor Samir Hazboun, Lieutenant Governor Amy Husk, Governor Henry Clay Dennison, Seattle City Council; and Joel Britton, for San Francisco mayor. Sat., July 27. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 720 S. Halsted St. Sponsor: SF & Sonoma SWP. Tel.: (415) 985-2172.

Florida Miami: Alyson Kennedy, recent candidate for Dallas mayor; and Joel Britton, for San Francisco mayor. Sat., July 27. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 720 S. Halsted St. Sponsor: Miami SWP. Tel.: (305) 606-1126.

Georgia Atlanta: Rachele Fruit, Atlanta School Board; and Joel Britton, for San Francisco mayor. Sat., July 27. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 720 S. Halsted St. Sponsor: New York-New Jersey Cuba Solidarity. Tel.: (917) 887-8710.

Kentucky Louisville: Joel Britton, Mayor of Louisville. Sat., July 27. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 720 S. Halsted St. Sponsor: New York-New Jersey Cuba Solidarity. Tel.: (917) 887-8710.

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Cuba Solidarity News

San Andro, 52, a 47-year-old worker at Telecom, was told in 2006 that his job was scrapped and he had to relocate. Louisnard was out of work four times in three years. In 2009 he wrote a note to the bosses — “Nothing is being done to face it: suicide is the only solution.”

“The youngest worker to kill himself was Nicolas Grenouville, 28, who hung himself in a garage. ‘I can’t stand this job anymore, and France Telecom couldn’t care less,” he wrote shortly before his death in August 2009. “All they care about is money.”

Derek Jeffers in Paris contributed to this article.
ON THE PICKET LINE

17,000 workers strike Walmart in Chile over wages, job security

Some 17,000 unionized workers across Chile went on strike against Walmart July 10. It is “the largest private-sector strike in decades” in the country, Telesur TV News reported.

The strike vote was organized June 25-27 by Sindicato Interempresa Lider (SII), the trade union that organizes Walmart workers in Chile. Walmart owns some 375 stores run by supermarket chains Lider, Hiper Lider, Ex-consa, Central and Mayorista. The strike has closed down 130 of the stores, and 100 are only open for half days.

Walmart workers are pushing to introduce more automation, with speedup and job cuts. For example, the installation of automatic cash registers has already forced cashiers to take on more work, and Sam’s Club layoffs are imminent, while workers are demanding transfers to other jobs.

The workers are demanding a 4% wage increase. The union said it voted down the company’s offer of 3% with a $72 bonus. “We do not agree with all the automation, with everything they want us to do,” Jimena Gabhola, a cashier, told Telesur. “Our salaries are very low, and what they offer us is very little.”

California grocery workers rally for wage raise, more work hours

LOS ANGELES — Over 300 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and some supporters rallied in front of a Ralphs grocery store here July 9. “We work at different companies but we’re all fighting for better wages to take care of our families,” Ferrin Rodriguez, a 14-year worker at 11 Super market and member of UFCW Local 770, told the Militant.

Grocery workers in Southern California voted overwhelmingly in June to authorize a strike against hundreds of area stores operated by major national supermarket chains, including Albertsons, Ralphs, Vons and Pavilions. Some 46,000 unionized workers organized by the UFCW are demanding higher wages, more hours, continued health care coverage and retirement benefits.

“I work hard. Every time I get my paycheck it gets smaller,” Michael Rogers, a deli worker at Ralphs, told protesters. “Every time I ask for more hours, they lower my hours. We can’t live on one job like this.”

“What’s wrong?” he yelled to the crowd. “Greed,” the crowd roared back. “We’re not even making minimum wage. We have to stand up to corporate,” Rogers said. Bernie Senter

Walmart’s attendance policy shows need for a union

BY TODD MCGIVENS

LOS ANGELES — Workers at Walmart stores across the U.S. were informed by the bosses in February that the company was implementing a new attendance policy. The giant retailer slashed from nine to five the number of days a worker can call off in any six month period. And any worker who calls off on special days the company designates around holidays now incurs two of the five allowed marks against them instead of just one.

Drew Holler, Walmart vice president for associate experience, told the press that more than 300,000 hourly associates currently have spotless attendance records. “Our associates told us they wanted to be rewarded for their dedication, and we couldn’t agree more,” he claimed.

I constantly encounter the opposite reaction at the store where I work. The new policy has been met with confusion and anger as the threat of being fired and actual firings based on the onerous new restrictions came rapidly. Company bosses are constantly seeking new ways to get an edge in their cutthroat competition with Amazon and other retailers. They are cutting workers’ weekly hours, and demanding workers be available to come to work whenever Walmart demands. Company favorites are rewarded with extra hours. This is but one example of how workers bear the brunt of the profit-driven competition between these giant rivals.

In an attempt to get workers to accept the new policy, the company has assigned us six days of “protected time off” during the year that we can use if we have to take off.

Instead of increasing our hourly pay — something Walmart workers across the country sorely need — at the end of every quarter the company issues what they call a “MyShare” bonus. This is really a bribe to accept low wages and poor working conditions. The size of this so-called bonus is arbitrary. It is determined based on the “performance” of each particular store. Managers use the promises of a higher bonus to try and get workers to press each other to speed up.

Walmart is using both the carrot and the stick with the bonuses to get workers to toe the line. If you’ve got “perfect” attendance, the company bumps up your bribe by 25%. This is intended to get workers to come to work even if they’re sick, have a personal emergency or whatever. Every absence above 2.5 — half of what you’re allotted — means your bribe goes down.

Class-conscious workers reject taking the bribe. I contribute whatever “MyShare” check I’m given to the Socialist Workers Party to advance its work building the working-class movement and explain to my co-workers the reason why.

As it stands now, Walmart is an “at will” employer, and can do whatever it wants whenever. If you don’t like it, you can quit, they say.

This attendance policy is just the latest example why workers at Walmart need to organize a union. A fighting union can prevent the bosses arbitrarily imposing draconian absentee policies, shifting schedules and hours, and playing favorites in the workforce on a profit-driven whim.

— JANET POST

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

July 25, 1994

GOLDFIELD, Iowa — At a hearing here, working farmers from central Iowa told a committee formed by the bosses in February that onerous working conditions and actual firings based on the onerous new restrictions came rapidly.

I constantly encounter the opposite reaction at the store where I work. The new policy has been met with confusion and anger as the threat of being fired and actual firings based on the onerous new restrictions came rapidly. Company bosses are constantly seeking new ways to get an edge in their cutthroat competition with Amazon and other retailers. They are cutting workers’ weekly hours, and demanding workers be available to come to work whenever Walmart demands. Company favorites are rewarded with extra hours. This is but one example of how workers bear the brunt of the profit-driven competition between these giant rivals.

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— JANET POST

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

July 25, 1994

Blessed and backed by a powerful section of the more far-sighted Wall Street interests, Franklin D. Roosevelt was renominated virtually automatically last week as the Democratic Party’s 1944 presidential candidate. His platform contains but one tangible plank — a pledge to prosecute to successful conclusion Wall Street’s war for world domination, and to impose a conqueror’s “peace by force.”

Roosevelt, as he himself stated in his nomination acceptance speech, stands “on the record.” That record contains but one tangible plank — a pledge to prosecute to successful conclusion Wall Street’s war for world domination, and to impose a conqueror’s “peace by force.”

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— JANET POST

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

August 1, 1969

Yielding to the storm of protest by Japanese and Okinawans precipitated by the disclosure that the U.S. is storing nerve gas on Okinawa, the Defense Department announced that all nerve gas will be removed from Okinawa.

One strong motivating factor in the mounting public outcry was the mounting public outcry. The United States has gotten used to the odor and huge open manure lagoons.

The U.S. Department of Defense accepted the removal of nerve gas this week, it was announced in a statement Monday by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Committee. Of central concern to workers was the mounting public outcry. The United States has gotten used to the odor and huge open manure lagoons.

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BY TERRY EVANS

Divisions within the Democratic Party blew up after its leadership led the party to vote for a House bill backed by President Donald Trump to fund immigration and border chops that didn’t restrict how the funds could be used.

Only four Democrats opposed the bill, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib. All are backed by Democratic Socialists of America, who seeks to bolster the Democratic Party with a program to expand the federal government to reform capitalism.

“All these people have their public whatever and their Twitter world, but they didn’t have any following,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said after the “squad,” as the four representatives are called, denounced the Democratic majority vote. “They’re four people and that’s how many votes they got.”

Ocasio-Cortez responded with race-baiting, claiming Pelosi was taking aim at them because they are “newly elected people of color.” Days later, Ocasio-Cortez’s chief of staff, Saikat Chakrabarti, charged the Democratic Party leadership was “hell-bent to do to black and brown people what the old Southern Democrats did in the 40s,” — referring to the Democrats’ role in running Jim Crow segregation in the South.

He singled out Rep. Sharcie Davis’ vote on the bill, saying she voted “to enable a racist system.” Davis is Native American.

Smears of race and race-baiting that rejects someone’s opinion because of their skin color have become increasingly common on the left of capitalist politics in recent years to shut down debate. Such methods repel most working people, Black and Caucasion.

There was nothing “racist” in Pelosi’s remarks. Pelosi herself is not above making sham charges of racism against opponents. The Clintons stood up to accuse him of exactly that. Harris implied that she defends government-ordered busing to desegregate schools.

Harris accused Biden of opposing mandatory federally imposed busing for school desegregation in the 1970s. And that race, as well as the whole Democratic Party leadership. Really what Harris was after was race-baiting Biden. “I do not believe you are a racist,” she said, which was up to accuse him of exactly that. Harris implied that she defends government-ordered busing to desegregate schools.

Black youth were already often being bused right past all-Caucasian schools to all-Black schools. Black schools received two-thirds or less of the funds that Caucasian schools received. Classes were overcrowded, while there were empty seats in the better-supplied Caucasian ones.

But the court ruling remained a piece of paper until Black workers and their supporters initiated from Jim Crow a massive protest movement that tore down Jim Crow segregation.

Under the pressure of the mass protests, the U.S. government was forced to send in federal troops to ensure schools were desegregated, including by busing. Without this the racist forces like the Ku Klux Klan and similar groups — alongside Democratic Party-led governments — would have ensured the schools would never have been desegregated.

Schools in city after city, from grade schools to the University of Alabama, were opened to Black youth and racist prejudice was hit with a body blow.

Perhaps the biggest fight — and some of the most violent resistance by racist forces — took place in the North after federal Judge Arthur Garrard ordered widespread busing after ruling in the summer of 1974 that the Boston school board had deliberately segregated the schools.

The Democratic Party machine ran the Boston government. They whipped up racist forces, claiming they were defending “local control” of schools.

During Democrat candidates’ debate, Kamala Harris attacked rival Joe Biden over stance on federally mandated busing to desegregate public schools in 1970s. In fact, neither candidate nor their party supported the policy. Above, Boston protesters defend busing, December 1974.

BY SETHI GALINSKY

A brief, but acrimonious, exchange about busing for school desegregation between Kamala Harris and Joe Biden at the June 27 Democratic Party debate in Miami received lots of news coverage but had little substance.

Neither Harris nor Biden is interested in telling the real history of the fight to desegregate the schools — a key part of the fight to end Jim Crow segregation in the 1960s, ’70s and beyond. The Democratic Party was the main actor in trying to block desegregation of schools both in the South and the North.

Harris accused Biden of opposing mandatory federally imposed busing for school desegregation in the 1970s. And that race, as well as the whole Democratic Party leadership. Really what Harris was after was race-baiting Biden. “I do not believe you are a racist,” she said, which was up to accuse him of exactly that. Harris implied that she defends government-ordered busing to desegregate schools.

Black youth were already often being bused right past all-Caucasian schools to all-Black schools. Black schools received two-thirds or less of the funds that Caucasian schools received. Classes were overcrowded, while there were empty seats in the better-supplied Caucasian ones.

But the court ruling remained a piece of paper until Black workers and their supporters initiated from Jim Crow a massive protest movement that tore down Jim Crow segregation.

Socialist Workers Party champions desegregation fight

BY MALCOLM X

Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record

Why Washington Fears Working People

by Jack Barnes

See distributors on page 8

The Militant July 29, 2019

pathfinderpress.com

The SWP was centrally involved in defending busing — including winning a boycott of the schools. racist mobs attacked buses carrying Black students to their schools. Supporters of busing organized a picnic at a beach, off-limits to Blacks for years. They were attacked by racists as cops looked the other way.

The Socialist Workers Party backed the Black rights movement in both the South and the North. Radical racist candidate Farrell Dobbs helped organize the first station wagon driven to Montgomery, Alabama, to help strengthen the 1955-56 boycott of segregated public transportation there.

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Continued from front page

Judge John Miraldi denied a July 2 motion by lawyers for the college to postpone a hearing on the award of legal fees to the Gibsons for at least six weeks — one more attempt by the college to delay proceedings while they open up a fishing expedition into the small-business owner’s legal costs.

At the July 10 hearing college attorneys argued against any legal fees being awarded to the Gibsons and told the judge the college plans to appeal the award of $25 million in punitive damages.

The Gibsons’ application for attorney’s fees asks for between $9.5 million and $14.5 million, citing the length and complexity of the proceedings, and the way Oberlin College attempted to drag them out and force the family and their lawyers into “numerosous unnecessary procedural and discovery motions.”

The family underwent 18 months of litigation and a six-week trial. Their application for legal fees details actions by the college’s lawyers. They took 32 depositions before the trial, including five days of questioning of 90-year-old Allyn Gibson Sr. And they subjected numerous other witnesses to multiday probing.

Eric Gaines, an African American from Oberlin who testified at the trial, said that claims the Gibsons were racist were “preposterous.” He called the college’s lawyers questioning of witnesses “a classic bullying tactic.”

“I gave a video affidavit speaking to the character of the family and the legacy in the community that they’ve had, and instead of taking that testimony on its surface for being what it is, truthful and from the heart,” Gaines said, “I got carted 30 minutes away” to “sit in a room for five hours while you dissect everything I’ve said.”

Gibson’s lawyers gave a number of other examples of this kind of bullying.

In all, Oberlin College mounted a scorched-earth defense,” the online Legal Insurrection, which followed the case closely and backed the Gibsons, wrote July 8.

‘Pay up and apologize’

A well-known former president of Oberlin College, S. Frederick Starr, wrote in the July 6 Wall Street Journal that the Gibson’s case opposing college administrators’ “crusade” against the bakery was just. He urged the college not to fight the judgment, but to pay up and “apologize to the Gibson family and to the community.”

But instead of following this advice, college officials have launched a public campaign to misconstrue the case as a “free speech” issue. College President Carmen Twillie Ambrose held meetings with CBS News, Wall Street Journal and other media, insisting the college is being held liable for the free speech of its students, with frightening implications for other institutions of higher education.

But the First Amendment and the right of students to protest were never on trial — not a single student was charged in the lawsuit. The Gibsons fought back against the orchestrated race-baiting slander and boycott of the family business by the college. And, as a devastating 56-page factsheet by the Gibson’s legal team explains, “The right to free speech doesn’t give anyone the right to destroy reputations with false information.”

Overwhelming evidence presented at the trial proved that is just what the administration did.

On Nov. 9 2016, Allyn Gibson, the son of the store owner, refused to sell a bottle of wine to a student who presented an obviously fake ID. When the student tried to walk out with two bottles of wine without paying, Gibson followed her to try and stop her. Instead, he was attacked by the youth and two friends. The students involved, who are Black, later pled guilty to shoplifting, and said that no racial profiling was involved.

But over the next two days college administrators and scores of students protested in front of the store. Evidence at the trial showed that Meredith Raimondo, Oberlin College vice president and dean of students, helped organize the protest. She and another staff member went and helped pass out leaflets. In a later email, Raimondo said she had the power to “unleash the students” whenever she thought necessary.

The flyers, printed for free at the college, were titled “a classic bullying tactic,” an online Legal Insurrection, which followed the case closely and backed the Gibsons, wrote July 8.

The Lorain County jury ruling in favor of the Gibson family in their legal challenge to baseless “racism” smears by the administrators of Oberlin College is a political victory for the working class. It is a break with years of race-baiting attacks aimed at shutting down discussion and debate, orchestrated by privileged liberal meritocrats who view the working classes as bigoted and “racist.”

In the attempt to undercut the political effect of the ruling, college administrators falsely claim the court decision is an attack on “free speech” for students. It places no such limits on speech, for students or anyone else. It punishes the college, the biggest business in town, for its attempt to cripple a small business with malicious slander and a boycott campaign. The Gibsons deserve the support of all working people as they press their fight forward.

The court’s verdict reflected widespread support for the Gibson family among working people in the area. Oberlin is effectively a company town, where the college has a say over much of their lives.

False claims of “racism” like those leveled at the Gibsons are widely used by middle-class liberals and radicals, especially on college campuses, to demand those they don’t agree with be prevented from speaking. Even as race-baiting by liberals and the left increases, the fact is there is less racism among working people than ever before in the U.S.
Debs: ‘Our hearts are with the Bolsheviki in Russia’

The selection below is from Eugene V. Debs. Speaks, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for July. Debs was a pioneer socialist, labor leader, railroad union fighter and supporter of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. He was jailed by the U.S. rulers for opposing their intervention and to enhance imperialist world war. The excerpt is from his speech to a rally in Canton, Ohio, in June, 1918. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison for this speech to a rally in Canton, Ohio, in June, 1918. He was sentenced to prison. Inset, campaign button for Debs 1920 Socialist Party campaign for president from prison. He got almost a million votes, highest socialist vote in U.S. history.

Eugene V. Debs speaks in Canton, Ohio, where Harding told him, “I have heard so much damned much about you.” Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

Debs: ‘Our hearts are with the Bolsheviki in Russia’
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The Militant   July 29, 2019

Debs: ‘Our hearts are with the Bolsheviki in Russia’

BY EUGENE V. DEBS

The question of why our hearts is attuned to yours, Aye, all our hearts now throb as one great heart responsive to the battle cry of the social revolution. Here, in this alert and inspiring assembly, our hearts are with the Bolsheviki of Russia. [Deafening and prolonged applause.]

Those heroic men and women, those uncomparable comrades have by their incomparable valor and sacrifice added fresh luster to the fame of the international movement. Those Russian comrades of ours have made greater sacrifices, have suffered more, and have shed more heroic blood than any number of men and women anywhere on earth, because they have laid the foundation of the first real democracy that ever drew the breath of life in this world. [Applause.] And the very first step of the triumphant Russian revolution was to proclaim a state of peace with all mankind, couched in a fervent moral appeal, not to kings, not to emperors, rulers or diplomats but to the people of all nations. [Applause.] Here we have the very breath of democracy, the quintessence of the dawning freedom. The Russian revolution proclaimed its glorious triumph in its ringing and inspiring appeal to the peoples of all the earth. In a humane and fraternal spirit new Russia, emancipated at last from the curse of the centuries, called upon all nations engaged in the fightful war, the Central Powers as well as the Allies, to send representatives to a conference to lay down terms of peace that should be just and lasting. Here was the supreme opportunity to strike the blow to death for democracy. Was there any response to that noble appeal that in some day to come will be written in letters of gold in the history of the world? [Applause.] Was there any response whatever to that appeal for universal peace? [From the crowd, “No!”] No, not the slightest attention was paid to it by the Christian nations.

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**SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT**

**Fight for amnesty for immigrants in US!**

Continued from front page

harder form of deportation known as “removal,” which makes a person a deportation fugitive. Donald Trump continues more of the same, while stepping up demagogic rhetoric scapegoating immigrants.

U.S. capitalists depend on undocumented workers to push down wages, to boost their profits, to compete against their rivals around the world. They want immigrants, but they want them to fear deportation. They hope that will keep them from joining unions, from demanding higher wages and better work conditions.

Working people need a road forward to unite to meet the effects of today’s crisis of capitalism placed on our backs. We need to reject the two-party shell game of the rulers’ Democrat and Republican. The wealthy rulers press us to be “realistic” and back the “lesser evil.” But all this means is we’re condemned to continuing capitalist oppression.

It doesn’t matter which capitalist politician is in the White House. What matters is what we do to organize and fight in our own interests, including building an independent working-class political party to fight to take power into our own hands.

This is not a case, increased pressure” — it’s a life and death question for the unions. Fighting for amnesty for undocumented immigrants is key to fighting together for better wages and working conditions for all. We can’t let the bosses divide us.

Our fellow workers and farmers in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and elsewhere in the region face the same crisis and challenges we do — building a working-class leadership capable of fighting to overthrow imperialist exploitation and capitalist rule. Workers in the U.S. can extend the hand of international solidarity.

The strike made by Cuban workers and farmers in 1959, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, a revolution that lives today, stands as an example for all to emulate.

To strengthen the fight of working people from Latin America and the Caribbean, we say — Cancel the Third World debt! Organize the unorganized! Amnestied for immigrants now!

**Amazon warehouse workers protest speedup**

Continued from front page

an on-the-job injury, said that less than two years ago she hired in with a group of 70 people. Only five are still working at Amazon. “People say if you don’t like it just go,” she said. “I’m an army veteran, a mother, and I say if you want change it’s important to stand and fight.”

The rally was called to coincide with Amazon’s “Prime Day” special sale for those who plunk down $119 a year to join the program. The demonstration was organized by the Awood Center, a community organization that advocates for East African workers.

AWSod means “power” in Somali. The organization is backed by the Service Employees International Union, the Teamsters union and the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

“They think workers can be robots”

“We expected more workers to come out but there were managers, supervisors and police standing at the front doors, and some workers were scared,” warehouse worker Mohamed Hassan told those at the protest through an interpreter. “They think humans can be robots, but we are human, and we are not afraid to stand up for our rights.”

Amazon has a notorious record for their use of robots to speed up the work.

Atlas Air pilot Michael Russo from Chicago, a member of the Airline Professionals Association Teamsters Local 1224, represented his local at the protest. Atlas Air carries freight for Amazon. “These stepped-up shipping times come with a price — to the warehouse workers,” like the truckers and the last-mile-delivery guys,” Russo told the Militant.

Prime Day has “become an opportunity for our critics, including unions, to raise awareness for their cause,” in this case, that Amazon needs membership dues,” an Amazon spokesman told Reuters. “These groups are conjuring misinformation to work in their favor, when in fact we already offer the things they purport to be their cause: industry leading pay of $15 an hour, benefits and a workplace for our employees.”

Guled Mohamed, who has worked at Amazon as a picker for a year and a half, said he joined the protest “because of the pressure on us to always work fast.” He added, “Amazon needs to treat us better.”

Over 2,000 workers at seven Amazon warehouses in Germany went on strike as Prime Day got underway in a similar protest over pay and working conditions. The strike was organized by the Verdi trade union, under the slogan “No more discount on our incomes.”

Verdi has led other strikes and protests demanding higher pay that Amazon negotiate union contract for its 13,000 workers in Germany. The company has refused.

**LETTERS**

**Gary Washington**

Some 100 people gathered July 12 at the Martin Street Church of God in Atlanta to honor the life of longtime Atlanta union and political activist Gary Washington, who died here July 3 at age 69.

Gary Washington served as a union organizer and was active in many union and political activist and member of the Socialist Workers Party.

The letter notes that censorship of issues of the paper gives the impression that “Florida prison officials were offended by criticisms of the prison system.”

**Kansas victory**

The Militant hadn’t known its subscribers in Kansas prisons were being denied the paper until the end of May, when Newsweek magazine reported that Books to Prisoners and the Human Rights Defense Center had obtained and made public a list of 7,000 books and periodicals banned there. Eight issues of the Militant were on the list, but Kansas officials had never informed the paper.

The Militant wrote to one of its Kansas prison subscribers to find out if he had received any issues. Soon after, Kansas officials sent the Militant official notification it had banned three issues.

The socialist newsweekly’s lawyer, David Goldstein, sent a letter informing Kansas officials that the paper would appeal all bans. Douglas Burris, corrections manager, Risk Management of the Kansas Department of Corrections, replied that the central office reviewed and “determined that these issues did not present a direct threat to KDOC operation. The censures have been overturned.”

The Militant is calling on its readers to use the victory in Kansas to win more support for overturning Florida prison officials’ ongoing censorship.

The National Coalition Against Solitary Confinement, Amnesty International USA, the National Lawyers Guild, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, as well as Riverside Church Prison Ministry have sent letters to the Kansas Review Committee calling on it to overturn the bans.

Many Militant readers in Florida prisons are following the fight closely. “Thanks for the effort you are making to try to make sure we receive your newspaper when it brings up issues important to us; what is happening in the world,” one Florida prisoner subscriber wrote July 11.

Readers of the Militant can help. Get co-workers to write a letter to the prison. Talk to your church group, your local union officials. The more letters that are sent to Florida prison officials, the greater the possibility of winning the fight.

**Get support statements from co-workers, union locals, churches and defenders of political rights. Email to: Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Allen Peterson@militant.com Send copies to themilitant@mac.com**

**Get out the word:** Download, print and distribute Militant articles on this fight.

**Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund**

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to “The Militant,” earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at themilitant.com

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

**Prison ‘Militant’ ban continued from front page**

**Fight prison censorship!**

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Send checks to the Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 for “Prisoners Rights Fight.” Or contribute online at themilitant.com

**Prisoners want to be able to read material of their own choosing, to think for themselves, to be part of the world, to educate themselves. Most working people support this right, it strengthens the unity of the working class and helps democracy. John Stadler**

“The absolutely false allegation that reading about the prison’s decision to censor news about their ongoing censorship could lead to violence is just an excuse the prison officials use to try to break the spirit of our brothers and sisters behind bars.”

The Militant will appeal the latest ban and fight all efforts to censor the paper.

The Prison Ministry of Riverside Church in New York sent a letter to the Florida Department of Corrections July 16. It said the bans were “part of a troubling pattern by Florida prison officials to silence the Militant. Each confiscation represents an assault on the United States Constitution and on all those who care about freedom of thought, inquiry and expression.”

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**Amazon warehouse workers protest speedup**

Continued from front page

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